

USOPC-IMS—Surfing

USA Surfing

Men's and Women's Shortboard

PRELIMINARY NOTICE TO THE ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2028 Olympic Games

March 26, 2026

Revised July 20, 2026

Revised August 14, 2026

USA Surfing was officially certified as the National Governing Body (NGB) for Olympic surfing as of June 1, 2026. As the NGB, USA Surfing is responsible for all selection procedures which will be posted at <https://www.usasurfing.org/selection-procedures>.

To provide information in a timely manner, USA Surfing ~~USOPC-IMS~~ is releasing this **updated** Preliminary Notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games (Games). This document is being written as a complement, and not a substitute to the 2028 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. Additional communication will be released **by USA Surfing** once the Athlete Selection Procedures have been approved by the USOPC.

A. Anticipated Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must comply with all International Surfing Association (ISA) eligibility requirements posted [here](#) (see Qualification).
- Athletes must be a national of the United States and hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.
- Athletes must adhere to all USOPC, USADA, WADA, ISA, and International Olympic Committee (IOC) anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures including participation in Out-of-Competition Testing, if applicable.
- Athletes must comply with the [USOPC Background Check Policy](#) and [USOPC Athlete Safety Policy](#).

B. International Surfing Association Qualification System Overview:

- Team USA can earn up to two (2) by-name quotas per gender for the 2028 Olympic Games. However, Team USA may earn additional Country quota if Team USA is the highest ranked team per gender at the 2026 or 2027 ISA World Surfing Games (WSG).
- ~~The maximum Team size can be three (3) athletes per gender. Quotas may be awarded by quota places to Team USA or to the athletes by name.~~
- The 2028 Olympic Games Qualification Systems Manual for Surfing is published here (See Qualification): <https://www.olympics.com/ioc/documents/olympic-games/los-angeles-2028-olympic-games>

C. **Anticipated Evaluation Events:**

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination to the 2028 Olympic Games Team may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 – 2028 World Surf League Championship Tour	April 1, 2026 – June 15, 2028
2026 ISA World Surfing Games	November 6 – 14, 2026 (Punta Rocas, Peru) October/November 2026 (Date & Location TBD)
2027 ISA World Surfing Games	May 22-30, 2027 (Surf City, El Salvador)
2027 Pan American Games	July 23 – August 8, 2027 (Lima, Peru)
2028 ISA World Surfing Games	Late winter/early Spring 2028 TBD (Location TBD)

It is intended that athletes being considered for nomination for the **Bonus NOC quota** to the 2028 Olympic Games may be evaluated on their performance at any of the below listed events.

EVENT NAME	DATE/LOCATION
2026 – 2028 World Surf League Championship Tour	April 1, 2026 – June 15, 2028
2026- 2028 World Surf League Challenger Series	April 1, 2026- June 15, 2028
2026 WSL Lower Trestles CT	September 11-20, 2026 (Lower Trestles, CA)
2026 ISA World Surfing Games	November 6 – 14, 2026 (Punta Rocas, Peru)
2027 ISA World Surfing Games	May 22-30, 2027 (Surf City, El Salvador)
2027 WSL Lower Trestles CT	September TBD, 2027 (Lower Trestles, CA)
2028 ISA World Surfing Games	Late winter/early Spring 2028 TBD (Location TBD)

Once selection procedures for the competitions listed above are complete, they will be posted here
<https://www.usasurfing.org/selection-procedures>

D. **Anticipated Evaluation Event Qualification Pathway:**

World Surf League Championship Tour Events

- Athletes qualify for World Surf League Championship Tour Events based on World Surf League eligibility criteria which can be found here: <https://www.worldsurfleague.com/>

ISA World Surfing Games and Pan American Games

- Athletes will be nominated for these competitions based on the Athlete Selection Procedures for each event which will be posted once complete.
- A preliminary notice to the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2026 ISA World Surfing Games is posted at <https://www.teamusa.com/surfing-selection-procedures> and <https://www.usasurfing.org/selection-procedures>

- The 2026 World Surfing Games Athlete Selection Procedure is posted at <https://www.usasurfing.org/selection-procedures>

E. **2028 Olympic Games Nomination Pathway:**

Team USA can earn up to **two (2) by-name** ~~three (3)~~ quotas per gender for the 2028 Olympic Games. **Team USA may earn additional Country quota if Team USA is the highest ranked team per gender at the 2026 or 2027 ISA World Surfing Games.**

Athlete by Name Qualification Opportunities (listed in priority order)

1. 2028 WSL Championship Tour – Top **8** ranked athletes **between August 15, 2027 - June 15, 2028.**
 - Maximum of 1 athlete per gender per country
2. 2028 World Surfing Games – Top **7** finishers.
 - Maximum of 1 athlete per gender per country
3. 2027 Pan American Games – Top eligible finisher.
 - Maximum 1 total athlete per gender across all participating countries.
 - **If two (2) U.S. athletes in the same gender earn by-name quota through the two (2) qualification opportunities above, a U.S. athlete in the same gender cannot qualify for the Olympic Games via the Pan American Games.**

Country Qualification Opportunities ~~—Maximum of 1 per gender per Country~~

If Team USA wins Team Gold at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games, Team USA will earn one (1) Country quota in that gender.

On June 29, 2026, the IOC Executive Board approved updates to the [Surfing qualification system](#) for the LA28 Olympic Games. Additionally, on July 1, 2026, the WSL announced that [Cloud 9](#) (Siargao, Philippines) will be added to the 2026 Championship Tour schedule, potentially preventing CT surfers from competing in the 2026 World Surfing Games. Given these changes and the possibility of further schedule adjustments, USA Surfing will outline the athlete nomination process for the potential Country quota in the full Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games.

- ~~• If Team USA wins Team Gold in either gender, the athlete in that gender with the highest finishing place on the winning WSG Team will be nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games*.~~
- ~~• If Team USA wins Team Gold at both the 2026 WSG and 2027 WSG in the same gender, a tiebreaker will be used to determine which athlete is nominated to the 2028 Olympic Games. The tiebreaker will be outlined in the full Athlete Selection Procedures.~~

~~*Please note if three (3) Team USA athletes in the same gender qualify by name for the 2028 Olympic Games, Team USA will lose the Country quota (if earned at the 2026 or 2027 World Surfing Games).~~

The ISA has confirmed that CT Surfers nominated to compete at the 2026 World Surfing Games, will be entered into Round 3 on November 11, 2026 per the updated IOC Surfing qualification system.

However, if a CT surfer declines their nomination to the 2026 WSG team, they may be eligible to compete on the 2027 WSG team.

F. Disclaimer:

This preliminary notice is based on the ISA rules and regulations as presently known and understood for the 2028 Olympic Games. The information in this notice is provided to assist athletes with their training and competition planning and is subject to change upon approval of the Athlete Selection Procedures for the 2028 Olympic Games.

For questions about the 2028 Olympic Games selection process, please contact **Tracy Axel, USA Surfing Director of High Performance** (tracy@usasurfing.org). ~~Matt Cramer, Senior Director, Internally Managed Sports~~ (~~Matt.P.Cramer@usopc.org~~).

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USA Surfing Director of High Performance	Tracy Axel		08 / 17 / 2026
Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative	Candice Appleby		08 / 18 / 2026

Revision History

Date	Revisions
March 26, 2026	Original document published
July 20, 2026	Amendment 1 – Changes to the following: - On June 1, 2026, USA Surfing was certified as the NGB for Olympic Surfing in the United States - On June 29, 2026, ISA revised the LA2028 Olympic Qualification System - On July 1, 2026, WSL added a new event that occurs at the same time as the 2026 World Surfing Games
August 14, 2026	Amendment 2 – Changes to the following: - Updated dates for Evaluation Events - Information regarding CT Surfers nominated to compete at the 2026 WSG

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The document has been completed.