USA FOOTBALL ATHLETE **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

2026 IFAF WORLD FLAG CHAMPIONSHIP - MEN'S AND WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAMS

SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ATHLETE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:

1.1.1. AGE REQUIREMENTS:

Athletes must be 18 or older as of December 31, 2026.

1.1.2. NATIONALITY/PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS:

Athletes must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athletes must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the event.

1.1.3. MINIMUM INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL (IFAF) STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION *(IF ANY):*

Upon notification by IFAF of any additional standards for participation, USA Football will notify athletes via an amendment to these procedures.

1.1.4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS *(IF ANY):*

Athletes must be an athlete member in good standing of USA Football.

Athletes over the age of 18 must complete a background screening and U.S. Center for SafeSport training.

Athletes must participate in Anti-Doping training with United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) prior to participating in IFAF competition.

1.2. TRYOUT EVENTS

USA Football Selection Criteria is a dynamic process whereby all available and eligible athletes are continuously assessed in the below listed activities, including upcoming activities listed on the USA Football website.

1.2.1. EVENT NAMES, DATES, AND LOCATIONS OF ALL TRIALS, EVENTS, AND CAMPS TO BE USED AS PART OF THE SELECTION PROCESS:

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

OBSERVATION AND EVALUATION EVENTS:

Event: U.S. National Team Trials
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: March 19-22, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp No. 1
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: April 16-19, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp No. 2
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: May 21-24, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp No. 3
Host: USA Football
Location: TBD
Date: June, 2026

1.2.2. EVENT NAMES, DATES, LOCATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF HOW ATHLETES QUALIFY FOR THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS, EVENTS, AND CAMPS LISTED IN 1.2.1 *(IF ANY)*:

QUALIFYING EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES:

- Athletes who were on the final roster (12) for the 2025 IFAF Americas Continental Championship or 2025 World Games will automatically return to 2026 U.S. National Team Training Camp No. 1, bypassing the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials.
- Athletes who were designated as an alternate for the 2025 IFAF Americas Continental Championship or 2025 World Games will be invited to the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials.
- Eligible athletes who were on the final roster (12) for the 2025 Junior International Cup will be invited to the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials.
- USA Football Sanctioned Events – All athletes who participated in a USA Football Sanctioned flag football tournament between January 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026, are eligible for invitation to U.S. National Team Trials. A list of sanctioned tournaments is located on USA Football's website (**usafootball.com/sanction-tournament**)

USA FOOTBALL'S NATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ("NTDP")

Event: USA Football Select Bowl
Host: USA Football
Location: Carson, CA
Date(s): June 18-22, 2025

In addition to being eligible for the athlete pool by virtue of participation at the Select Bowl, eligible athletes selected to the "All-Tournament Team" will receive an invitation to the 2026 U.S. National Team Trials.

TALENT ID CAMP(S)

Event: USA Football Talent ID Camp
Host: USA Football
Location and Date(s):
Tempe, AZ – November 24, 2024
Frisco, TX – December 1, 2024
Aurora, IL – December 14, 2024
Jacksonville, FL – January 5, 2025
Cleveland, OH – February 15, 2025
Florham Park, NJ – February 22, 2025
Honolulu, HI – March 2, 2025
Denver, CO – March 9, 2025
Renton, WA – March 15, 2025
Woodland Hills, CA – March 23, 2025
Tampa, FL – March 29, 2025
Tampa, FL – March 30, 2025 (Adults Only)
Landover, MD – April 5, 2025
Lithia Springs, GA – April 12, 2025
Foxborough, MA – April 27, 2025
Foxborough, MA – April 27, 2025 (Adults Only)
Westfield, IN – May 4, 2025
Long Beach, CA – May 10, 2025 (Adults Only)
Baltimore, MD – October 19, 2025
Kansas City, MO – November 8, 2025
Gilbert, AZ – November 23, 2025
Houston, TX – December 7, 2025
Houston, TX – December 7, 2025 (Adults Only)
Miami, FL – February 2026 (Adults Only)

DIGITAL COMBINE OPERATED BY GMTM
Event: USA Football Digital Combine
Host: GMTM
Location: **GMTM.com**
Date(s):
May 5 – June 9, 2025;
August 11 – September 22, 2025;
October 20 – November 28, 2025; and
January 12 – February 13, 2026

National Team personnel present or observing qualifying events will submit a written report of their observations to USA Football. Athletes who merit invitation will be invited to the National Team Pool. USA Football reserves the right to announce additional qualifying events or Activities up to 60 days preceding U.S. National Team Trials. USA Football will make those additional activities known on its website (**usafootball.com**).

1.2.3. FROM TIME TO TIME, ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TEAM STAFF MAY OBSERVE ATHLETES AT VARIOUS EVENTS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ALL LEVELS OF NONSANCTIONED FLAG FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS, INTERSCHOLASTIC AND COLLEGIATE FLAG FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS, AND CLUB OR LEAGUE FLAG FOOTBALL EVENTS. OBSERVATION BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TEAM STAFF AT SUCH EVENTS NOT NOTED UNDER SECTION 1.2.2 IS SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL SCOUTING AS DOES NOT QUALIFY THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT FOR U.S. NATIONAL TEAM TRIALS.

Some athletes may become known by virtue of their current competition level and participation in non-qualifying events and may be contacted regarding their desire to be considered for the National Team Pool. In these circumstances, the athletes will be directed to participate in a qualifying event where they can be evaluated.

1.3. U.S. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

1.3.1. OBSERVATIONS AND EVALUATIONS OF ATHLETES

At the evaluation activities described in 1.2.1 above, one or more members of the Selection Committee(s) will observe and evaluate athletes. Observation and evaluation duties may be divided among the members of the Selection Committee and each member's observations will be reported to the other members of the committee. Athletes will be observed and evaluated in accordance with procedures outlined herein using the Selection Criteria detailed in Section 1.3.2. It is intended that the observation and evaluation of athletes will be an ongoing process.

As indicated in these Selection Procedures, it is possible that each athlete being considered for selection for a specific team may not have been observed at the same qualifying events or with other athletes also being considered for national team representation.

1.3.2. SELECTION CRITERIA

In selecting athletes to be members of the teams, the Selection Committees will consider information, consisting of observation, video analysis and statistics of both objective and subjective nature, which pertains to ability, decision making, physical and psychological capabilities, and other considerations.

PRIMARY CRITERIA
- Likelihood of contribution to national team's competitive success; including historical performance in previous national team cycles.
- Performance in events in Section 1.2.1 (i.e., Trials and Training Camp).

SECONDARY CRITERIA

- Sign and adhere to Athlete Participant Agreement and National Team Code of Conduct
- Performance in Combine Testing:
  - 20-yd Sprint
  - 5-10-5 Pro Agility Drill
  - Standing Broad Jump
  - Vertical Jump
  - Repeat Sprint Test (RSA)
- Health Pre-Screening
- Positional Versatility
- Knowledge and understanding of IFAF 5v5 flag playing rules.
- Physicality
- Athletes (e.g., overall size, ability to change direction)
- Character:
  - Coachability
  - Attitude
  - Sportsmanship
  - Leadership
- Availability to participate in all events tailored to the 2026 competitive cycle.

1.3.3. NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER SIZE

The U.S. National Team roster is comprised of twelve (12) athletes and six (6) alternates.

Twelve (12) athletes will advance from U.S. National Team Trials to U.S. National Team Training Camp No. 1, joining the twelve (12) athletes who represented the U.S. National Team in 2025. Following Training Camp No. 1, the Selection Committee may advance up-to twenty four (24) athletes to Training Camps No. 2.

Following Training Camp No. 2, the Selection Committee will advance eighteen (18) athletes to Training Camp No. 3, where USA Football will determine its active roster of twelve (12) athletes for competition. The remaining six (6) athletes will be designated as alternates.

USA Football reserves the right to supplement additional athletes not advanced to Training Camp Nos. 2 and 3 with developmental athletes; however, these supplemented athletes will not be eligible for national team selection in the 2026 cycle.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

2.1. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION RATIONALE:

The sport of American football is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is impossible to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USA Football that the selection criteria set out in Section 1.3, which include subjective and objective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of the very best athletes to comprise our team and provide the best chance of winning in international competition.

2.2. DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA:

In selecting athletes to be members of the team, the Selection Committee will consider the selection criteria in Section 1.3. In addition, the general philosophy that will prevail throughout the evaluation and selection processes will be to identify the athletes what will make up the "best team" and provide the best chance of winning the event. Items considered include but are not limited to: (1) Competitive philosophy; (2) Scheme; and (3) Team Fit/ Chemistry.

2.3. SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The Selection Committee will comprise of nine (9) members; specifically:
1. Senior Director, High Performance and National Teams Operations;
2. Director, High Performance and National Teams;
3. Manager, Player Personnel
4. Head Coach;
5. Assistant Coaches (x2); and
6. Athlete Representatives (x3)

The Selection Committee will have the input from national team scouts, and performance staff and will be responsible for all aspects of team selection; making the ultimate recommendation on the team's roster. This group may be mentioned herein collectively as the "Selection Committee."

The final approval will be made by the USA Football's Managing Director of High Performance and National Teams.

2.3.1. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

All members of the Selection Committees must disclose any possible conflict of interest. If such conflict exists, the selection 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 nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but 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 the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

Conflicts of Interest may include the following:
1. Financial or business relationship with an athlete in contention, exclusive of USA Football National Team agreements.
2. Personal coach of an athlete in contention or a member of the athlete's coaching staff (i.e., head or assistant coach in a club program or any member of a collegiate coaching staff).
3. For athlete representatives, a teammate of an athlete in contention.
4. Employed by, or has an ownership interest in, a club where the athlete in contention is training.
5. Any other personal or professional relationship with a contending athlete, whether present or past, that could compromise an individual's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner.
6. Any of the above affiliations by a Related Person to the selection committee member.
   a. *Related Person:* Any person who is related by blood, marriage, or whose relationship with the selection committee member is similar to that of persons who are related by blood or marriage. Individuals could include a spouse, domestic partner, parent or sibling, child, grandchild or the spouse of any of these; or an individual living in the same home as the selection committee member.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETE

3.1. AS THE ENTITY TASKED WITH BUILDING AND MAINTAINING THE U.S. NATIONAL TEAM, USA FOOTBALL HAS JURISDICTION OVER POTENTIAL NOMINEES.

An athlete who is to be nominated to the team by USA Football may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Football:

3.1.1. VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL. Athlete must submit a written letter to USA Football's Managing Director of High Performance and National Teams.

3.1.2. INJURY OR ILLNESS AS CERTIFIED BY A PHYSICIAN (OR MEDICAL STAFF) APPROVED BY USA FOOTBALL. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Football, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed. An athlete has the right to request evaluation from a mutually agreed upon third-party, independent physician as an additional resource in the final decision.

3.1.3. VIOLATION OF USA FOOTBALL'S CODE OF CONDUCT AND/OR TEAM POLICIES. An athlete who is removed from the team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Football Bylaws and the United States Olympic Committee Bylaws, Section 9.

3.1.4. COMPETITIVE PERFORMANCE OR TEAM NEEDS. An athlete may be removed from the U.S. National Team based on competitive performance or team composition needs, as determined by the coaching staff in consultation with USA Football's High Performance leadership. Such removal may occur when, in the judgment of the coaching or technical staff, another eligible athlete demonstrates superior performance, readiness, or positional suitability deemed necessary for the success of the team. Prior to any removal under this provision, a subset of the Selection Committee, comprised of the Head Coach, Senior Director of High Performance and National Teams Operations, and one Athlete Representative, must convene to review and discuss the proposed change. Any removal recommendation must be approved by the Managing Director of High Performance and National Teams before becoming final. Athletes subject to removal under this provision will be notified in writing by USA Football.

3.2. IF A THIRD-PARTY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING THE NATIONAL TEAM, USA FOOTBALL WILL HAVE JURISDICTION UNTIL WHICH TIME NOMINATION IS ACCEPTED BY THE THIRD-PARTY. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the third-party tasked with building the team to compete in the event, that third-party has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Football Code of Conduct, the third-party's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply.

Any applicable third-party Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:
teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman
teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents

3.3. **AN ATHLETE MAY BE REMOVED AS A NOMINEE TO THE TEAM OR FROM THE TEAM FOR AN ADJUDICATED VIOLATION OF IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IFAF, USADA AND/OR USOC ANTI-DOPING PROTOCOL, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, AS APPLICABLE.**

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

4.1. DETERMINING REPLACEMENT ATHLETE(S) SHOULD A VACANCY OCCUR:

4.1.1. PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF TEAM BY NAME TO THE EVENT, INCLUDING ANY APPLICABLE GROUP OR COMMITTEE: If a vacancy on the roster occurs, the Selection Committee will recommend a player to replace the vacant position. In recommending the replacement player that will join the team, the coaches will consider the selection criteria per the process listed in Sections 1.3., and may also consider the position(s) that the replacement player is filling and attempt to fill with a similar player.

USA Football will prioritize athlete replacements from the (up to) six athletes nominated as alternates pursuant to Section 1.3.3.

4.1.2. AFTER SUBMISSION OF TEAM BY NAME TO THE EVENT, INCLUDING ANY APPLICABLE GROUP OR COMMITTEE: If allowed by the applicable late replacement policies of IFAF and/or the event, the coaches will, in recommending the replacement player that will join the team, consider the selection criteria per the process listed in Sections 1.3 and 2, and may also consider the position(s) that the replacement player is filling and attempt to fill with a similar player.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Football 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 end of the event.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

In addition to any documents required by any third-party tasked with building the team to compete in the event, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the event and are included as attachments:

- USA Football Athlete Participant Agreement
- Authorization to Disclose Health Information
- USA Football Athlete Code of Conduct

7. DATE OF NOMINATION

The team, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and, if required, submitted to any third party tasked with building a team for the event on or before:

- Final roster (men): July 1, 2026
- Final roster (women): July 1, 2026

8. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

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

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: April 16-19, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: May 21-24, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp
Host: USA Football
Location: TBD
Date: June, 2026

Event: U.S. National Team Training Camp
Host: USA Football
Location: Chula Vista, CA
Date: July 23-26, 2026

Event: IFAF World Championship
Host: American Football Verband Deutschland (AFVD)
Location: Dusseldorf, Germany
Date: August, 2026

USA Football will provide athletes strength and conditioning training protocol beginning in March 2026 leading into competition. All national team athletes (including alternates) are expected to follow the strength and conditioning protocol and report progress to its designated strength and conditioning personnel on a regular basis defined by USA Football. If athletes need accommodations or alternative physical training arrangements, he/she needs to receive written approval from USA Football's Director, High Performance and National Teams.

9. NONMANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

USA Football reserves the right to announce additional training and/or competition events to those referenced in Section No. 8 during the national team training cycle. USA Football will notify all national team athletes within 60 days of the activity and provide reasonable accommodations (if needed) if an athletes' schedule prevents them from attending.

10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IFAF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IFAF, USADA and USOC rules, as applicable.

11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

- Eric Mayes, Managing Director, High Performance and National Teams
- Callie Brownson, Senior Director, High Performance and National Teams Operations
- Jon Carlock, Director, High Performance and National Teams
- Charles Torwudzo, Manager, U.S. National Teams and Player Personnel
- Cam Spina, Coordinator, High Performance Operations
- USA Football High Performance Committee
- USA Football Athlete Advisory Council

12. NGB/HPMO BYLAWS AND GRIEVENCE PROCEDURES

USA Football's Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at **usafootball.com**.

13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or IFAF rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or IFAF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Football. 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 altercation or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their reapproval by and resubmission to any third-party, as applicable.

14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Athlete Ombuds offers independent, confidential advice to elite athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement and assists elite athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints, and concerns.

Telephone: (719) 866-5000
Email: **ombudsman@usathlete@org**
Website: **usathlete.org**

ATHLETE OMBUDS CONFIDENTIALITY AND PRIVACY POLICY:
A) In general. - The Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall maintain as confidential any information communicated or provided to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds in confidence in any matter involving the exercise of the official duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds. (B) Exception.—The Office of the Athlete Ombuds may disclose information described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to resolve or mediate a dispute, with the permission of the parties involved. (C) Judicial and administrative proceedings.—(i) In general.—The ombudsman and the staff of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds shall not be compelled to testify or produce evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding with respect to any matter involving the exercise of the duties of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds . (ii) Work product.—Any memorandum, work product, notes, or case file of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds—(I) shall be confidential; and (II) shall not be—(aa) subject to discovery, subpoena, or any other means of legal compulsion; or (bb) admissible as evidence in a judicial or administrative proceeding. (D) Applicability.—The confidentiality requirements under this paragraph shall not apply to information relating to—(i) applicable federally mandated reporting requirements; (ii) a felony personally witnessed by a member of the Office of the Athlete Ombuds;(iii) a situation, communicated to the Office of the Athlete Ombuds, in which an individual is at imminent risk of serious harm; or (iv) a congressional subpoena.

ANTI-RETALIATION STATEMENT:
USA Football encourages athletes to seek guidance from the Athlete Ombuds and USA Football has zero tolerance for retaliation against any athlete that seeks such assistance. Consistent with USA Football's Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Policy, USA Football will not encourage, allow, or tolerate any attempts from an individual or group of individuals to retaliate, punish, or in any way harm any individual who seeks assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.

15. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

This document shall be distributed and made available to all athletes via the USA Football website at **usafootball.com** and shall be emailed to all active USA Football athlete members.

ACTION	ENTITY	DATE
Policy Draft	USA Football Staff	6/10/2025
Review	USA Football Board of Directors	6/24/2025
Approval	USA Football Athlete Advisory Council	11/10/2025
Approval	USA Football High Performance Committee	11/14/2025
Policy Revision: Section 1.2.1; Digital Combine Dates	USA Football Staff - HPC Chair Review - AAC Chair Review	11/17/2025
Approval	USA Football Board of Directors	12/17/2025
Policy Revision: Section 1.3.2; 40yd Dash to 20yd Sprint	USA Football Staff - HPC Chair Review - AAC Chair Review	2/2/2026