

**National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA)**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2023 IWBF Women's Under 25 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship**  
**4/25/2023**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the 2023 IWBF Women's Under 25 Wheelchair Basketball World Championship (U25 Worlds) Team (the Team):

1.1.1. **Nationality/Passport requirements:**

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of selection.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport at the time of selection that will not expire for six (6) months after the conclusion of the U25 Worlds.

1.1.2. **Minimum International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) standards for participation (if any):**

References:

- IWBF Official Handbook: <https://iwbf.org/downloads/>
- IWBF Classification Requirements: <https://iwbf.org/the-game/classification/>

In order to play for the national team of a country, a player must hold the legal nationality of that country, and have fulfilled also the terms of eligibility according to the appropriate Internal Regulations. For additional information, including details about a player with two or more nationalities, refer to the IWBF Regulations (Section J) or the IPC Handbook (Section 2, Chapter 3.1)

*The NWBA plans to send a delegation of seventeen (17) people - Twelve (12) players and Five (5) team staff members in accordance with IWBF Regulations - Section E18.8.*

Eligible Players to Participate – Players must:

- be female,
- born on or after 1 January 1999,
- be listed in the Classification Master List at the date of the deadline to submit the First Entry List.

*At the time of selection, players must be internationally classified in an eligible Sport Class with a Sport Class Status of (i) Confirmed; or (ii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2024 or later\*.*

*\*In relation to criterion above, NPCs are permitted to provisionally select athletes with a Sport Class Status of (i) New; (ii) Review; and (iii) Review with a Fixed Review Date of 2023 or earlier, subject to such athletes attending an Evaluation Session prior to or during the U25 Worlds (including any required in-competition Observation Assessment).*

**1.1.3. Other requirements (if any):**

- Athlete must be a member in good standing of the NWBA from the time of selection through the conclusion of the U25 Worlds.
- Athlete must have a verified complete NWBA Adult or Junior Athlete Membership Registration for both the applicable seasons: 2022-2023 season and 2023-2024 season which includes the NWBA Code of Conduct, Liability Waiver, Concussion Acknowledgement and SafeSport Acknowledgement:  
<https://www.nwba.org/individualregistration>
- Athlete must successfully complete all 2023 NWBA High Performance Player Application OR 2023 NWBA U25 Player Application requirements by stated deadline.  
<https://www.nwba.org/usawb>
- Any athlete aged 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [NWBA Background Check Policy](#).
- Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the [NWBA Policies](#).

**1.2. Tryout Events:**

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

TENTATIVE Events/Schedule is posted on the NWBA website and subject to change: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb>

*Notification of changes will be emailed to 2023 Player Applicants as well as noted on the NWBA website: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb> (click the Events/Schedule tab) at least 30 days or as far in advance as possible.*

1.2.2. **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).**

See below – Section 1.3

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

2023 NWBA High Performance Player Applications (that meet the IWBFF age eligibility requirement--*born on or after January 1, 1999*) and 2023 NWBA U25 Player Applications will be reviewed by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee (Section 2.3). *Athletes are required to submit one application—not both.*

From the applications received, up to thirty (30) age-eligible athletes may, but are not required to be, invited to the Try-Out/Selection Camp based on consideration of the following factors submitted through the application and demonstrated in 2020 – 2023 camps/competitions/events (in no particular order):

- Athlete ability to exhibit expectations, characteristics, skills and other considerations outlined in Attachment A
- Athlete consistently demonstrating the potential to perform at an elite level
- Athlete statistics / technical skills from the current and previous season(s)
- Athlete experience at the national tournament and international level
- Consideration of the mix of players in terms of positions, skills, sport classes, team needs, and player qualities beyond technical skills that contribute to the overall team’s success

Following the U25 Worlds Try-Out/Selection Camp, twelve (12) athletes and alternates will be selected for the Team.

*At the Team Try-Out/Selection Camp, athletes will be evaluated by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee on expectations, characteristics, skills and other considerations outlined in Attachment A.*

**2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

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

In team sports, it is difficult to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. As a result, discretionary /subjective criteria may be used to select the best

physically, psychologically, and technically prepared athletes who will form the best team composition.

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

Discretionary criteria and selection are not a separate process but are a part of the primary team selection process – See Section 1.3 and Reference Attachment A.

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

NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee:

- NWBA High Performance Committee (HPC) Chair or their designee (1)
  - NWBA Athlete Representatives (10-Year Athletes) from the High Performance Committee or their designee to reach 33%
  - 2023 U25 Team Head Coach (1)
  - 2023 U25 Assistant Coaches (up to 2)
- NWBA Chief Executive Officer or their designee (ex-officio)*

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.**

All members of the selection committee must comply with the NWBA's conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the NWBA'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 NWBA'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 NWBA'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 NWBA'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 NWBA selection committee appointment process.

### **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

- 3.1. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by the NWBA may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by the NWBA:
  - 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the NWBA CEO/Executive Director.
  - 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NWBA. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by the NWBA, 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 NWBA Bylaws, NWBA Policies & Procedures (which includes that NWBA Code of Conduct) and/or SafeSport Code / NWBA Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies:  
<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures> and  
<https://www.nwba.org/safesport>.
  - 3.1.5. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
  - 3.1.6. Change in the athlete's sport class(es) following team selection, such that:
    - 3.1.6.1. the athlete's qualifying performance would not have qualified him/her for the team; and/or
    - 3.1.6.2. 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 NWBA Bylaws, Article 14.

- 3.2. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IWBF, WADA, USADA and/or NWBA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, the NWBA 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:**

Replacement athletes will be selected by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee based on eligibility to be selected as outlined in Sections 1.1 and 1.3.

- 4.1.2. **After submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:**

Replacement athletes will be selected by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee based on eligibility to be selected as outlined in Sections 1.1 and 1.3.

#### **5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

NWBA 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 U25 Worlds.

#### **6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Reference Section 1.1.3

#### **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

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

- 7.1. **Web site:** [www.nwba.org](http://www.nwba.org)

#### **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

Nomination of athletes, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and on or before: August 1, 2023.

## **9. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

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

Mandatory activities are included in the TENTATIVE Events/Schedule is posted on the NWBA website and subject to change: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb>  
*Notification of changes will be emailed to 2023 Applicants as well as noted on the NWBA website: <https://www.nwba.org/usawb> (click the Events/Schedule tab) at least 30 days or as far in advance as possible.*

While waivers for mandatory activities will not be unreasonably withheld, waivers will primarily be granted only for other competition(s) during the mandatory training time, injury or other similar incapacity, or for personal/family emergency. All athletes nominated to the Team should arrange for appropriate time off from school, work or other obligations well in advance of mandatory team camps, competition and activities. Requests for a waiver must be submitted as far in advance as possible in writing to the NWBA CEO/Executive Director for review by the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee. A written response to all requests will be issued to the athlete within 72 hours of the request.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

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

## **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

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

- High Performance Committee – David Greig (Chair), Gail Gaeng (10-Year Athlete), Eric Barber (10-Year Athlete)
- USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative – Steve Serio (10-Year Athlete)
- U25 Staff Representative – Ryan Hynes (Head Coach)
- National Office Staff - Brandon McBeain (Director of Membership Services and Programs) and Tina Cain (Business and Compliance Manger)

## **12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The NWBA Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:  
<https://www.nwba.org/aboutpoliciesprocedures>

### **13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**

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

### **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:

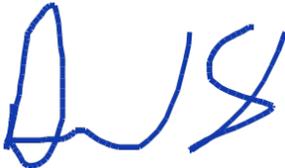
PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: [ombudsman@usathlete.org](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

WEBSITE: [www.usathlete.org](http://www.usathlete.org)

### **15. NWBA SIGNATURES**

**I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by IWBF and incorporated those standards/criteria into these Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by NWBA.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NWBA Board of Directors Representative or CEO/Executive Director	David Shaffer		05/14/2023
NWBA High Performance Committee Chair	David Greig		05/14/2023
USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Steve Serio		05/15/2023

\* 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.

## ATTACHMENT A

Recognizing that a Team is more than the skills brought by its individual players, the NWBA High Performance Team Selection Committee will consider the mix of players in terms of positions, skills, balance of sport classes, experience, match-up vs. international opponents, team needs, and player qualities beyond technical skills that contribute to the overall team's success.

### Expectations

Players are expected to:

- possess individual fundamental skills
- possess team skills
- place team goals ahead of personal goals
- be quick, fast, and well-conditioned enabling the team to play the up-tempo, full-court style of play necessary for success on the international stage
- demonstrate the capacity to sustain elite performance throughout the tournament/ camp
- be able to play individual and team defense in the half-court and full-court
- be able to play with and without the ball
- demonstrate the capacity to learn and implement new concepts on the court

### Other Considerations

- Balance of expertise in positions and roles
- Presence of experience and leadership
- Player interactions and team cohesiveness both on and off the court
- Player ability to respect the coaches, staff, and other players
- Player exhibited maturity on and off the court
  
- Individual player performance and statistics from scrimmages
- Testing results
- Previous National Team reporting compliance-*if applicable*

### Characteristics

- Teamwork: The willingness to accept a role that leads to team success.
- Positive Attitude: Exhibiting enthusiasm and support of teammates.
- Versatility: Exhibiting a balance between offensive and defensive skills as well as the ability to play multiple positions and fulfill multiple roles.
- Maturity: Exhibiting an ability to adjust to various situations and dealing with adversity. Adjusting to situations that are not going well and reacting appropriately.
- Coachability: Exhibiting the ability to process and incorporate input from the coaching staff.
- Experience: Number of years as a player and number of U25 Worlds played.

**Athleticism:** Do you have speed in the full court and quickness in the half-court? Are you at your optimum strength and endurance? Without these attributes, you will not be able to handle the pace of our game plan.

**Defensive Ability:** Do you have the character, work ethic, and mental toughness to relentlessly deny your opponent the opportunity to play the game? It is as much attitude as technique. We will be looking for mental fortitude and technical skill.

**Ball Handling Ability:** Do you take care of the ball, especially under pressure (with both hands)? Are you a passer (with both hands)? Do you see the floor and read the defense well? Passing well will be a premium.

**Shooting:** Are you a shooter, or are you a scorer? Are you consistent? Can you create and finish? When training on your own, do you shoot volume? Individual training should include game shots in game-like situations.

**Rebounding:** Do you have a "nose" for the ball? Are you quick to the ball? Are you willing to battle? Do you have grit? Rebounding is a talent, but it is human-driven. Like defense, it is mostly attitude!

**Offensive Ability:** Do you have the skills necessary to be a threat with and without the ball? Do you see the floor, and can you read defenses and react quickly to outplay your opponent? Are you selfless? We will be looking for individual ability AND team players.

**Intelligence:** Do you have basketball common sense? How fast do you learn new systems? Can you consistently apply these strategies to game situations? We are looking for quick learners with the discipline to modify their individual game as needed to best suit the team's needs.

**Passion:** Do you have a passion for the game? You may have the best technical skills, but if you don't have the passion, you will perform below your potential! This intangible quality becomes evident when we see a love of the sport within an athlete who wants to overachieve as a student of the game.

**Leadership:** Are you a leader, or are you a follower? We are looking for team members willing to help the team reach its goals. We recognize that leadership comes in many forms, and we want players that demand the best of themselves and their teammates on the court and off at all times.

**Responsibility:** Do you meet deadlines and achieve your goals? Are you taking care of yourself physically and mentally while training away from the team? Are you utilizing the many resources available exclusively to Team USA athletes? How well do you communicate your needs to those around you? Being part of Team USA means you are accountable to yourself, your teammates, the staff, and team goals.

**Communication:** Communication is foundational to any team's success. Communication includes the ability to receive (listening and understanding) and send (delivery of your message in either spoken or written form). How well do you communicate with others? In U25 Worlds and training, how do you communicate nonverbally and verbally? To be successful, we need great communicators on the court. Being part of Team USA means being part of a decentralized program. We rely heavily on timely communication and weekly check-ins with staff while not at training camps or competitions. We are looking for athletes that are great communicators on and off the court.

## Specific Skills

### Ball handling skills

- Can dribble the ball with dominant and non-dominant hand while moving
- Can pass with dominant and non-dominant hand
- Uses a variety of passes
- Can pass to all classes
- Passes away from the defense

### Chair skills

- Speed: top end
- Moves chair under control
- Quickness: ability to get started from a stopped position and get to top end speed
- Ability to change directions
- Ability to avoid contact
- Ability to use proper angles

### Shooting

- Accuracy
- Range
- Can shoot with non-dominant hand
- Free throws: can they make the shot

### Offense

- Picking:
  - Do they pick?
  - Do they use proper pick mechanics
  - Do they set good picks?
  - How do they read the court?
- Team Player
  - How do they work with others?
  - Are they working 1x1 or within the offense?
  - Do they make 2x2 reads?
  - Do they make 3x3 reads?

- Do they read the other side of the court?
- Will they work to get someone else the shot?
- are they looking for the best shot or their shot?

### Defense

- 1 on 1
  - Chair position
  - Communicating with others
- Half Court (2x2, 3x3, 5x5)
  - Switching
  - Communicating with others
  - Aggressive, but smart
  - Identifies threats
  - Can execute a triangle switch
  - Ballside/Helpside defensive principles
- Full Court
  - Ability to stay with other players in the full court
  - Communicating with others
  - Sees teammates, opponents, ball
  - Identifies threats

### Conversion

- Defensive
  - Gets back quickly
  - Immediately helps teammates get back
  - Communicates with teammates
  - Quickly locates ball, opponents, ball
  - Quickly locates threats
  - Fills proper position
  - Quickly recognizes numerical disadvantages
- Offensive
  - Blocks out
  - Quickly becomes an outlet
  - Outlet passes with either hand
  - Recognizes when to power dribble
  - Crosses down the court
  - Immediately rubs off defenders for teammates
  - Looks to back pick
  - Fills correct lanes
  - Can handle ball with either hand
  - Quickly recognizes court balance
  - Communicates with teammates
  - Recognizes numerical superiority