

USA Wheelchair Rugby
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2022 National Training Squad

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the **time** when named to the Training Squad, see Section 8 (December 5, 2021)

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months.

1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and/or Panam Sports Organization (Panam Sports) (PAG and PPAG only) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American or Parapan American Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or National Paralympic Committee (NPC) 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 Olympic Charter (Rule 41), the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1), or the Panam Sports Constitution (Article 30.5-6).

1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) and/or Continental Federation (CF) (PAG and PPAG only) standards for participation (if any):

To be eligible the athlete must be classed with a “Confirmed” or “Review” sport class with a review date after 31 December 2021.

1.4. Other requirements (if any):

- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USOPC Background Check Policy.
- Athletes age 18 or older will be required to complete the U.S. Center for Safesport's online training.

- Athletes must be rostered on a 2021-2022 United States Wheelchair Rugby Association (USWRA) team if the season occurs and there is a team in their community.
- The athletes nominated from the 2021 Selection Camp must submit a training plan, approved by USAWR coaching/S&C staff, within 30 days of accepting a slot on the Training Squad after the time of selection {December 5, 2021};
- Any athlete participating in an WWR-sanctioned event as a member of a national team must be a national of the country entering the team. (http://iwrf.com/resources/iwrf_docs/IWRF_Nationality_Policy_20_140401.pdf) The term 'country' refers to any country, state, territory, or part of a territory, which is accepted by WWR as the area of jurisdiction of a member of WWR. An athlete's nationality is determined by the citizenship of the athlete. Proof of citizenship shall generally be that the athlete holds an official passport issued by the country. Evidence of legal residence or domicile will not be accepted as evidence of nationality unless otherwise permitted by any of the terms of this policy.
 - o An athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may choose to represent either one of them. However, after having represented one of the countries in an WWR sanctioned event, the athlete may not represent another country without meeting the conditions for a change of nationality.
- An athlete who has represented one country in an WWR sanctioned event who changes nationality, who acquires a new nationality, or who holds two or more nationalities, may change the country he or she represents to one of his or her other nationalities. The athlete may represent a new country in WWR sanctioned competition after three years have passed since the athlete last represented the former country. This waiting period may be reduced to one year with the agreement of the WWR member for the athlete's former country.
- Candidates must hold an WWR International Classification or a U.S. Wheelchair Rugby Association (USWRA) classification (0.5-3.5) at the time of selection.
- Athlete must be in good standing with the High Performance Management Organization ("HPMO").
- As a condition of participation, all participants will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received an approved exemption in accordance with the USOPC's vaccine requirement. Participants must have submitted proof of full vaccination or have been granted a medical or religious exemption by December 5, 2021. More information on the USOPC's vaccine requirement and process for submitting required documentation can be found at <https://www.teamusa.org/Coronavirus/Vaccine-Requirement>.

2. Tryout Events:

2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.

The 2022 Selection camp will be held 1-5 December 2021 at the Lakeshore Foundation U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Site.

The following *mandatory (see explanation below) events will also serve as evaluation opportunities. Dates are subject to change pending approval and could

be cancelled due to budgetary restrictions or residual effects of COVID19 (Notification of any changes will be emailed to individual athletes as well as noted on the website at www.usawr.org at least 45 days prior).

High Performance Training camps:

Dec 1-5, 2021 – 2022 USAWR Selection Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
January 5-9 – Training Camp COS - OPTC
February 16 -20 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
April 27-May 1 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
May 24-28 – Training Camp – COS OPTC (Lakeshore if not approved)
June 22-26 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
July 20-24 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
August 17-28 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation
September 21-25 – Training Camp – Lakeshore Foundation

Competition Schedule

January 23-30 – 2022 IWRF Americas Championship – Medellin, Colombia
March 14-20 – Four Nations - Lakeshore Foundation
May 30-June 5th – Canada Cup - Vancouver, BC
October 7-17 – WWR 2022 World Championship – Vejle, Denmark

An athlete may be excused from the events listed above under the following extenuating circumstances:

- An immediate death in the family
- Illness/injury approved by USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) ATC
- Hospitalization
- State, federal, or work mandate due to COVID that would prevent the athlete from traveling
- Other approved emergency at the sole discretion of USAWR

2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

To be eligible for an automatic invitation, an athlete must have been a member of one of the following teams; however, the Committee reserves the right to take class change/eligibility, performance or conduct while a member of the team into consideration:

- 2020 Paralympic Games Team and alternates
- 2019 Para pan American Games Teams and alternates
- 2018 World Championship Team and alternates
- 2017 Para pan American Games Team and alternates

If an athlete does not receive an automatic invitation, they may be eligible for an invitation to the 2022 Selection Camp through the following:

- A special invitation from the Selection Committee (see Section 2.3)
- Athletes may file a petition for an invitation and it must be accepted through the petition procedures found at www.usawr.org and www.lakeshore.org

In order to ensure athletes are maintaining a level of fitness and readiness capable of producing a medal winning performance, Lakeshore Foundation/USAWR coaching staff and personnel may elect to observe/evaluate those athletes nominated from the Selection Camp as they train and compete in various domestic and international competitions. In addition, Lakeshore Foundation/USAWR may request video footage and/or statistical information as part of the ongoing evaluation of athletes prior to final team nomination.

3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process (include maximum Team size).

Player Invitation

- o A maximum of 40 invitations to participate in the 2022 Selection Camp will be sent, via email, to the athletes that qualify per the criteria listed in Section 1.2.2) by 7 November, 2021.

- o If invited, and an athlete chooses not to participate in the team selection camp, invitations will be filled based on accepted petitions received by the stated deadline and at the committee's discretion.

- o Athletes must accept or decline the invitation by 14 November, 2021 by contacting the USAWR Chief Program Officer via email at jena@lakeshore.org.

- o The final list of team selection camp participants will be posted (www.lakeshore.org and www.usawr.org) by 16 November, 2021.

- o All athletes accepting the invitation must provide their own transportation to/from the team Selection Camp. Upon arrival to the Camp, athletes will be provided with ground transportation, lodging, meals, and on-site support.

Team Selection Process

- o At the Selection Camp, each candidate will be tested and observed in drills and scrimmages. The Selection Committee (See Section 2.3) will evaluate each player using the skills sheet in (Attachment A) to rank candidates with the same or similar sport classes while considering positional play. The Selection Committee will develop a roster of players that will enable the USA to field a legal variety of lineups in order to maximize the Team competitiveness.

- o In addition to the criteria in Attachment A, the Selection Committee will consider discretionary criteria listed in Section 2.2 when evaluating athletes.

- o At the conclusion of the Selection Camp, the Selection Committee

will select up to 16 (sixteen) athletes who will train as a group, hereby known as the 2022 Training Squad

- o Candidates invited to participate in the Selection Camp who cannot attend or fully participate in the camp due an extenuating circumstance per the criteria listed in Section 1.2.1 may be selected to the 2022 Training Squad of up to 16 (sixteen) if: Athlete has demonstrated significant potential, based on the Selection Committee's evaluation of objective and subjective criteria, in the judged qualities from previous domestic and/or international events (during the Tokyo quad). The Selection Committee has the right to request video footage from the previous six months to help aid in the above mentioned decision. The athlete(s) must provide adequate documentation that will support their reason for absence. This must be sent to the Chief Program Officer jena@lakeshore.org before the beginning of the Selection Camp (no later than 18 November 2021).

Final Selection

- o A final selection for teams that will represent USAWR at competitions including but not limited to the Americas Championships and 2022 WWR World Championship will be named from the Training Squad at least 15 days prior to the departure for each competition

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

The sport of wheelchair rugby is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a Team, it is impossible to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of Lakeshore Foundation that the selection criteria set out above, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of the very best athletes to comprise the most competitive Team.

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

Wheelchair Rugby is a team sport requiring effective combinations and individual skills. Thus, the following discretionary criteria are considered in the selection of players.

2.2.1 The following criteria will be used to select the 2022 Training Squad:

Physical

- Speed:

- o Full Court Sprint
- Aerobic/Anaerobic Fitness:
 - o Lakeshore Mile or Endurance Sprint
- Agility/Quickness:
 - o Slalom o Up and backs
- Passing:
 - o Passing Skill Test
 - o Inbounding drill Technical
- Athletes will be evaluated on the following technical core skills (positioning/transition, key offense/defense, catch-pass, defense) based on performance in one or more of the events listed in Section 1.2.1
 - Athletes will be evaluated on experience, knowledge of the game, size for role, and ability to play role
 - Athletes will be evaluated on his/her specialist skills (bump/long pass, inbounding, agility, chair skills, hands, communication, speed) but those specific to classifications below
 - o Class 2.5-3.S - ball handling, passing, one on one defense, game management
 - o Class 1.5-2.5 - picking and rolling, playing all offensive roles
 - o Class .5-1.5 - inbounding to free throw line, holding a pick for 4-5 seconds, consistently winning one on ones, both offensively and defensively
- Athlete's projected ability to advance to contribute to the Team's success in 2022 and beyond will be taken into consideration for selection to the 2022 Training Squad

An athlete's future Paralympic Team potential will be judged based on the coaching staff's assessment using the criteria contained in these procedures.

Tactical

- Athletes will be evaluated on tactical awareness in game situations in one or more of the events listed in Section 1.2.1 by national coaching staff which will be taken into consideration for selection. Psychological/Social • Attitude: This applies both on and off the court, respecting those athletes he/she plays with and against, staff, coaches and officials. To act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct. Respecting the property of others whether personal or public. Past team history, accountability and/or code of conduct issues and standing with the Lakeshore Foundation and the USOPC will also be taken into consideration.

Leadership: Leading by example with a positive influence on all those around him/her.

Teamwork: Cooperative effort to be the best he/she can be, working with their teammates to fulfill one common goal, success.

Coachable: Always open to constructive feedback, embracing new ideas and putting the Team's needs before his/her own.

- Ambassador: Acting in a manner that would be pleasing to the program, sport, country, and else affiliated. Doing what is right, even when no one is watching. Refraining from conduct that would detract from their ability or that of their teammates to attain peak performance.

- 2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the member's 'titles currently serving on the committee:

Selection Committee:

High Performance Manager, USA National Team - while this individual will take part in all committee meetings, they just have a "voice" in the process and will not have a "vote" in the review process

Head Coach

Assistant Coach

Athlete Representative

USWRA Representative - while this individual will take part in all committee meetings, they just have a "voice" in the process and will not have a "vote" in the review process.

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

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance manager, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- 3.1. Prior to entry by name to the Local Organizing Committee by the USOPC, the NGB/HPMO has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NGB/HPMO may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NGB/HPMO:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NGB/HPMO CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NGB/HPMO, 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 the NGB's/HPMO's Code of Conduct (Attachment B and C).
- 3.1.5. Re-classification by the IF such that the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him or her for the Team.
- 3.1.6. Removal by the IF in the event in which the athlete qualified for the Team from the program. An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the Lakeshore Foundation/USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) Complaint Procedures (Attachment D) and the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

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- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, Panam Sports, IPC, WADA, IF, 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 NGB/HPMO's 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: The Selection Committee listed in Section 2.3 will determine the replacement athlete based on the

criteria in Section 1.3 and 2.2, Team need, and sport class from among the pool of athletes eligible (See Section 1) who participated at the 2022 Selection Camp.

- 4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee: The Selection Committee listed in Section 2.3 will determine the replacement athlete based on the criteria in Section 1.3 and 2.2, Team need, and sport class from among the pool of athletes eligible who participated (long list) at the 2022 Selection Camp.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Lakeshore Foundation/USAWR 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 2022 World Championships

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 2022 Training Squad and are included as attachments:

- Lakeshore Foundation/USAWR Code of Conduct (Attachment "B")
- Lakeshore Foundation/USAWR Team Rules, Addendum to the Code of Conduct (Attachment "C")
- Team training and competition schedule (Attachment "E")

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

- 7.1. NGB/HPMO Web site:

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:

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Up to 16 athletes will be named to the 2022 Training Squad named on 5 December, 2021

* Removal and replacement procedures, per Sections 3 and 4 apply, to the Roster of 16

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition with all dates posted on the USAWR website www.usawr.org

High Performance Training camps:

Dec 1-5, 2021 – 2022 USAWR Selection Camp – Lakeshore Foundation

January 5-9 – Training Camp – COS OPTC

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10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Joe Delagrave - USAWR Captain, 2021 National Team
 - Chuck Melton - USAWR Captain, 2021 National Team
 - Sue Tucker – 2021 National Team Assistant Coach
 - Chad Cohn – Athlete Representative
 - Chuck Aoki - AAC Representative
 - Jeff Underwood - President, Lakeshore Foundation
 - Jen Allred - Chief Program Officer, Lakeshore Foundation
 - Jim Murdock, ATC Medical Coordinator
 - Bob Murray, USAWR staff
- ** [list amended May 2022](#)

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Lakeshore Foundation Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

www.lakeshore.org

www.usawr.org

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, as applicable, and/or your IF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, Panam Sports, as applicable, and/or your IF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to Lakeshore Foundation. However, the selections 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 will be revised, 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/HPMO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

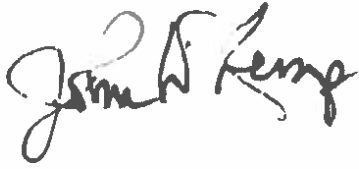


PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/HPMO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and/or CF (PAG/PPAG only) 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 NGB/HPMO.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Lakeshore Foundation President or CEO/Executive Director	John D. Kemp		5/24/22
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Jen Allred		5/2022
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Lee Fredette		5/2022

* 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/HPMO, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

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