Lakeshore National Adapted Sports Organization (LNASO)
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2025
Wheelchair Rugby
October 2024

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2025 National Team:

1.1.0. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time when named to the Training Squad, see Section 8 (*January 12, 2025*).

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire prior to June 1, 2026.

1.1.1. Minimum International Paralympic Committee (IPC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Paralympic Games must be a national of the country of the 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 IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1).

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

To be eligible for selection to the 2025 National Team, athletes must:

- be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of "Confirmed" or "Review with a Fixed Review Date" after September 2024" or have a current eligible sport class as determined by USWRA or be eligible to be seen by a classification panel in 2025.
- be eligible to be licensed with the WWR's Membership and Licensing System

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must successfully complete all Games Registration requirements by 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 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.
- Any athlete participating in a World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR)-sanctioned event as a member of a national team must be a national of the country entering the team - https://worldwheelchair.rugby/about-wwr/. 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. 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 a 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. Athletes must be in good standing with the LNASO
- Candidates must pass a physical examination by a licensed medical provider/physician (approved by the USAWR Medical Coordinator), prior to tryouts. Al candidates must present documentation of this exam conducted no more than 90 days prior to selection camp. All athletes will be offered the opportunity to complete a physical exam onsite at no cost the day prior to the start of selection camp; all candidates must also submit a complete Athlete Medical Questionnaire to Jim Murdock, Medical Coordinator, ATC at jimm@usawr.org by no later than December 10, 2024.

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:

The 2024 Selection Camp will be held January 6-12, 2025 at the Lakeshore Foundation U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Training Site with up to 40 athletes invited per Section 1.2.2 and Section 1.3. Up to 20 athletes from the 2025 Selection Camp will be selected to the 2025 Training Squad. Up to 20 of those athletes will be selected to represent the United States At Competitions and Training Camps in 2025.

The following events comprise the 2025 Training calendar and will serve as evaluation opportunities to determine the teams selected for competitions and training camps. Dates and locations are subject to change and could be cancelled or changed. All selected members should ensure they are available for each of these events; athletes for whom these events are mandatory will receive notification of the roster no less than 14 days prior to the event date. Notification of any changes will also be emailed to individual athletes at least 14 days prior to the event date. Dates and locations can be referenced at on the USAWR website, www.usawr.org/.

High Performance Training Camps:

- TBD
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Competitions:

  - TBD

An athlete may be excused from one or more of the events listed above under the following extenuating circumstances. Written requests for excused absences must be submitted to meaganr@lakeshore.org.

- An immediate death in the family
- Illness/injury approved by USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) Medical Coordinator, with medical documentation
- Hospitalization
- State, Federal or work mandate that would prevent the athlete from traveling
- Other approved emergencies are at the sole discretion of a committee comprised of USAWR Head Coach, High Performance Manager, AAC representative and AAC alternate.

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

To be eligible for an invitation to the 2024 Selection Camp, an athlete must have been a member of one of the following teams; however, the Selection Committee reserves the right to take class change/eligibility, performance or conduct while a member of the team into consideration for invitation:

- 2024 Paralympic Games
- 2023 Parapan American Games Team and alternates
- 2022 World Championship Team and alternates
- 2020 Paralympic Games Team and alternates

- If an athlete will not receive an invitation to the 2025 Selection Camp per the team requirement above, they may be eligible for an invitation to the 2025 Selection Camp through the following application:

- Athletes may submit an application including their name, current wheelchair rugby experience, a personal statement (no more than three paragraphs regarding their interest in applying) and video clip that depicts the athletes' game play. Applications open November 1, 2024, and must be submitted by November 15, 2024, to meaganr@lakeshore.org . All applications will be reviewed by the Selection Committee.

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

Player Invitation

- A maximum of 40 invitations to participate in the 2024 Selection Camp will be sent, via email, to the athletes that qualify per the criteria listed in Section 1.2.2) by 20 November 2024.
    - If invited and an athlete chooses not to participate in the team selection camp, additional invitations may be offered based on accepted applications received by the stated deadline and at the committee's discretion.
- Athletes who receive invitations by 20 November must accept or decline the invitation by 25 November 2024 by contacting the High Performance Manager via email at meaganr@lakeshore.org. Any invitations extended after 25 November 2024 must be accepted or declined by 12 noon CT on 30 November 2024.
- The final list of team selection camp participants will be posted at www.lakeshore.org and www.usawr.org by midnight on 2 December 2024.

- 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

- At the 2025 Selection Camp, each candidate will be tested and observed in drills and scrimmages. The Selection Committee (See Section 2.3) will evaluate each player to rank candidates with the same or similar sport classes while considering positional play. The skills tests will be posted no later than December 1 1, 2024.
    - In addition to the skills test criteria, the Selection Committee will consider discretionary criteria listed in Section 2.2 when evaluating athletes.
    - Video of drills and scrimmages will be captured that will aid the Selection Committee in evaluation of athletes.
    - NOTE: As cuts are made during selection camp, athletes may choose to depart early if they are not selected to move forward. Specific airport shuttle times will be announced at the start of Selection Camp.
- No later than the conclusion of the 2025 Selection Camp, the Selection Committee will select up to 20 athletes, hereby known as the 2025 Training Squad.
    - In order to ensure athletes are maintaining a level of fitness and readiness capable of producing a medal winning performance, LNASO/USAWR coaching staff and personnel will observe/evaluate 2024 Training Squad athletes nominated from the 2025 Selection Camp as they train and compete in various domestic and international events. In addition, LNASO/USAWR may request video footage and/or statistical information as part of the ongoing evaluation of athletes prior to final team nomination.
- Candidates invited to participate in the 2025 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 2025 Training Squad of up to 20) 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 Paris quad 2021-2024).
        - The Selection Committee has the right to request video footage that has been captured at a competition or camp from the previous six months to help aid in the above-mentioned decision.
        - If an athlete requests a medical waiver for selection camp, the athlete(s) must provide adequate documentation that will

support their reason for absence/participation. This must be sent to the Medical Coordinator, Jim Murdock, ATC, at jimm@usawr.org and copied to meaganr@lakeshore.org before the beginning of the Selection Camp (no later than 1 December 2024).

- The athletes nominated from the 2025 Selection Squad must submit a training plan, approved by USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) performance providers within 30 days of accepting a slot on the Training Squad after the time of selection (January 12, 2025) Plans should be submitted to Ryan Albino at ryana@lakeshore.org and copied to Meagan Rowe meaganr@lakeshore.org

Final Selection

- The 20 athletes selected to the 2024 Training Squad will be the athletes considered for 2025 competitions and training camps.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)

2.1. 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 LNASO 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 2025 Training Squad. The Selection Committee will develop a roster of players for the 2025 Training Squad that will enable the USA to field a legal variety of lineups in order to maximize the Team competitiveness.

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

Wheelchair Rugby is a team sport requiring effective combinations and individual skills. Thus, a combination of drills will be conducted at the 2025 Selection Camp to evaluate players in their selection to the 2025 Training Squad in combination with the subsequent discretionary criteria below. A list of those specific drills will be posted on the USAWR Website, https://usawr.org/about/, no later than December 1 2024 . The results of these drills, along with subsequent evaluation of the 2025 Training Squad against the discretionary criteria listed below throughout the mandatory events listed in Section 1.2.1, will be used by the Selection Committee to inform their selection of the squads selected for various competitions and camps in 2025.

The following discretionary criteria are considered in the selection of players.

Physical

- Athletes will be evaluated on physical traits in one or more of the events listed in Section 1.2.1 by national team staff which will be taken into consideration for selection. These include, but are not limited to an athlete's:
    - Aerobic/Anaerobic Fitness
    - Agility/Quickness
    - Passing Capabilities
    - Speed
    - Communication
    - Specialist Skills Relative to Classification position

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. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, or other decisions/recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

Selection Committee:

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coach
- Athlete Representative
- 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.
- USWRA Representative –this individual will observe all committee meetings and will have a "voice" in the process and but will not have a "vote"

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 selection committee must comply with the LNASO's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the LNASO's ethics committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the LNASO's 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, the LNASO's 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 national team coach or high performance director, 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 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 LNASO's 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 NGB/PSO selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

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

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

3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the LNASO CEO/Executive Director.

3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the LNASO. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the LNASO, his/her injury will be assumed to be debilitating, 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 LNASO Code of Conduct (Attachment A).

3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.

3.1.6. Removal by the IPC/IF of the event in which the athlete qualified for the team from the medal event program of the 2024 Paralympic Games.

3.1.7. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:

3.1.7.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or

3.1.7.2. the athlete is deemed Not Eligible (NE) by the IPC/IF.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the LNASO/USA Wheelchair Rugby (USAWR) Complaint Procedures (Attachment A) 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 LNASO 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 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 LNASO 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 2025 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 (see Section 1) who participated at the 2024 Selection Camp.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

LNASO/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 Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to the USOPC Delegation Conduct Requirements, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2025 Training Squad. The following are included as attachments:

- LNASO/USAWR Code of Conduct (Attachment A)

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

7.1. LNASO Web site: www.usawr.org

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: N/A

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

Up to 20athletes will be named to the 2025 Training Squad on 12 January 2025.

9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

All athletes nominated to the 2025 Training Squad will be required to be available to participate in the events listed in Section 1.2 as they serve as evaluation opportunities to determine the selection of the squads at competitions and camps. Rosters for these events will be announced at least 14 days in advance.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IPC, 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 IPC, 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:

- Chuck Aoki, athlete, Team Captain
- Eric Newby, athlete, Team Captain
- Lee Fredette, athlete, AAC Rep
- Jen Allred, CPO
- Meagan Rowe, HPM

- Jim Murdock, Medical Coordinator
- Joe Delagrave, Head Coach

12. LNASO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The LNASO Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

- www.lakeshore.org
- www.usawr.org

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IPC, as applicable, and/or WWR rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IPC, as applicable, and/or WWR rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to LNASO. 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

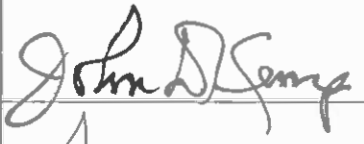
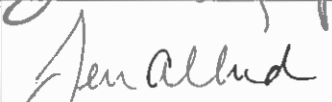
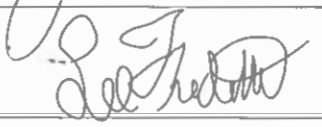
The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/PSO.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000
EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org
WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

15. NGB/PSO SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IFand 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 LNASO.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
Lakeshore Foundation President or CEO/ Executive Director	John D. Kemp		10/25/24
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Jen Allred		10/25/24
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Lee Fredette		10/24/24

* 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/PSO, 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/PSO must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.