

# USA Softball

## Men's Fast Pitch Athlete Selection Procedures

### 2025 WBSC Men's World Cup and 2025 World Games

- Publication Date: February 7, 2025

#### SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

These procedures outline the pathway for selection to the 2025 WBSC Men's World Cup and 2025 World Games (Events) in Men's Fast Pitch

The maximum team size can be 16 athletes for the World Cup and 15 Athletes for the World Games, AND Men.

#### SECTION 2: ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nationality/Passports Requirements:
  - Have a valid United States passport at the time of nomination that does not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Event.
2. Minimum WBSC Requirements:
  - Abide by the rules in the WBSC, including nationality/citizenship requirements.
  - Comply with all rules and policies implemented by the [LOC].
  - Comply with all WBSC eligibility requirements found here: [\[link\]](#).
3. USA SOFTBALL Requirements:
  - Athlete must have an active USA SOFTBALL membership or one of USA Softballs Allied Member groups. To find a list of Allied member groups please look at <https://www.usasoftball.com/play-usa-softball/memberships/>.
  - Comply with the USA SOFTBALL Athlete Agreement.
  - Comply with the USA SOFTBALL [Code of Conduct](#).
  - Comply with the USA SOFTBALL [Safe Softball Handbook](#) and the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#) including education and training requirements.
  - Athlete does not have an active suspension from the U.S. Center for SafeSport that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.
  - Athlete does not have an active sanction for an anti-doping rule/policy violation that would make the Athlete ineligible to participate in the Event.
  - Meet all health and safety protocols, to include vaccine requirements and/or testing requirements set forth by the government, local laws, USOPC, WBSC and/or the Local Organizing Committee.
4. Anti-Doping Requirements:
  - Agree to be bound by and adhere to all WADA, WBSC, USADA and USOPC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing and an agreement to be bound to the results management authority of the WADA, WBSC, USADA, or other Anti-Doping Organization as applicable.

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#### SECTION 3: EVALUATIVE EVENTS

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

DATE(S)	DESCRIPTION/EVENT NAME
2021 – 2025	USA Softball Selection Trials, National Training Camps, National Team exhibition games, and National Team International Competitions.
2021 – 2025	Fast Pitch Softball games domestic and International.
2021 – 2025	College Baseball Games at all levels.
2021 – 2025	USA Softball National Championships, League, and Invitational Events

\* In the event of inclement weather, unplayable field conditions, or an athlete safety issue that may affect the Camp, USA Softball may need to adjust the time and duration of the Camp or cancel the Camp, depending on the severity of the playing and field conditions.

#### SECTION 4: SELECTION PROCESS

Provide a step-by-step description of the selection process including an overview of the WBSC Qualification System.

##### 4.1 TOTAL QUOTA PLACES:

NA.

##### 4.2 EVALUATION EVENT QUALIFICATION PATHWAY:

##### Ongoing Screening for Membership in the Men's National Player Pool.

- From time to time, one (1) or more members of the Men's National Team Selection Committee (MNTSC) may observe athletes at various events including, but not limited to, open exposure events, professional softball competitions and events, interscholastic softball competitions and events, club or league softball events, and events coordinated by USA Softball. However, if any of the events listed above have been televised or videotaped, or data collected in another manner, the committees can use those resources as a means for screening. This screening is an ongoing process and will continue throughout the year. Observation by members of the MNTSC or data available from such events is solely for the purpose of general scouting except as indicated above in 3. The committees will not be individually evaluating each athlete competing at each event. Instead, general scouting will be conducted so that athletes can be identified who perform at a level which the committee believes is competitive in the current international field based on the criteria in Section 5. Players identified through the ongoing screening process will be considered for placement in the Pool by the MNTSC (See Section 4.2.). As a result, it is possible that each athlete being considered in the pool may not have been observed at the same screening events or as many screening events as other athletes also being considered for that particular pool.

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#### Membership in Men's National Player Pool.

- *Athletes are eligible for selection to the USA Softball Men's National Player Pool ("Pool") if they meet the eligibility requirements in Section 1, however eligibility for selection to the Pool does not automatically guarantee placement in the Pool.*
- *Athletes are selected to the Pool by the MNTSC.*
- *Once a part of the Pool, Athletes are then eligible for selection to the 2025 Men's National Team WBSC World Cup and the World Games rosters using the information from the events listed here and the process and criteria listed within this document.*
- *Selection as a member of the Pool in the 2025 does not guarantee selection to the Pool in other years and does not guarantee that such athlete will be selected to participate in any USA Softball programs during the year, including those programs described in these selection procedures. Athletes may be added to the Pool throughout the year prior to the respective events each year.*

#### **4.3 NOMINATION TO THE TEAM:**

##### Observation of Athletes.

- *At the Evaluative Events described in Section 3 above, one (1) or more members of the MNTSC, may observe and evaluate athletes. However, if no committee member is/was present at an event, if any of the events listed in Section 3. have been televised, videotaped, or data collected in another manner, the committees can use those resources as a means for observing. Observation and written evaluation duties may be divided among the members of the MNTSC and each member's observations will be reported to the other members of the MNTSC. Athletes will be observed in order to develop information about the athletes with regard to the Selection Criteria. It is intended that the observation of athletes will be an ongoing process and that all observations at events listed in 3, could be considered.*

*Selection of Men's National Team for play in the World Cup and World Games- Utilizing the events in section 3 and using the criteria in Section 2, the athletes will be recommended by the Men's Head Coach. The MNTSC will review the coach's recommendations and approve the Men's National Team for participation at the WBSC World Cup in Prince Albert Canada and the World Games in Chengdu China. The 16 players for the World Cup will be announced on or before March 14, 2025 and the 15 players for the World Games will be announced on or before July 21, 2025*

## **SECTION 5: DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO NOMINATE ATHLETES**

### **5.1 RATIONALE FOR UTILIZING DISCRETIONARY SELECTION:**

*The sport of softball is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is difficult to make a selection decision based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of USA Softball and the Men's coaching staff that considering a mix of Selection Criteria set forth below, which includes subjective components as well as objective statistical measures in evaluation of performance ability, will result in selection of the best athletes who will work together as an effective team and contribute to team success. This section will be used for the selection of athletes for the Team and for the replacement athletes.*

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#### 5.2 DEFINE THE DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA TO BE USED:

- *In evaluating athletes, the MNTSC will use a standard evaluation document at camp and for events listed in Section 1.2.1. It will be consistent in content with the Selection Criteria listed below and data collected from the events in Section 1.2.1. Additionally this same criteria will be used when evaluating athletes' performances at the other events listed in 1.2.1:*

#### Offensive Performance

##### *Batting*

- *Batting statistics*
- *Batting average*
- *On-base percentage*
- *Hard hit average*
- *Slugging percentage*

##### *Batting observation*

- *Ability to make appropriate decision based on specific situations (for example, bunting, hitting to advance runners, etc.)*

##### *Running*

- *Speed (timed)*
- *Base running*
  - *Decision making*
  - *Efficiency*

#### Defensive Performance

##### *Fielding Statistics (objective)*

- *Fielding percentage*

##### *Fielding Observation (subjective)*

- *Glove work per position*
- *Foot work per position*
- *Arm strength per position*
- *Throwing accuracy per position*
- *Depth judgement on balls hit to fielder (spacing ability)*

##### *Communication with other players*

- *Instincts for necessary adjustments / positioning on the field.*

#### Pitching Performance

##### *Pitching Statistics*

- *WHIP*
- *ERA*
- *Batting average against (RH vs LH)*
- *Pitches per inning*
- *Strike-out to Walk ratio*
- *Velocity by Radar Gun*

##### *Pitching Observation*

- *Pitch movement and control*
- *Situational Pitching*
- *Mound Presence and instincts*
- *Ability to adjust*

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- *Pitcher/Catcher Relationships*

#### *Judgment*

*Communication with other players*

*Instincts for necessary adjustments/positioning*

#### *Other Considerations*

*Teamwork – willingness to accept role that leads to team success*

*Enthusiasm – energy and support of teammates*

*Versatility – balance between offense and defense as well as the ability to play other positions to fulfill multiple roles*

*Maturity – ability to adjust to situations dealing with adversity, accepting things that don't go well and reacting appropriately;*

*Team Composition - The intended direction for the particular team (for example, if the team is intended to be primarily a power hitting team)*

### **5.3 SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections or other decisions and recommendations directly impacting athletes in the selection process.

Committee Name: Men's National Team Selection Committee

- At-Large – Warren Jones
- At-Large – Randy Sheppard
- Athlete Representative – Chris Miljavac
- Athlete Representative – Pat Sagdal
- Head Coach – Ron Hackett

## **SECTION 6: MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule, and duration of all mandatory training and/or competition that will be considered in Team selection.

- *Athletes must participate in all team events as required and requested unless an absence is otherwise approved per the instructions below.*
- *If a training program (including strength, conditioning, nutrition, etc.) is created for the Teams. Once the program is developed, the affected athletes will be informed no later than thirty (30) days prior to each required training. Each member of the Team is expected to participate in the program of training developed.*
- *If a training, competition, and/or a competition event is created for a team. Once the event is created the affected athletes will be informed no later than sixty days (60) prior to each event. Each member of the Team is expected to participate in the event of training developed.*
- *All requests for waivers from mandatory training and/or competition due to emergency, illness, or injury from participation in mandatory events must be presented to the Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer*

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*in writing as early as possible prior to the event. As soon as practical after receipt of the request, the Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer and Head Coach will review the request, and if for injury or illness, will consult with certified medical staff approved by USA Softball, and approve or deny it. All waivers must be granted by the Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer in writing. The athlete understands fully and clearly that it is his responsibility to provide the written verification of any emergency, illness, or injury (illness or injury to be verified by USA Softball approved physician selected by the athlete). Should verification of athlete injury or illness signed by the approved physician not be received within five (5) business days of the initial written waiver request, the waiver request shall become null and void.*

- *The Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer will provide the athlete written approval or denial of the waiver request within five (5) business days of receiving verification, unless it is a time sensitive issue, in which case the decision will be made immediately. Missing mandatory event(s) may result in removal (Please see Section 3.) of the athlete from the team per the recommendation of the head coach with approval of the MNTSC.*

## SECTION 7: DATE OF TEAM NOMINATION

USA SOFTBALL will nominate the Team, including any replacements/alternates on or before *March 14, 2025*

## SECTION 8: REMOVAL OF ATHLETES FROM THE TEAM

### USA SOFTBALL JURISDICTION

- a. An athlete who is nominated to the Team may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA SOFTBALL:
  - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete submits a written letter to the USA SOFTBALL [CEO or CSDPO] requesting to voluntarily withdraw from the Team.
  - ii. Injury or illness. A physician (or medical staff) approved by USA SOFTBALL provides certification that the Athlete has a debilitating condition. If Athlete refuses to provide verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be debilitating and they may be removed from the Team.
  - iii. Failure to participate. Athlete does not participate in all Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in these procedures.
  - iv. Code of Conduct Violation. Athlete violates the USA SOFTBALL Code of Conduct: [https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/05/2022\\_USA-Softball-Code-of-Conduct-1.pdf](https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/05/2022_USA-Softball-Code-of-Conduct-1.pdf)
  - v. Athlete Agreement. Athlete violates a term in their signed USA SOFTBALL Athlete Agreement.
  - vi. Non-compliance. Athlete does not meet the athlete eligibility requirements listed in Section 2 of these selection procedures.
- b. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team if found to have violated WADA, WBSC, USADA and/or, the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code and the USA SOFTBALL SafeSport Policy, as applicable.



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#### **SECTION 9: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

- 9.1 Should a vacancy occur prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, In the event an athlete is removed from a Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended from the replacement athletes in the pool by Men's Coaching staff for final approval by the MNTSC. The selection shall be made based on the needs of the team using the process and using the Selection Criteria outlined in this document.
- 9.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

#### **SECTION 10: SELECTION PROCESS IF ATHLETE VACANCY OCCURS AFTER SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES BY NAME TO THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

- 10.1 Should a vacancy occur after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, if allowed, In the event an athlete is removed from a Team, a replacement athlete shall be recommended from the identified replacement players in the pool by the Men's Coaching staff for final approval by the MNTSC. The selection shall be made based on the needs of the team and using the Selection Criteria outlined in this document.
- 10.2 All replacement athletes must meet all requirements listed in Section 2.

#### **SECTION 11: RIGHT TO A HEARING**

An athlete who is removed from the Team has the right to a hearing per the USA SOFTBALL's complaint procedures The [USA SOFTBALL Grievance Procedures](#) can be found here in Section 16 of the USA Softball Bylaws and the USOPC Bylaws (applies only for a Protected Competition), Section 9 (<https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>).

#### **SECTION 12: REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Event:

- USA SOFTBALL Code of Conduct: [https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/05/2022\\_USA-Softball-Code-of-Conduct-1.pdf](https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/05/2022_USA-Softball-Code-of-Conduct-1.pdf)
- USA SOFTBALL Athlete Agreement:
- Medical Treatment Consent
- Athlete Compensation (if applicable)
- Schedule of Events Commitment
- Travel Policies and Procedures

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#### SECTION 13: DISCLAIMERS

These procedures are based on WBSC rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in WBSC rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA SOFTBALL.

However, the selection criteria are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency. If any force of nature, pandemic, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions.

#### SECTION 14: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All members of the Selection Committee (Section 5.3) and all individuals who developed these selection procedures (Section 19) must comply with the USA SOFTBALL Conflict of Interest Policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form consistent with the USA SOFTBALL's Conflict of Interest Policy before convening the committee. <https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2024/12/USAS-Conflict-of-Interest-Policy-2025.pdf>

If a conflict exists, the USA SOFTBALL's Ethics Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse themselves from participating in discussions and/or voting).

During its review, the USA SOFTBALL Ethics Committee may ask a Selection Committee member or an affected person for more information at its discretion. For example, if a Selection Committee member is required to recuse themselves from voting, the USA SOFTBALL Ethics Committee may still determine that a Selection Committee member who has relevant and necessary information related to athlete performance, such as a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the Selection Committee, provide that information to the Selection Committee if the information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and if the Selection Committee member with the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

Additionally, any person with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to the USA SOFTBALL [reporting hotline](#). Reports may also be made anonymously through the [USOPC's Integrity Portal](#). No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest. In addition, the USOPC maintains a strict no retaliation policy that prohibits any employee, contractor, agent, volunteer, or member of the USOPC to take or threaten to take any action against an athlete for reporting information to or seeking assistance from the Office of the Athlete Ombuds.



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Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USA SOFTBALL Selection Committee appointment process.

## SECTION 15: QUESTIONS REGARDING ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

### USA SOFTBALL

Athletes may contact the individuals listed below for information about these selection procedures

Name: Chris Sebren

Position: Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer

Email: [csebren@usasoftball.com](mailto:csebren@usasoftball.com)

Phone: 405-425-3432

Name: Aubrey Leach or Nick Mullins

Position: Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative

Aubrey Email: [all10fp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:all10fp@sbcglobal.net) ; Nick Email: [mullinsnr@comcast.net](mailto:mullinsnr@comcast.net)

Aubrey Phone: 832-296-3902; Nick Phone: 732-580-1056

### ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

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

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

## SECTION 16: GRIEVANCES

The USA SOFTBALL Grievance Procedures can be found here: [Grievance Procedures](#).

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an USA SOFTBALL alleging that he or she has been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>.

## SECTION 17: NON-RETALIATION

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The USOPC and USA SOFTBALL have zero tolerance for retaliation against people who make good faith reports of potential ethical, policy, or legal violations, or who cooperate with investigations of those reports. That means no USOPC or USA SOFTBALL staff, Board or Committee member, or volunteer may threaten, harass, discriminate against, or take any negative employment or related action (e.g., discharge, demotion, suspension, negative review) on that basis.

- Individuals may report concerns to the USA SOFTBALL by following the USA SOFTBALL's Whistleblower Policy located here [https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/06/USAS\\_WhistleblowerProtectionAntiRetaliationPolicy.pdf](https://www.usasoftball.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/120/2023/06/USAS_WhistleblowerProtectionAntiRetaliationPolicy.pdf)
- Individuals may report concerns to the USOPC confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935.
- Additional information can be found in the USOPC's [Speak Up Policy](#).

## SECTION 18: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA SOFTBALL will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process as required by the USA SOFTBALL's Records Retention Policy or for six months past the date of the events, whichever is longer.

## SECTION 19: DEVELOPMENT, APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures.

NAME	ROLE
Warren Jones	At-Large
Randy Sheppard	At-Large
Chris Miljavac	Athlete Representative
Pat Sagdal	Athlete Representative
Ron Hackett	Head Coach
Chris Sebren	Chief Sport Development/Performance Officer

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

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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USA SOFTBALL CEO	Craig Cress	<i>Craig Cress</i>	2/28/2025   7:18 AM PS
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The following individual affirms that they have read and understand the selection procedures.

POSITION	NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Team USA Athletes Commission Representative*	Aubrey Leach	<i>Aubrey Leach</i>	2/18/2025   10:54 AM C

\* If the Team USA Athletes’ Commission Representative has delegated authority to the Alternate Representative to sign the Selection Procedures, attach a letter from the Team USA AC Representative indicating the reason they have delegated authority.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that they have read and understand the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the USA SOFTBALL, they may submit those reasons in writing to their USOPC Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected Team USA AC Representative, the USA SOFTBALL must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

APPENDIX A – COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

- AAC – Athletes’ Advisory Council
- AC – Athletes’ Commission
- Act or TSOASA – Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act
- APC – Americas Paralympic Committee
- CAS – Court of Arbitration for Sport
- Center or CSS – U.S. Center for SafeSport
- CF – Continental Federation
- IMS – Internally Managed Sport (sport managed by the USOPC)
- IOC – International Olympic Committee
- IPC – International Paralympic Committee
- IF – International Federation
- LOC – Local Organizing Committee
- USA SOFTBALL – National Governing Body
- NOC – National Olympic Committee
- NPC – National Paralympic Committee
- OCOG – Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games. The OCOG refers to the Organizing Committee

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of the Paralympic Games as well.

**PAG** – Pan American Games

**Panam Sports or PASO** – Pan American Sports Organization

**PPAG** – Parapan American Games

**PSO** – Paralympic Sport Organization

**TEAM USA AC** – Team USA Athletes' Commission (formerly USOPC AAC)

**USADA** – United States Anti-Doping Agency

**WADA** – World Anti-Doping Agency

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#### APPENDIX B – GLOSSARY

**Contingency** means a future event or circumstance which is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty.

**Delegation Event** means the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan American Games.

**Force Majeure** means an event or effect that cannot be reasonably anticipated or controlled (e.g., hurricane, tornado, etc.).

**Grievance Procedures** means the process that enables an athlete to file a complaint with the USA SOFTBALL or USOPC.

**Jurisdiction** means the power or authority to make decisions and judgments.

**Nominated** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the Selection Committee to the USA SOFTBALL.

**Protected Competition** means a Delegation Event or a Qualifying Competition.

**Qualifying Competition** means either of the following:

- i. **USA SOFTBALL Qualifying Competition:** Any competition or activity organized or approved by the USA SOFTBALL where the athlete's performance or results are considered in the published selection criteria to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.
- ii. **International Qualifying Competition:** Any international sport competition where (i) athletes represent the United States against athletes representing other nations, (ii) the USA SOFTBALL officially designates entrants, as required by the competition organizers, and (iii) athlete results or performance are included in the published criteria to qualify, or be selected, to represent the United States in a Delegation Event.

**Selected** means an athlete, coach or staff member whose name has been submitted by the USA SOFTBALL to the LOC at the final submission date, as determined by the LOC.

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#### APPENDIX C – ATHLETE RESOURCES

##### ATHLETE OMBUDS

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

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

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

##### SAFESPORT HELPLINE

The SafeSport Helpline provides crisis intervention, referrals, and emotional support specifically designed for athletes, staff, and other SafeSport participants affected by sexual violence. Through this service, support specialists provide live, confidential, one-on-one support that is available 24/7. Individuals can call the Helpline at 866-200-0796 or visit [www.safesporthelpline.org](http://www.safesporthelpline.org).

##### TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION (Team USA AC) *(Formerly Athletes' Advisory Council)*

The Team USA AC is responsible for broadening communication between the USOPC and active athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USOPC Board of Directors.

WEBSITE: [www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission](http://www.usopc.org/teamusa-athletes-commission)

##### TEAM USA MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

For those in need of mental health support, USOPC Psychological Services is available at [psychservices@usopc.org](mailto:psychservices@usopc.org), or you can connect with a licensed mental health provider 24/7 through the USOPC Psychological Services Support Line at 719-866-2255. You can also visit <https://www.usopc.org/mental-health> for information about all available resources or complete our referral link at [go.teamusa.org/referrals](http://go.teamusa.org/referrals) to get connected.

##### USOPC DISPUTE RESOLUTION UNIT (DRU)

For Protected Competitions, USOPC's DRU oversees the administration of dispute resolution services to athletes and other members of USA SOFTBALLs for grievances under the USOPC's jurisdiction to ensure the complaints are heard in a timely and fair manner. For more information about this process, please visit the [dispute resolution website](#).



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#### **USOPC ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE**

USOPC's Ethics and Compliance team is responsible for ensuring the USOPC and USA SOFTBALLs comply with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, their own bylaws and policies, and any other applicable laws or regulations. Any individual may report concerns confidentially, or anonymously, online using the [USOPC Integrity Portal](#) or individuals may call the USOPC Integrity Hotline at 1-877-404-9935 to report their concern over the phone.

#### **USOPC SECURITY AND ATHLETE SAFETY REPORTING PORTAL**

Athletes can report an incident of emotional, physical, or sexual misconduct, a violation of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (MAAPP) or a general security incident or concern through the [Safety Reporting Portal](#). Athletes may also report to the USOPC over the phone at 719-866-3869.