

Athlete Criteria Policy

(Deaflympics 2019) – Athlete Selection Criteria

USDSSA - 2019

Part A – General Application Process

Time Frame

1. All athletes shall submit a letter of interest to the USDSSA (NSO) Team Director by November 1st, 2018. Athletes are identified as those who meet the Mandatory Eligibility Requirements provision of the Selection Procedures herein and register with the NGB, Deaf Sports Organization, and USADSF as a member.
2. In accordance with the registration deadline established by ICSD, those athletes eligible under ICSD and USADSF regulations and registering to compete in the Deaflympics shall be verified by the USDSSA Selection Committee prior to being nominated to the USADSF Games Preparation Chair. Once the nominations are approved by USADSF's Board of Directors, the Final Roster shall become the USADSF's Deaf National Team to the Deaflympics. The selections shall be based upon the Selection Criteria provision herein.
3. Those athletes who are registering for, qualifying for and competing in USADSF-sanctioned national and ICSD-sanctioned international between December 2015 – December 2019 are considered as a member of the USADSF's Deaf National Team.

Mandatory Eligibility Requirements

- A. Possess a United States citizenship.
- B. Possess a valid identity card (e.g. driver's license, SSN card).
- C. Possess a valid passport for international competitions.
- D. Be a member of USADSF in good standing.
- E. Have a hearing loss of at least 55 dB (3-tone frequency average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, ISO 1964 Standard) in the better unaided ear, as documented on a recent audiologist-certified audiogram, (<http://www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf>).
- F. Submit him/herself without any reservations to all doping control policies and procedures of the USADSF, ICSD and World AntiDoping Agency (WADA) (<https://www.deaflympics.com/icsd.asp?anti-doping>).
- G. Commit to maintaining a consistent training regimen from the time of selection to the Deaflympics.
- H. Maintain contact with the USDSSA Team Leader, USA Team coaching staff and USADSF's Team Leader to keep informed about training regimens and competition results from the time of selection until the Deaflympics.
- I. Exhibit good sportsmanship and character.
- J. Sign and abide by USADSF's Code of Conduct and any other applicable forms.
- K. Commit to participation in a training camp(s).
- L. Commit to fundraise to cover expenses for training camp(s) and Deaflympics.
- M. Complete the USADSF's Deaf National Team application packet, which includes providing proof of having or in the process of obtaining a United States passport. Note: The passport must be valid for at least 6 months past the conclusion of the Deaflympics.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are as determined by ICSD Technical Regulations for USDSSA, which are available on the ICSD website (<https://www.deaflympics.com/sports.asp>).

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Selection Process

The National Sports Organization (NSO)'s Selection Committee shall review the resumes, qualification times or other necessary means of qualifications and interview each chosen applicant. The interviews may be conducted in person, via videophone or by e-mail. The Selection Committee shall make a final decision based on both the interviews and qualifications.

Selection Committee

USDSSA Selection Committee is composed of 4 voting positions.

Team Director

President

Vice President

Board Director

Press Releases

These selection procedures shall be published on USA Deaf Sports Federation's website (<http://www.usdeafsports.org>) within ten (10) days of approval of the criteria by USADSF. Information regarding USADSF-sanctioned USDSSA events shall be distributed through, but not limited to, e-mail, e-list, affiliated Ski and Snowboard organizations (USDSSA and USADSF), and USADSF approved deaf-related publications. Such information shall include a reference to the entire Selection Procedures herein.

Mandatory Training / Events

There is no established mandatory training under USDSSA. Training occurs at the discretion of the athletes and/or their designated coaches or trainers. Approved final roster athletes must participate all trainings while on-site during the international competition.

Removal Procedures

The USADSF Board of Directors shall reserve the right to remove any athlete selected as a member of the Team for any of the following reasons:

- A. VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL – The athlete must submit a written letter to the USADSF Team Leader.
- B. ILLNESS / INJURY – In the event an athlete suffers from an injury or illness and refuses verification by a medical person prior to team nomination approval by USADSF or by a USADSF medical staff person after team nomination approval by USADSF, the athlete shall be assumed to be disabling and shall be removed from the Team.
- C. VIOLATION – An athlete shall be removed for violation of any USADSF or ICSD rule governing the athlete's conduct. Examples include, but not limited to, unexcused absence, misconduct, unsatisfactory training regimen, poor competition performance, and inability to meet fundraising deadlines.

An athlete removed from the USDSSA or USADSF pursuant to this provision has the right to appeal the decision in accordance with the Due Process provision of the Selection Procedures herein.

Replacement Procedures

In the event a qualified Team loses one of its athletes due to illness, injury or "force majeure" then the USA USDSSA Team Director, in consultation with the USADSF's National Team Leader, shall propose two athletes,

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playing the same position as the removed athlete, for the other team member to accept as a teammate. The two replacement athletes shall be the highest ranked athletes from non-qualified teams. If the non-injured athlete does not accept to play with one of the two alternates proposed, that athlete shall forfeit the right to compete as a member of the Team. The then-vacant berth shall be filled by the next highest ranked athlete meeting the other qualification requirements.

If the ICSD, USADSF or Deaflympic Organizing Committee (hereinafter "DOC") requires different replacement procedures within a certain time period before the Pan American Deaf Games or Deaflympics or after official nomination of the Final Roster to the USADSF, such procedures for replacement shall be followed.

Due Process

All athletes have a right to obtain due process in accordance with the USADSF by-laws if they feel the selection criteria were not followed properly.

USADSF Ombudsman

If an athlete has questions regarding his/her opportunity to compete that are not answered by USDSSA, he/she may contact the USADSF Games Preparation Chair, Brianne Burger, at burger@usdeafsports.org.

Disclaimer

These selection procedures are based on USADSF, ICSD and/or DOC rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in USADSF, ICSD and/or DOC rules and regulations will be distributed immediately to the affected athletes. The selection procedures are based on the latest information available to USDSSA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen and intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.