



**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2018 SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM
February 19, 2017**

I. SELECTION SYSTEM

Selection System Overview

The athlete selection system for the 2018 National Team is objective based through qualification events that include the 2017 State Championships, the 2017 National Taekwondo Championships, the 2017 National Team Trials, the 2017 National Team Fight-off. 2018 National Team Members will be selected to compete in the 2018 Pan American Taekwondo Championships.

A. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. Citizenship:
 - a. Athlete meets eligibility and nationality requirements as presented by USA Taekwondo in compliance with the minimum International Federation standards for participation (item I.A.2.).
 - b. All athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to compete.
2. Minimum IF standards for participation (if any):
 - a. World Taekwondo Federation (WTF); Rules of Competition, Article 4. Contestants, Section 1
http://www.wtf.org/wtf_eng/site/rules/competition.html
 - Holder of the nationality of the participating team.
 - One recommended by the WTF National Taekwondo Association.
 - Holder of Taekwondo Dan certificate issued by the Kukkiwon or WTF.
 - Competitors must be at least 17 years of age on December 31, 2018
3. Other requirements (if any):
 - a. Athlete must be a USA Taekwondo member in good standing.
 - b. Athletes must compete in the World Class, Black Belt division.
4. Performance Waivers
 - a. If an athlete was the winner of the March 2017 National Team Trials/Fight-off he/she will be granted a performance waiver from Phase 1 – Qualifying Events, as well as Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships and granted an entry into Phase 3 – 2018 National Team Trials. In Phase 3, the winners of the 2017 National Team Trials/Fight-off receiving performance waivers may compete in the weight division in which they qualified in for the 2017 National Team or may move up or down one weight division. The change in weight division must be declared 30 days before the Team Trials registration deadline.
 - b. Medalists in the 2017 Grand Prix Final will automatically be named to the 2018 National Team in one of the overlapping World Ranking divisions they competed in at the Grand Prix Final.

These athletes must declare which World Ranking division they intend to compete in one week following the Grand Prix Final. If there are two athletes in the same weight category who medal in the Grand Prix Final, and they both chose the same World Ranking division, those two athletes will have a Fight-off at the 2018 Team Trials.

- c. Gold Medalists from the 2017 World Championships will be automatically named to the 2018 National Team. Silver and Bronze Medalists from the World Championships will be granted a performance waiver from Phase 1 – Qualifying Events, as well as Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships and granted an entry into Phase 3 – 2018 National Team Trials. These athletes may compete in the weight division in which they competed in at Worlds or may move up or down one weight division. The change in weight division must be declared 30 days before the Team Trials registration deadline.
- d. Since only one member of a weight division will be named to the National Team, in the event of an automatic qualification (ie. Gold Medalist from 2017 World Championships, or Medalists from Grand Prix Finals), all other competitors in that weight division will compete for the alternate slot on the Nation Team at 2018 National Team Trials.
- e. Athletes who are current members of the military (active duty, National Guard, or Reserve) and who are recognized and supported by their respective Service Sports Office through an official application/selection process to their Service will be granted performance waivers into Phase 2 – 2017 National Championships.
- f. A maximum of (2) Wild Cards, per weight division, per gender, into Phase 3-National Team Trials, may be awarded per the USAT High Performance Staff's (the CEO, High Performance Director, and the USOC AAC Representative) discretion to athlete who have a proven medical reason for not having been able to compete at the 2017 National Championships and is subject to review by USAT medical staff. Athletes must be ranked within the top 32 of the WT World Rankings in the division they are applying for as of the February 2018 rankings. (See the Amendment in Attachment A)
- g. Only completed wild card applications (Attachment B) submitted to the USAT High Performance Department by **February 5, 2018** will be taken into consideration. All applications will be carefully considered by the High Performance Staff. The High Performance Staff is not required to fill any or all of the Wild Card quotas. Any members of the High Performance Staff for whom a direct conflict of interest arises (to include, but not be limited to, a competing athlete, a personal coach or a family member of a competing

athlete being considered for nomination to the 2018 National Team), will recuse him/herself from any decisions that could affect athlete selection. USAT High Performance will announce the athletes who receive wild cards as soon as February WT rankings are released.

The 2018 National Team is made up of sixteen (16) athletes - one in each of the eight (8) male & eight (8) female weight divisions.

Weight Division Classification for the 2018 National Team

Men's Division		Women's Division	
Not exceeding 54 kg	Fin	Not exceeding 46 kg	Fin
Over 54 kg & not exceeding 58 kg	Fly	Over 46 kg & not exceeding 49 kg	Fly
Over 58 kg & not exceeding 63 kg	Bantam	Over 49 kg & not exceeding 53 kg	Bantam
Over 63 kg & not exceeding 68 kg	Feather	Over 53 kg & not exceeding 57 kg	Feather
Over 68 kg & not exceeding 74 kg	Light	Over 57 kg & not exceeding 62 kg	Light
Over 74 kg & not exceeding 80 kg	Welter	Over 62 kg & not exceeding 67 kg	Welter
Over 80 kg & not exceeding 87 kg	Middle	Over 67 kg & not exceeding 73 kg	Middle
Over 87 kg	Heavy	Over 73 kg	Heavy

The selection process for the 2018 National Team consists of four (4) phases.

PHASE #1: Qualifying Events

2017 State Championships

All athletes who register, make weight and compete at a 2017 State Championship, U.S. 2017 Senior Open Team Trials (Dallas, TX – March 2017), or U.S. 2017 National Collegiate Taekwondo Championships (La Jolla, CA – April 2017) will advance to Phase 2 – 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships (Detroit, MI – July 2017).

Athletes who register, make weight, and compete at the 2017 Open Team Trials will automatically advance to Phase 2 – 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships in the same weight division in which they competed at the 2017 Open Team Trials. If an athlete wishes to change weight division from the division they competed in at the Open Team Trials they will need to qualify through a 2017 State Championship.

2017 National Championships

Senior Black Belt Division qualified athletes who competed at a sanctioned State Championship in one of the eight (8) Black Belt weight divisions will advance to Phase 2 – U.S. National Taekwondo Championships (Detroit, MI – July 2017).

PHASE #2: 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division

The semi-finalists per gender, in each of the eight (8) senior weight divisions from the Black Belt division at the 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships and all athletes receiving performance waivers will advance to Phase 3 – 2018 National Team Trials.

PHASE #3: 2018 National Team Trials

The finalists per gender in each of the eight (8) senior weight divisions from the 2018 U.S. National Team Trials will advance to Phase 4 – 2018 U.S. National Team Fight-off.

PHASE #4: 2018 National Team Fight-off

The winner per gender in each of the eight (8) senior weight divisions from the 2018 National Team Fight-off will earn a spot on the 2018 National Team providing the 2018 National Team Athlete Agreement is signed and adhered to. The 2018 National Team will compete at the 2018 Pan Am Taekwondo Championships.

II. EVENTS

PHASE #1: Qualifying Events

Phase #1 represents the first step in making the 2018 National Team that starts with the 2017 Sanctioned State Championships. All athletes meeting the eligibility criteria listed in Section A of this document are eligible to compete in Phase 1.

2017 Sanctioned State Championships

All athletes who register, make weight, and compete at a 2017 State Championship will advance to Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division (Detroit, MI – July 2017). Dates and locations of Sanctioned State Championships can be found at the following link: <http://www2.teamusa.org/USA-Taekwondo/Events.aspx>

Qualified athletes who competed at a sanctioned State Championship in one of the eight (8) Black Belt weight divisions or competed in the 2017 Open Team Trials in March – Senior World Class Division will advance to Phase 2 – U.S. National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division (Detroit, MI – July 2017).

Athletes cannot participate in more than one weight division at the National Taekwondo Championships. Athletes qualifying through a Qualifying Event are required to compete in the SAME weight division in which they qualified for Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division.

All athletes who qualify in two or more weight divisions must declare, by the registration deadline for the 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships, in which weight division they will participate.

Competition Format – Single Elimination

In Phase 1, all tournaments will be single-elimination format. In single-elimination format, the loser of each match is immediately eliminated from the competition bracket.

Seeding Criteria

In Phase 1, there will be no seeding criteria. All athletes will be seeded randomly. Athletes for Phase 1 will bear all expenses including entry fee, airfare, ground transportation and hotel.

PHASE #2: 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division

All athletes who register, make weight and compete at a 2017 State Championship will advance to Phase 2 – 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division (Detroit, MI – July 2017).

Athletes receiving performance waivers as defined in section I.A.4. of this document will compete in Phase 2 – 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships - World Class Division.

The semi-finalists, per gender, in each of the eight (8) weight divisions from the World Class Black Belt division at the 2017 National Taekwondo Championships will advance to Phase 3 – 2018 U. S. National Team Trials (Dates and locations to be determined).

Competition Format – Single Elimination

Phase 2 will be single-elimination format. In single elimination format, the loser of each match is immediately eliminated from the competition bracket.

Athletes qualifying through a Qualifying Event are required to compete in the SAME weight division in Phase 2 – 2017 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division. Athletes who qualify in two or more weight divisions must declare which weight division they will compete in by the registration deadline of the 2017 National Taekwondo Championships.

Seeding Criteria

Only those athletes who placed in the top four at the 2017 Senior Open Team Trials will be given a seed. The seed will only be granted if the athlete is competing in the same division that they competed in at the 2017 Senior Open Team Trials. Seeding will be done according to the order each athlete placed at the 2017 Senior Open Team Trials (example: Gold Medalist will receive #1 seed). All other participants will be placed in the brackets by random draw, with the attempt to separate by State and Club wherever possible.

The draws will be completed after weigh-ins by the Events Director and Tournament Committee Chair.

Athletes for Phase 2 will bear all expenses including entry fee, airfare, ground transportation and room and board.

PHASE #3: 2018 National Team Trials

The semifinalists, per gender, in each of the eight (8) weight divisions at the 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division and those athletes receiving performance waivers are eligible to compete in the 2018 National Team Trials.

The winners of each division, as outlined in the competition format below from the 2018 National Team Trials, will advance to Phase 4 – 2018 National Team Fight-off that will occur immediately following the conclusion of the 2018 National Team Trials.

Athletes qualifying through the 2017 National Taekwondo Championships are required to compete in the SAME weight division in which they qualified for Phase 3 – 2018 National Team Trials unless meeting the criteria listed in section I.A.4 of these selection procedures.

Athletes for this tournament will bear all expenses including entry fee, airfare, ground transportation and room and board.

Competition Format for all Divisions

If five (5) or fewer athletes register and make weight for a single weight division the athletes will compete in a Round Robin Competition Format as outlined below. The top two (2) athletes per gender, per weight division will advance to the 2018 National Team Fight-off.

If six (6) or more athletes register and make weight in a single weight division the athletes will compete in a Double Elimination Format with seeding. The winner of the Double Elimination Bracket in each weight division is waived from Phase 4 – 2018 National Team Fight-off and named to the 2018 National Team.

Round Robin Competition Format Explanation

The Round Robin tournament format consists of all individuals fighting each other one time. The

Round Robin schedule has fixed schedules; all athletes know exactly who they fight and what time they fight them, which offers some advantage to athletes in preparing for the tournament and upcoming matches. Seeding does not affect the outcome because the cumulative results of all games fought will determine final standings.

The top two finishers of the 2018 National Team Trials will advance to Phase 4 – 2018 National Team Fight-off that will occur on the same dates immediately following the conclusion of the Round Robin matches. In Phase 4, the division winner only needs to beat the second place athlete once to advance, while the second place athlete will need to beat the division winner twice to advance. In the case of a tie at the end of regulation, standard sudden death regulations apply.

The Drawing of Lots for Round Robin: The Drawing of Lots will take place at registration as each athlete checks-in for the event. Each weight division will have a separate bag with a ping pong ball with the number of seeds competing within the weight division. Each athlete will pick one ping pong ball from the bag which will be their corresponding seed. The seed of the athlete will be represented on the schedule which will be distributed to the athletes at registration. The drawing of lots will be completed for each weight division. If a pre-registered athlete does not show for weigh-in or does not make weight, his or her matches corresponding with his or her seed will remain in the schedule and no result will be determined for those matches. An example of a four athlete schedule is below:

ROUND 1:	1 v 4	2 v 3
ROUND 2:	1 v 3	4 v 2
ROUND 3:	1 v 2	3 v 4

The following tie-breaking procedure will be administered to determine the top finishers should a tie for the top seed occur.

1. 2-way tie in Round Robin competition: This tie will be broken based upon head-to-head competition. If only two athletes have identical records, then the winner of the head-to-head competition shall be designated the number one seed and the loser of the head-to-head competition will be declared the number two seed.
2. 3-way tie in Round Robin competition: Each athlete will participate in the drawing of lots to determine the fight match-ups which will be as follows:
 - a. Match #1 – Draw B v Draw C
 - b. Draw A receives a bye
 - c. Match #2 – Winner of Match #1 v. Draw A
 - d. Determining Results
 - i. The winner of match #2 is declared the number one seed.
 - ii. The loser of Match #2 is declared the number two seed.
 - iii. The number one and number two seed will participate in a Fight-off as described below.
 - iv. The loser of Match #1 is declared the 3rd place finisher.

Double Elimination Format Explanation

Two losses eliminate an athlete in this tournament format. The losers in the first rounds move into the Loser's Bracket. The athletes who advance farthest in either bracket meet each other in the final match. Should the winner of the Loser's Bracket defeat the winner of the Winner's

Bracket, the athletes are re-matched for the Championship.

Byes are distributed in the first round of the original elimination brackets as in a single elimination tournament.

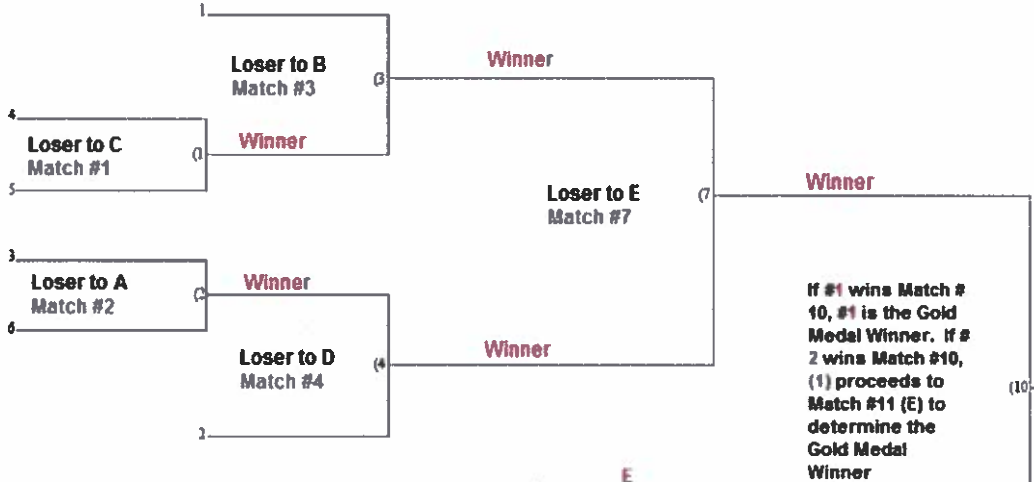
Seeding Procedures for Double Elimination

Seeding for each weight division will be administered by the prioritized list below:

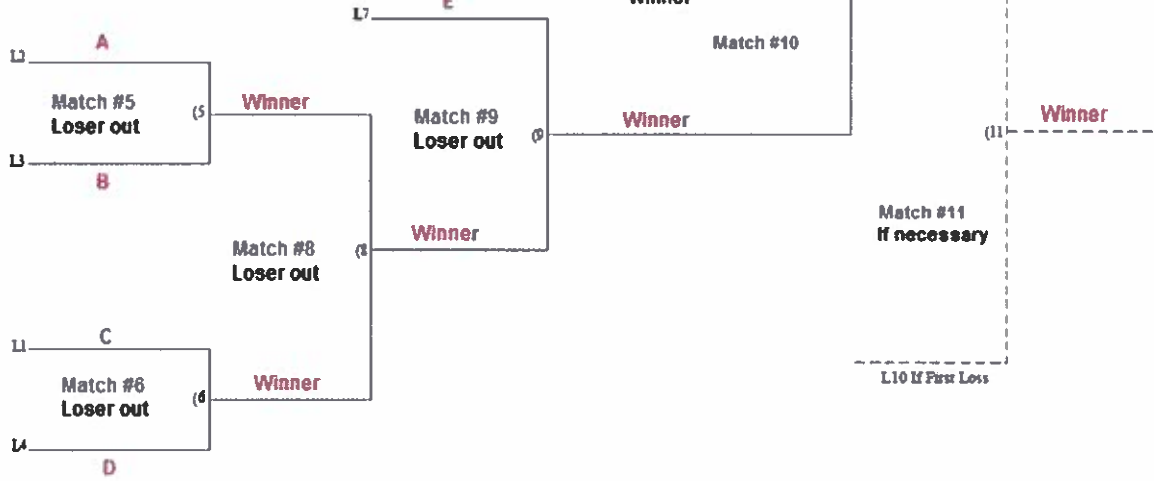
1. 2017 World Championship Silver and Bronze Medal winners in that respective order.
2. The most current WTF World Ranking points as of close of registration for Team Trials; highest rank to lowest rank.
3. 2017 Grand Prix #1, #2, or #3 Medal winners, based on the number of medals won overall, highest number to lowest number. Ties will be broken based on (a) the most Gold Medals, (b) the most Silver Medals, (c) the most Bronze Medals won.
4. Athletes who were members of the 2017 National Team.
5. Random draw of all 1st place finishers from the Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division.
6. This is followed by a random draw of all remaining athletes receiving performance waivers.
7. This is followed by a random draw of all 2nd place finishers from the Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division.
8. This is followed by a random draw of all 3rd place finishers from the Phase 2 – 2017 National Taekwondo Championships – World Class Division.
9. Athletes receiving Wild Cards.

For reference purposes, the double elimination bracket follows below:

Winner's Bracket



Loser's Bracket



PHASE #4: National Team Fight-off

The top two finishers, per gender, per division from the 2018 National Team Trials will face each other in a Fight-off Format.

In the Fight-off Format the division winner only needs to beat the second place athlete once to be declared the winner, while the second place athlete will need to beat the group winner twice to be declared the winner. In the case of a tie at the end of regulation, standard sudden death regulations apply. The winner in each weight division of the 2018 National Team Fight-off earns a spot on the 2018 National Team.

The 2018 National Taekwondo Team Selection Procedures are overseen by:

- Keith Ferguson, CEO, USA Taekwondo
- May Spence, High Performance Director, USA Taekwondo
- Nia Abdallah, AAC Board of Directors Representative, USA Taekwondo

III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Taekwondo may be removed from the nominations for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Taekwondo.

- A. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Taekwondo CEO. Injury or illness as certified by USAT physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USAT physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- B. Violation of the NGB's Code of Conduct. (Attachment A) An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's Bylaws (USAT Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.
- C. Violation of the NGB's Athlete Agreement. (Attachment B) An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's Bylaws (USAT Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.
- D. An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, WADA, WTF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures. In such instances, the adjudication process will be managed through the United States Anti- Doping Agency.

IV. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES

The second place athlete from Phase 4 – 2018 National Team Fight-off from the same weight division of the athlete to be replaced is the replacement. If the replacement athlete is not available, then the 3rd place finisher becomes the next eligible athlete. If the 3rd place finisher is not available, then the 4th place finisher becomes the next eligible athlete. This continues until there are no eligible athletes in the same weight division at Phase 3. If by then, no athlete is available, the spot remains vacant.

V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Taekwondo will retain all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the 2018 World Championships.

VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the 2018 National Team, and are included as attachments:

- Code of Conduct (Attachment A)
- Athlete Agreement (Attachment B)

VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USA Taekwondo in the following locations and will include the USOC approval date:

- NGB website: www.usa-taekwondo.us The website information will be posted as soon as possible.
- NGB Official Publication (if any): USAT The Belt– USA Taekwondo Online Magazine

VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION: N/A

IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION

- National Team Camp – Performance Enhancement Prep. Once an athlete is qualified to the 2018 USA Taekwondo National Team. They will be selected to compete at the 2018 Pan American Taekwondo Championships. He/she shall actively participate in no more than three (3) mandatory preparation camps that will take place in locations to be determined over the course of the months leading up to the 2018 Pan Am Taekwondo Championships. Notification of the date and location will be given no less than 30 days from the start of the camp. Waivers from this camp are not permitted, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. At that point, it is reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the USAT CEO, Director of High Performance, and AAC Designee.
- National Team athletes may also be required to participate in no more than (2) international competitions such as the US Open. Notification of the date and location will be given no less than 30 days from the start of the competition. Waivers from this competition are not permitted, unless there are extraordinary circumstances. At that point, it is reviewed and either accepted or rejected by the USAT CEO, Director of High Performance and AAC Designee.

X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

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

XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group were responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

- Keith Ferguson, CEO, USA Taekwondo
- May Spence, Director of High Performance, USA Taekwondo
- Nia Abdallah, AAC Board of Directors Representative, USA Taekwondo

XII. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Taekwondo Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in the USA Taekwondo Bylaws.

XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC and/or World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC and/or WTF rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Taekwondo. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.



XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Taekwondo may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: Sara Clark by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-mail at Sara.Clark@usoc.org
- www.888athlete.org

XV. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Taekwondo.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or CEO/Executive Director	Keith Ferguson		2-21-2017
NGB Director of High Performance	May Spence	May Spence	2/21/2017
Athletes' Advisory Council Board of Directors Representative	Nia Abdallah		2/21/17

*If USOC 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.

USOC USE ONLY

Date Original Procedures Rec'd _____ Date Revision _____
 Submitted _____

Attachment A

Amendment to 2018 Senior National Team Selection Procedures:
October 2, 2017

Original Procedure:

I. Selection System

A. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

4. Performance Waivers

- f. A maximum of (2) Wild Cards, per gender, into Phase 3-National Team Trials, may be awarded per the USAT High Performance Staff's (the CEO, High Performance Director, and the USOC AAC Representative) discretion to athlete who have a proven medical reason for not having been able to compete at the 2017 National Championships and is subject to review by USAT medical staff. Athletes must be ranked within the top 32 of the WT World Rankings in the division they are applying for as of the October 2017 rankings.

Amended procedure:

I. Selection System

B. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

5. Performance Waivers

- f. A maximum of (2) Wild Cards, per gender, into Phase 3-National Team Trials, may be awarded per the USAT High Performance Staff's (the CEO, High Performance Director, and the USOC AAC Representative) discretion to athlete who have a proven medical reason for not having been able to compete at the 2017 National Championships and is subject to review by USAT medical staff. Athletes must be ranked within the top 32 of the WT World Rankings in the division they are applying for as of the February 2018 rankings.

*Due to scheduling conflicts 2018 Senior Team Trials will be held in March 2018 (time and place TBD). Application for wild card deadline will be February 5, 2018. U.S. Open points will NOT be included in February rankings. We will announce the athletes who receive wild cards as soon as WT rankings are released.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB Executive Director	Steve McNally	<i>Steve McNally</i>	10/3/17
Director of High Performance	May Spence	<i>May Spence</i>	10/5/17
AAC Board of Director Representative	Nia Abdallah	<i>[Signature]</i>	10/4/17

Attachment B

USA Taekwondo
Medical Performance Waiver Application

Submission Date	
Name	
Gender	
Weight Division	
USAT #	
GAL #	

Please attach to this application a letter from your doctor stating your proven medical reason for missing 2017 National Championships.

Please return this application to USAT High Performance at Dani.Sweigard@usa-taekwondo.us by February 5, 2018.