



2026-2027 Junior National & Development Teams Selection Criteria
May 19, 2026

USA Surfing provides the talent pipeline with optimal resources that build youth development, elite performance and pathways for the rising surfers' professional career. The USA Surfing Junior Prime Series and annual USA Junior Championships at Lower Trestles, California are paramount to the competitive drive and development of American surfers.

USA Surfing has established a 2-tier Junior Team system which values competition results and athletic talent identification. Because the West Coast has a significantly larger base of competitive surfers than the East Coast, USA Surfing ensures a minimum of 25% East Coast representation on Junior Teams—reflecting our commitment to balanced opportunity and nationwide talent development. The follow team criteria are as follows:

TEAMS

- 1. USA Junior National Team**
- 2. USA Junior Development Team**

DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

USA Surfing will fulfill quotas per team and division in two nomination cycles.

In the first cycle, USA Surfing will nominate the USA Junior National Team and USA Junior Development Team no later than July 16, 2026.

USA Surfing will nominate unfulfilled team quota spots per division in the second cycle for a MID-SEASON nomination no later than Dec 15, 2026.

FOUNDATIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Athlete must be member in good standing with USA Surfing (USAS)
- Athlete must be a national of the United States
- Athlete must sign the USA Surfing Code of Conduct
- Athlete must sign the USA Surfing National Team Commitment Agreement
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Support Personnel must sign the USA Surfing Parent, Guardian and Athlete Support Personnel Code of Conduct
- Athlete and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must take SafeSport training



1. USA Junior National Team

The following team divisions reflect the International Surfing Association World Junior Surfing Championship team age divisions and will be nominated with age of surfer determined on January 1, 2027. Each division will include the two birth years associated with that age division and maximum quota allocation per division are listed.

- U18 Boys: 12 athletes
- U18 Girls: 12 athletes
- U16 Boys: 12 athletes
- U16 Girls: 12 athletes

- Athletes will be nominated in hierarchical rank order based upon the total sum of the 2025-2026 *West Coast Prime Series* best three (3) results, *East Coast Prime Series* best two (2) results and the 2026 USA Junior National Championships.
 - Current rankings can be viewed at: [USA Surfing Junior Rankings](#)
 - See Addendum A: Competition points awarded by result
 - 2025-2026 Junior Prime Series Event Schedule: [2025-2026 Prime Schedule](#)
 - East Coast Prime Series
 1. October 18-19, 2025, Nags Head, NC
 2. January 31-February 1, 2026, Ponce Inlet, FL
 3. April 4-5, 2026, Jacksonville, FL
 - West Coast Prime Series
 1. October 25-26, 2025, Morro Bay, CA
 2. November 22-23, 2025, Pismo Beach, CA
 3. February 7-8, 2026, Huntington Beach, CA
 4. March 7-8, 2026, Oceanside, CA
 - USA Junior National Championships, Lower Trestles, CA, June 16-20, 2026

- If maximum team size per division is not fulfilled, athletes will be nominated to the team after the completion of the 2026-2027 season's best two (2) Prime Series events for the MID-SEASON nomination.
 - 2026-2027 Prime Series Event Calendar Schedule [2026-2027 Prime Schedule](#)



West Coast Prime Series

1. October 17-18, 2026, Steamer Lane, Santa Cruz, CA**Date change
2. November 21-22, 2026, Pismo Beach, CA
3. February 6-7, 2027 – Huntington Beach Pier, Huntington Beach, CA
4. March 6 -7, 2027 – Oceanside Pier, Oceanside CA

East Coast Prime Series

1. October 10-11, 2026, Outer Banks, NC
2. November 14-15, 2026, Wrightsville, NC
3. January 30-31, 2027- Ponce,
4. March 13-14, 2027 – Jacksonville, FL

- 2026-2027 current rankings: [2026-2027 Prime Series](#)
- Maximum team quota per division is not required to be fulfilled upon the completion of the MID-SEASON nomination.

2. USA Junior Development Team

To ensure a strong and continuous pipeline of American surf talent representing Team USA on the world stage, the Junior Development team is focused on progression in the overlapping and contiguous age divisions included in the ISA World Junior Surfing Championship teams.

Further development opportunities are provided through Power Your Performance clinics and invitational opportunities.

The following team divisions will be nominated with age of surfer determined on January 1, 2027. Each division will include the two birth years associated with that age division and maximum quota allocation per division are listed.

- U16 Boys: 6 athletes
- U16 Girls: 6 athletes
- U14 Boys: 8 athletes
- U14 Girls: 8 athletes
- Athletes will be nominated in hierarchical rank order based upon the total sum of the 2025-2026 *West Coast Prime Series* best three (3) results, *East Coast Prime Series* best two (2) results and the 2026 USA Junior National Championships.



- Current rankings can be viewed at: [USA Surfing Junior Rankings](#)
- See Addendum A: Competition points awarded by result
- 2025-2026 Junior Prime Series Event Schedule: [2025-2026 Prime Schedule](#)
 - East Coast Prime Series
 4. October 18-19, 2025, Nags Head, NC
 5. January 31-February 1, 2026, Ponce Inlet, FL
 6. April 4-5, 2026, Jacksonville, FL
 - West Coast Prime Series
 5. October 25-26, 2025, Morro Bay, CA
 6. November 22-23, 2025, Pismo Beach, CA
 7. February 7-8, 2026, Huntington Beach, CA
 8. March 7-8, 2026, Oceanside, CA
 - USA Junior National Championships, Lower Trestles, CA, June 16-20, 2026
- If maximum team size per division is not fulfilled, athletes will be nominated to the team after the completion of the 2026-2027 season's best two (2) Prime Series events for the MID-SEASON nomination.
 - 2026-2027 Prime Series Event Calendar Schedule [2026-2027 Prime Schedule](#)

West Coast Prime Series

1. October 3-4, 2026, Steamer Lane, Santa Cruz, CA**Date change
2. November 21-22, 2026, Pismo Beach, CA
3. February 6-7, 2027 – Huntington Beach Pier, Huntington Beach, CA
4. March 6 -7, 2027 – Oceanside Pier, Oceanside CA

East Coast Prime Series

1. October 10-11, 2026, Outer Banks, NC
 2. November 14-15, 2026, Wrightsville, NC
 3. Jan 30-31, 2027- Ponce,
 4. April 3-4, 2027 – Jacksonville, FL
- 2026-2027 current rankings: [2026-2027 Prime Series](#)



- Maximum team quota per division is not required to be fulfilled upon the completion of the MID-SEASON nomination.

TIE BREAKS IN RESULT RANKINGS

In the event there is a tie in points at the conclusion of USA Junior Championships, the following scenarios will be used in this order to break the ranking tie:

1. The next highest result from surfer's Prime Series event will break the tie.
2. In the event there is still a tie in the surfers Prime Series result, the surfer with the highest result at USA Junior Championships will break the tie.
3. In the event there is still a tie, the highest total heat score of the surfer's last heat at USA Junior Championships will break the tie.
4. In the event there is still a tie, the highest single wave score of the surfer's last heat at USA Junior Championships will break the tie.
5. In the event there is still a tie, then the third highest wave score, then best four waves and so on until the tie is broken.
6. Only completely unbreakable ties will be re surfed in a 15 minute heat.

DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA

There is no discretionary criteria for nominations.

ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

JUNIOR TEAMS SELECTION CRITERIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following committee members will review and confirm the selection criteria has been applied to the selection process fairly and accurately.

- Athlete Advisory Chair
- Athlete Advisory Representative
- National Team Head Coach
- Competition Committee Member
- High Performance Director



- Any member of the Committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict is deemed problematic, the 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 verification process. However, a Committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example team medical personnel or trainer, 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 confirmation decision.

REPLACEMENTS

An athlete who has qualified for a Team(s) may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Surfing:

- i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USAS CEO signed by the athlete and a parent/guardian
- ii. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Surfing. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Surfing, his/her injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling, and he/she may be removed from the Team.
- iii. Violation of the USA Surfing Athlete Agreement / Code of Conduct:
<https://www.usasurfing.org/uploads/1/1/3/5/113568407/athletes-codeofconduct09.22.11.pdf>

An athlete who is recommended to be removed from the Team(s) pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Surfing Bylaws, Section 13. They may also have further rights under the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee Bylaws, Section 9.

The replacement athlete will be the next highest-ranked athlete according to the nomination criteria.

USAS BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

USA Surfing Bylaws, Policies and Grievance Procedures can be found at:



[USA Surfing Bylaws](#)

[USA Surfing Policies](#)



APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following individuals approved these team selection procedures and through their signature, certifies that the procedures comply with the standards and criteria set by USA Surfing. The following individual further certifies that the information provided herein regarding Junior National & Development Team Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the USA Surfing and that these selection procedures will be posted on the USA Surfing's website.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Surfing Director of High Performance	Tracy Axel		05 / 20 / 2026
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Candice Appleby		05 / 20 / 2026



Appendix A
COMPETITION POINTS AWARDED BY RESULT

Result Finish	Points Awarded
1	3000
2	2580
3	2190
4	2010
5	1830
7	1665
9	1500
10	1464
13	1350
17	1200
25	1080

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