

USA WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
2023 PAN AM GAMES  
WATER SKI  
October 31, 2022

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2023 Pan American Games Water Ski Team (the "Team"):

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

The athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

The athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum Pan American Sports Organization (Panam Sports) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Pan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 34.4-7).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) standards for participation (if any):

All Team athletes participating in the Pan Am Games 2023 must at least 14 years of age at the time of competition. Additional athlete resources can be found on the USA-WSWS website. See the PanAm IWWF Waterski & Wakeboard Qualification System for the 2024 Pan American Games for the CF standards.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) at the time of nomination.

- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by the stated deadline.
- Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport’s education and training requirements in accordance with the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy.
- Must submit a notice of interest as described in Section 1.3.1

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process (Eligible Tournaments):

Athletes to be considered for the 2023 Pan American Games Water Ski Team will be included in the Preliminary Pool. An athlete’s rankings and scores achieved in International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF) Ranking List (Class L) or World Record (Class R) Tournaments, see general IWWF Rule 25.04

(<http://www.iwsf.com/rules/2022/World%20Waterski%20Rules%202022-V2.pdf>), based on performances between and inclusive of September 1, 2022 through August 31, 2023, as reported by IWWF as of August 31, 2023 at 11:59 PM (PDT) (“Qualifying Scores”) will be utilized to place athletes into the Preliminary Pool.

USA-WSWS will pull scores reported from all performances during the date range defined above for each athlete from the Pan American Region according to the IWWF Dynamic World Ranking Lists (Slalom, Tricks, Jump and Overall) found at [www.iwsftournament.com/homologation/getRankingList.php](http://www.iwsftournament.com/homologation/getRankingList.php) to determine the ranking order of athletes to be included in the Preliminary Pool (see 1.3.2.).

- 1.2.2. Describe how athletes qualify for the events listed in 1.2.1.:

The majority of Eligible Tournaments are open events. However, some tournaments are invitation only, and each tournament’s selection criteria may either be posted on the tournament’s website or are available from the sponsoring organization. The “invitation only” tournaments include:

Moomba Masters (contact: [waterskivic@bigpond.com](mailto:waterskivic@bigpond.com))  
 March 10-13, 2023

U.S. Masters (contact: Rhoni Bischoff - rbischoff@nautique.com)  
May 27-28, 2023

Other invitational tournaments may also be scheduled (see above links for tournament schedules). Athletes should directly contact the sponsors of those tournaments to determine the criteria for receiving an invitation or qualification.

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for these Games (include maximum Team size):

The top seven (7) countries from the 2022 Pan American Water Ski Championships (to be held November 29-December 3, 2022) in the Open Division (both genders) will qualify to send a four (4) person team to the 2023 Pan American Games.

The Games will consist of individual water ski events (slalom, tricks, and jump), plus a separate overall competition (male and female for all events, including overall). Should the U.S. qualify to participate at the Games, the 2023 Team will be comprised of four (4) members. The Team must include both male and female athletes (2/2, or 3/1 gender allocation). The International Activities Committee (IAC) will consider best medal probability in their respective events when selecting the gender allocation.

1.3.1 Notice of Interest

Athletes wishing to be considered for the 2023 Team must notify USA-WSWS of their interest to be considered for the Team on or before May 31, 2023 at 11:59 PDT. Athlete notices of interest should be emailed to Nate Boudreaux at [nboudreaux@usawaterski.org](mailto:nboudreaux@usawaterski.org) and Jeff Smith at [jsmith@honigman.com](mailto:jsmith@honigman.com). USA-WSWS reserves the right to contact skiers who may qualify to be named to the Team to ensure they timely file a Notice of Interest.

1.3.2 Preliminary Pool

Athletes who are in the top five (5) Dynamic Ranking List athletes for each of the events (slalom, trick, jump, and overall), and who have submitted a timely Notice of Interest, will be included in a Preliminary Pool of eligible athletes. The Team will be selected from the athletes in the Preliminary Pool.

1.3.3 Team Selection

From the athletes in the Preliminary Pool, the Team will be selected by the USA-WSWS' American Water Ski Association International Activities

Committee (“AWSA IAC”), based on the anticipated medal count that would result from different combinations of potential athletes and which includes both male and female athletes, with the goal being to pick a Team to win (in priority order):

- (1) The greatest number of gold medals;
- (2) The greatest number of total medals (with priority being given to potential gold, versus silver, versus bronze medals).

In selecting the Team, the following criteria (not in priority order) will be considered and utilized:

- (1) Skiers with the highest ranking (as determined through the process outlined in 1.2.1.) in each event (the events being slalom, tricks, jump and overall) will be compared to other U.S. athletes on the Ranking List in the preliminary pool, and to other non-U.S. skiers on the Ranking List likely to compete in that event at the Games, to predict each athlete’s scores (and medal potential) at the Games.
- (2) In selecting the Team, higher ranked athletes in each event will be given priority over lower ranked athletes.
- (3) Additionally, athletes with higher Qualifying Scores versus the anticipated scores of non-U.S. competitors in the event (a predicted “Performance Differential” comparing an athlete’s Qualifying Scores with the Qualifying Scores of the athlete’s likely non-U.S. competitors) will be given priority over lower ranked athletes.
- (4) Athletes who are ranked in two or more events, and whose Dynamic Ranking List scores indicate a medal potential in two or more events, will generally be given priority over athletes with a medal potential in only one event, considering both the athlete’s ranking in each of the events and his/her predicted “Performance Differential in each of the events.
- (5) This analysis shall include both male and female athletes, to ensure representation of both genders on the Team.

The AWSA IAC will follow this process to select the Team.

## 2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

### 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

In order to field a team with the most medal potential and with the required gender representation, USA-WSWS will look at combinations of athletes according to the criteria described in section 1.3.3. of these procedures.

2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):

2.2.1 Gender Representation

In the event the above selection criteria do not result in the selection of both male and female athletes, the AWSA IAC will enlarge the Preliminary Pool to the top 5 U.S. ranked athletes per discipline (including the solicitation of interest from athletes who did not previously file a timely Notice of Interest) as to the unrepresented gender to determine which U.S. athlete from that gender has the best medal potential for any event, generally using the above criteria for predicting the athlete's medal potential. The athlete identified through this process will be named to the Team.

2.2.2 Athletes With Similar Qualifications

In the event two or more athletes have similar or substantially equivalent qualifications based on the Team selection process described above, the AWSA IAC may consider each athlete's consistency in achieving high scores (as demonstrated through each athletes' "Qualifying Scores"), and his/her experience in successfully competing at similar highly competitive events.

2.3. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

The AWSA IAC is responsible for administering these selection procedures, including any discretionary selections. See <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Water-Ski/Three-Event-Water-Skiing/AWSA-Committees>.

2.3.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee:

All members of the AWSA IAC must comply with USA-WSWS' conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USA-WSWS Ethics Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the AWSA IAC who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to USA-WSWS' Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse him/herself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family,

financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an athlete in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, USA-WSWS' Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse him/herself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse him/herself from voting, the Ethics Committee may still determine that a committee member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a coach, may, if requested by the AWSA IAC, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted athlete or coach of a potentially impacted athlete) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USA-WSWS' Ethics Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USA-WSWS AWSA IAC committee appointment process.

### 3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to submitting athlete entries by name to the USOPC, USA-WSWS has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is nominated to the Team by USA-WSWS may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA-WSWS:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written communication to USA-WSWS' CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA-WSWS. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA-WSWS, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of USA-WSWS' U.S. Team Agreement and Code of Conduct. See Team Documents at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-water-ski/for-athletes>.
- 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA-WSWS' Bylaws. See USA-WSWS Bylaws, Article IX at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-water-ski/about-us/governance-documents>, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once athlete entries have been submitted to the USOPC, the USOPC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA-WSWS Code of Conduct, the USOPC's Delegation Conduct Requirements apply, contained in the USOPC Games Delegation Terms. The USOPC Games Delegation Terms are specific to each Games and made available during the Games registration process; the USOPC's Grievance Procedures and Hearing Process are found within the Delegation Terms. See "Delegation Events" at <https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Dispute-Resolution> for more information.
- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, USADA and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the USOPC Athlete Safety Policy and USA-WSWS' SafeSport policies, as applicable.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Replacement athletes will be selected using the same processes as described in Sections 1.3.3. and 2. above.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

Same as 4.1.1., provided USA-WSWS is authorized by the CF and Panam Sports to fill the vacancy.

## 5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA-WSWS will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

## 6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Pan American Games:

USA-WSWS' U.S. Team Agreement and Code of Conduct. See Team Documents at <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-water-ski/for-athletes>.

## 7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USOPC approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA-WSWS in the following public location(s):

- 7.1. USA-WSWS Web site: Team Selection & Independent Athlete Qualifications & Procedures (Games-specific procedures will published)  
<https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Water-Ski/Three-Event-Water-Skiing/Athletes-Resources>.

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by the USOPC.

- 7.2. Other:

The USA-WSWS website link (above) will be provided in *The Water Skier*, USA-WSWS' official member publication.

## 8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before September 10, 2023.

## 9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Athletes will be notified of any mandatory training programs and/or competition at least thirty (30) days prior to the start of any such training programs or competition. Information regarding any mandatory training and/or competition will be emailed to all participants and posted on [www.usawaterski.org](http://www.usawaterski.org).



## 10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the Panam Sports, WADA, IWWF, USADA and USOPC rules, as applicable.

## 11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Jeffrey Smith, Chair of AWSA IAC

AWSA IAC Committee Members: see <https://www.teamusa.org/USA-Water-Ski/Three-Event-Water-Skiing/AWSA-Committees>.

Nate Boudreaux, USA-WSWS Executive Director

## 12. USA-WSWS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA-WSWS Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<https://www.teamusa.org/usa-water-ski/about-us/governance-documents>.

## 13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on Panam Sports and IWWF Pan Am Confederation rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in Panam Sports or IWWF Pan Am Confederation rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA-WSWS. However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOPC.

## 14. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB.



To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IWWF Pan Am Confederation and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA-WSWS.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA-WSWS Executive Director	Nate Bondreara		10/31/22
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director			
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Andrew Adkison		11 / 16 / 2022

\* If the USOPC AAC Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate AAC Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the AAC Representative indicating the reason he/she has delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOPC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.