

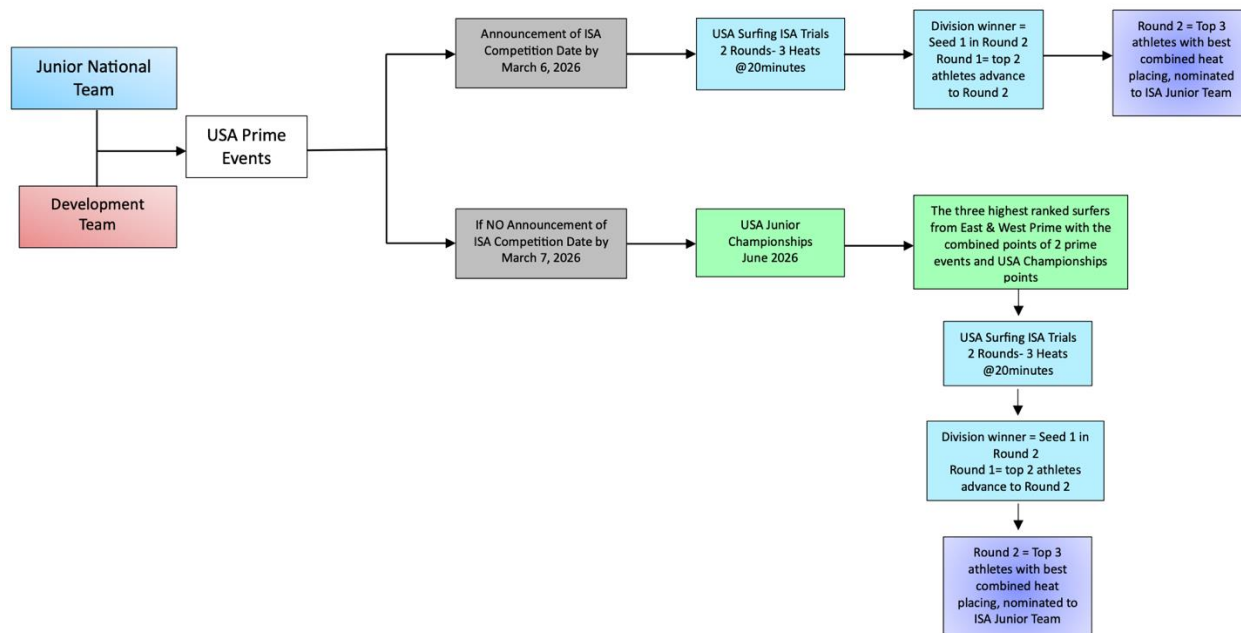
USA Surfing

2026 ISA Junior World Team Athlete Selection Procedures

- Publication Date: September 25, 2025

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the ISA Junior World Championship for USA Surfing. The maximum Team size can be 12 athletes, 6 per gender per ISA Rule Book.



SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

- Nationality/Passports Requirements:
 - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.
- Minimum ISA Requirements:
 - Abide by the rules in the ISA, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
 - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the Local Organizing Committee.
 - Comply with all ISA eligibility requirements found here: <https://isasurf.org/about-isa/isa-rulebook/>
- USA Surfing Requirements:
 - Athlete must have an active USA Surfing membership.
 - Comply with USA Surfing Athlete Agreement.
 - Comply with USA Surfing Code of Conduct: [link](#)
 - Comply with USA Surfing SafeSport Policy [link](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
 - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would

USA Surfing

2026 ISA Junior World Team Athlete Selection Procedures

make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.

- Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.
- Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, ISA and/or the Local Organizing Committee.

4. Anti-Doping Requirements:

- Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WADA, ISA, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the WADA, ISA, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.

SECTION 3: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

All events and points are posted on USA Surfing's website: [Events](#) & [Current Event Points](#)

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
October 18, 2025- March 15, 2026	USA Surfing Junior Prime Series East
October 25, 2025- March 8, 2026	USA Surfing Junior Prime Series West
April 14 – April 20, 2026	USA Surfing ISA Trials Waiting Period for 1 (one) day event *Nomination Route 1
June 16- June 20, 2026	USA Surfing Junior National Championships, Lower Trestles, CA
June 23-June 29, 2026	USA Surfing ISA Trials Waiting Period for 1 (one) day event * Nomination Route 2

*USA Surfing reserves the right to adjust dates and schedule due to poor weather conditions or force majeure.

SECTION 4: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the ISA Qualification System.

4.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

Per the ISA Rule book, quotas allotted per division are allocated to each country.

3 Male – U16

3 Female – U16

3 Male – U18

3 Female – U18

4.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

Please explain the qualification pathway, timeline, and how athletes qualify for the events listed in Section 3.

Nomination Route 1- ISA event announcement before March 6, 2026 for anticipated late Spring ISA World Junior Championships

- i. Athletes from the USA Surfing Junior National Team and Development Team are eligible for quotas per gender and division by competing in the 2025-2026 USA Surfing Junior Prime Series, East and West coast regions.
- ii. The three (3) highest ranked athletes from Prime East region and Prime West region utilizing their top two (2) results will qualify to compete in the USA Surfing ISA Trials, April 14 – 20, 2026, Oceanside CA, 2026
- iii. Tie Breaks- If there is a tie in total points, the athlete's third Prime result, will break the tie in points.
 - o If there is still a tie in points, breaking the tie will be done in the following order:
 - the athlete's finishing heat score from their top event finish, will break the tie.
 - If there is still a tie in final heat score, the single highest wave score from that heat will break the tie, followed by the third best, fourth best, fifth best, etc until the tie is broken.

Nomination Route 2- ISA event announcement after March 7, 2026

- i. Athletes from the USA Surfing Junior National Team and Development Team are eligible for quotas per gender and division by competing in the 2025-2026 USA Surfing Junior Prime Series, East and West coast regions.
- ii. The three (3) highest ranked athletes from Prime East region and Prime West region utilizing their top two (2) results and their USA Surfing Junior Championships, June 16-20, 2026, Lower Trestles, CA will qualify to compete in the USA Surfing ISA Trials, June 23-29, 2026, Oceanside, CA.
- iv. Tie Breaks- If there is a tie in total points, the athlete's third Prime result, will break the tie in points.
 - o If there is still a tie in points, breaking the tie will be done in the following order:
 - the athlete's finishing heat score from their top event finish, will break the tie.
 - If there is still a tie in final heat score, the single highest wave score from that heat will break the tie, followed by the third best, fourth best, fifth best, etc until the tie is broken.

4.3 **NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:**

Please explain how athletes may earn nominations to the Team.

Nomination Route 1- ISA event announcement before March 6th for anticipated late Spring ISA World Junior Championships

- i. The top three (3) placing athletes per gender, per division will be nominated in hierarchical order from the USA Surfing ISA Trials performance finishes.

Nomination Route 2- ISA event announcement after March 7, 2026

- i. The top three (3) placing athletes per gender, per division will be nominated in hierarchical order from the USA Surfing ISA Trials performance finishes

SECTION 5: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES

5.1 **RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:**

N/A

5.2 **DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:**

N/A

5.3 **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

Committee Name: High Performance Competition Advisory Council

- High Performance Director
- Head Coach
- Athlete Advisory Chairman
- Athlete Advisory Representative
- Athlete Advisory Representative
- Athlete Advisory Representative

SECTION 6: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition for athletes who are nominated to the Team.

Official training dates and location will be updated on USA Surfing's website and WhatsApp team channels at least 30 days prior to date of training.

SECTION 7: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

USA Surfing will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates on or before the following dates.

Nomination Route 1 Date – April 30, 2026

Nomination Route 2 Date – June 30, 2026

SECTION 8: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

NGB JURISDICTION

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by NGB:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USA Surfing CEO and High Performance Director requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
 - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Surfing provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating, and they may be removed from the Team.
 - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
 - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USA Surfing Code of Conduct: [Link](#)
 - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USA Surfing Athlete Agreement.
 - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated WADA, ISA, USADA and/or, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the NGB SafeSport Policy, as applicable.

SECTION 9: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee,
 - i. The next highest ranked athlete from the USA Surfing ISA Team Trials will be the replacement athlete.
 - ii. If that athlete does not accept quota, the next highest ranked athlete from Round 1 of USA Surfing ISA Team Trials will be the replacement athlete.
- 9.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

USA Surfing

2026 ISA Junior World Team Athlete Selection Procedures

[Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s). Note that after submission of entries by name, Late Athlete Replacement procedures will apply, if applicable.]

- 10.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, if allowed
 - i. The next highest ranked athlete from the USA Surfing ISA Team Trials will be the replacement athlete.
 - ii. If that athlete does not accept quota, the next highest ranked athlete from Round 1 of USA Surfing ISA Team Trials will be the replacement athlete.
- 10.2 Any replacement of athletes must comply with these selection procedures in addition to ISA regulations including applicable Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policies.
- 10.3 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the USA Surfing's complaint procedures [link here](#) and the USOPC Bylaws (applies only for a Protected Competition), Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Event:

- [USA Surfing Code of Conduct](#)
- USA Surfing Team Agreement

SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on ISA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ISA rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Surfing.

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, pandemic, 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.

SECTION 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 5.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 19) must comply with the NGB Conflict of Interest Policy ([link here](#)), to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USA Surfing Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee.

A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business relationship or interferes with, or maybe perceived to interfere with a committee member's ability to be impartial and participate in the selection process in a fair and impartial manner. Any member of the Selection Committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the NGB's Ethics Committee prior to the start of the selection process and may be required to recuse themselves from the Selection Committee discussions and/or voting.

If a conflict exists, the NGB's Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting).

During its review, the NGB's Ethics Committee may ask a Selection Committee member or an affected person for more information at its discretion. For example, if a Selection Committee member is required to recuse themselves from voting, the NGB's Ethics Committee may still determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information related to athlete performance, such as a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide that information to the Selection Committee if the information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and if the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the NGB's Ethics Committee. Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the NGB's Selection Committee appointment process.

SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

USA Surfing

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures

Name: Tracy Axel

USA Surfing

2026 ISA Junior World Team Athlete Selection Procedures

Position: High Performance Director

Email: Tracy@usasurfing.org

Name: Candice Appleby

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative

Email: candicerappleby@gmail.com

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SECTION 16: GRIEVANCES

The NGB Grievance Procedures can be found here: [link here](#)

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that he or she has been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>.

SECTION 17: NON-RETALIATION

The USOPC and USA Surfing have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or NGB staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to the NGB by following the NGB's Whistleblower Policy [link here](#)
- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

SECTION 18: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Surfing will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the NGB's Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the 2026 ISA World Junior Championships, whichever is longer.

SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Tracy Axel	High Performance Director
Ryan Simmons	Coach
Candice Appleby	10 year athlete representative
Nat Young	Athlete Advisory Representative
Tyler Gunter	Athlete Advisory Representative
Sarah Bettencourt	Athlete Advisory Representative

The following individual approved these selection procedures and through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by the [\[IF/CF\]](#). The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the NGB and that these selection procedures will be posted on the NGB's website.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
[NGB] Chief Executive Officer	Becky Fleischauer		

The following individual affirms that they have read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Candice Appleby		

* If the Team USA Athletes' Commission Representatives have delegated authority to another 10 Year Athlete Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the NGB must designate a 10 Year Athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

AAC – Athletes' Advisory Council

AC – Athletes' Commission

Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act

APC – Americas Paralympic Committee

CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport

Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport

CF – Continental Federation

IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)

IOC – International Olympic Committee

IPC – International Paralympic Committee

IF – International Federation

LOC – Local Organizing Committee

NGB – National Governing Body

NOC – National Olympic Committee

NPC – National Paralympic Committee

OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee of the Paralympic Games as well.

PAG – Pan American Games

Panam Sports or PASO – Pan American Sports Organization

PPAG – Parapan American Games

PSO – Paralympic Sport Organization

TEAM USA AC – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

USADA – United States Anti-Doping Agency

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency

APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

Contingency means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

Delegation Event means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

Force Majeure means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

Grievance Procedures means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the NGB or USOPC.

Jurisdiction means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

Nominated means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the Selection Committee to the NGB.

Protected Competition means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

Qualifying Competition means either of the following:

- iii. **NGB Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the NGB where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- iv. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the NGB officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

Selected means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the NGB to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: usathlete.org

SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit www.safesporthelpline.org.

TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission

TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at psychservices@usopc.org, or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health> for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at go.teamusa.org/referrals to get connected.

USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of NGBs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).

USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and NGBs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.

Rebecca Fleischauer



09 / 27 / 2025

Candice Appleby



09 / 26 / 2025

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Sent for signature to Rebecca Fleischauer (becky@usasurfing.org) and Candice Appleby (candicerappleby@gmail.com) from mia@usasurfing.org
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09 / 26 / 2025
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