

POOMSAE ATHLETE



USATKD

PATHWAY 2021

**CREATE
THE FUTURE...**



NATIONAL TEAM PATHWAY

2021 POOMSAE ATHLETE

Black belt athlete with 2021 National Poomsae Team Goal

USA Taekwondo believes that providing guidance to athletes and coaches at all stages of an athlete's career is very important. This document lays out the National Team Pathway for an athlete, pair, or team to earn a spot on the National Poomsae Team in 2021 (Event TBD), giving them the best preparation in terms of both training and competition experience, **in order to be ready for this important international competition.**

Athletes are advised to work towards three target goals, listed at the bottom of this page. Concise details on how to achieve each goal can be found on the following pages. **USA Taekwondo is committed to assisting all athletes and coaches who are striving to meet these goals.**

Working within the Athlete Academy will be a great opportunity, but you can still achieve everything you want without participating, however **we believe the Academy offers incredible benefits to the athletes and their coaches, so we encourage you to take full advantage of this new and valuable benefit being offered.**

We wish you the best of luck, and **are eager to help you every step of the way,** as you work to make your taekwondo dreams come true.

If you have any questions about this process after reading please email dani.sweigard@usa-taekwondo.us - **we will publish an FAQ with answers shortly.**

- 1. Be selected for entry into the USA Taekwondo Athlete Academy**
- 2. Qualify for the U.S. National Poomsae Team Roster**
- 3. Become a 2021 National Poomsae Team Member**





NEW!

WHAT ARE... USA TAEKWONDO MAJOR TOURNAMENTS?

2021 MAJOR EVENTS



**WORLD
TAEKWONDO
SELECTED EVENTS**

Any World Taekwondo sanctioned G2 & higher event in the 12 months prior to the selection date for the competition a team is being named for.



Please note: If a US athlete does not win gold, the highest finishing medalist from the US will qualify for any team trial.

YOUR PATH TO THE ATHLETE ACADEMY & NATIONAL TEAM!



Where Olympic & Paralympic Journeys Begin

The Majors are an exciting new concept designed to provide a clear and transparent pathway to qualification for both the Athlete Academy AND the National Team for all Poomsae World Class Black Belt athletes.

Whenever you see the 'Major Tournament' logo/classification on an event poster, or our event calendar, you will know that winning gold gets you a place in the U.S. Athlete Academy AND on the new National Team Roster*, from which all National Team members will be named in the future! You can also claim a spot in the Academy by impressing the National Team coaches in Talent ID camps and tournaments. You will find further details on these programs on the following pages.

USA Taekwondo is committed to ensuring that U.S. athletes have enough reason and opportunity to compete regularly, and at a consistently high level, to ensure that they are as prepared as possible when entering major international competition. 'The Majors' concept is being introduced to provide incentive to athletes with a National Team goal to compete to win against high quality opposition, along with an assurance that you are signing up for a top quality event.

If an event is given Major Tournament status you can be sure of the following:

1. The event will be professionally run
2. The event will strictly follow World Taekwondo competition rules
3. The competition will be tough - we will not name ANY tournament a Major if we do not believe athletes of significant quality will be in attendance to compete against

USA Taekwondo believes in our athletes and will do everything possible to help YOU maximize your potential and achieve greatness. It's time to Create the Future, together.

*If any division is won by a non-U.S. athlete the results of the best U.S. finisher will be considered for inclusion in the Athlete Academy, and the highest placed US medalist will qualify for the National Team Roster. However only a gold medal will count towards dominant athlete status. If the cut off date for qualifying for a National Team Event happens prior to a listed Major Tournament then that Major Tournament will no longer be a qualifying event. Cut off date for qualifying for a National Team Event will be 12 weeks prior to the first competition date unless otherwise stated.



WHERE LEGENDS GROW

WHAT IS THE... USA TAEKWONDO POOMSAE ACADEMY?

The USA Taekwondo Athlete Academy is an exciting new initiative designed to provide high quality training and competition opportunities to the very best U.S. Athletes. Athletes inducted into the Academy will work with national coaches in conjunction with their home coach to ensure growth, improvement, detailed knowledge of the international style game and preparedness for future international events.

Intensive Academy training camps will be held quarterly for all Poomsae Academy Athletes and their home coaches and some athletes will be invited to train more frequently. Regardless of where they reside, Academy Athletes will have contact with National Team Coaches with the goal, in conjunction with their home coach, to ensure that each Team USA athlete has the best preparation possible for the upcoming competitions, and for a long and successful career.



TARGETS

HOW CAN I...

1. BE SELECTED FOR ENTRY INTO THE USA TAEKWONDO POOMSAE ACADEMY?



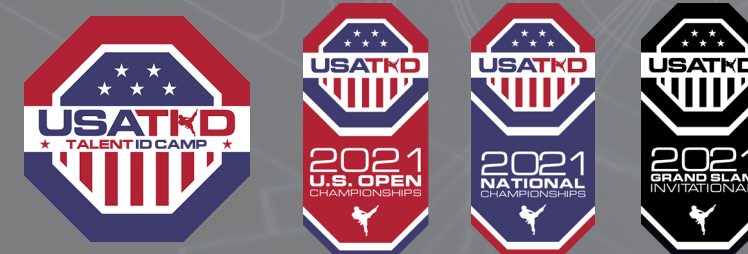
WIN ANY OF 'THE MAJORS'



AND AUTOMATICALLY ENTER THE ATHLETE ACADEMY!

OR...

BE IDENTIFIED AS EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED AT ONE OF THESE EVENTS



AND YOU WILL BE INVITED TO A PHASE II ACADEMY SELECTION CAMP

MAKE SURE YOU ARE NEXT IN LINE!

WHAT IS THE...

U.S. NATIONAL POOMSAE TEAM ROSTER?



U.S. National Teams for major international competition will be named from the National Team Roster, a pool of athletes who have qualified through the method below - either by winning Major Tournaments or excelling in tournaments and camps and being chosen as wild cards. Athletes, pairs, and teams will have numerous opportunities in competitions and through the Academy system to qualify for the National Team Roster over a specified period of time, allowing them to demonstrate consistency of performance on more than any one given day. Qualifying for the National Team Roster also grants you a place in the Athlete Academy, and frequent opportunities to train and prepare at the highest level for your shot at the U.S. National Poomsae Team.



HOW CAN I...

2. QUALIFY FOR THE U.S. NATIONAL POOMSAE TEAM ROSTER?



WIN ANY OF 'THE MAJORS'



AND QUALIFY FOR A PLACE IN ANY NATIONAL TEAM TRIAL!



OR DEMONSTRATE EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY IN ACADEMY TRAINING CAMPS

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I MAKE...

U.S. NATIONAL POOMSAE TEAM ROSTER?



Once you make the U.S. National Poomsae Team Roster you will be eligible for a spot on the U.S. National Poomsae Team! In preparation, National Team Coaches will work with you and your home coach to ensure you are as ready as you can be for the step up to international level competition. This preparation will consist of quarterly National Team Roster Training Camps, where you will work with the National Team Coaches, and you will be provided with a training plan to work on when back with your home coach. National Team coaches will maintain regular contact with both you and your home coach through your Athlete Profile on our Talent ID site to check on your progress between camps. Details of final qualification for the Team Spot are on the next pages - please read them CAREFULLY to make sure you and your coach understand the process fully!

WHAT IS A... DOMINANT ATHLETE?

The **Dominant Athlete** designation is a new concept for taekwondo in the United States, which **rewards consistency of performance** with a guaranteed National Team spot if specific criteria are met. **While it will be hard to earn** - and it is **only available by winning multiple gold medals** in some of the toughest competitions - it is recognition and reward for 'dominating' in your division, and a **much more performance and data-driven method of team selection** than the sport has seen employed before.

There should be no doubt - if you **qualify for Team USA through this method** *no one* will be able to say you didn't earn it!

It is possible (but unlikely) that two athletes may meet the criteria to earn Dominant Athlete status. In this case, those athletes will compete in a Team Trial for the National Team position.

A Dominant Athlete, Pair, or Team is an athlete who has:

1. **Demonstrated recent ability to win major tournaments**
2. **Performed consistently by winning more than once in the previous 12 month period**
3. **Has an unmatched competition record in the previous 12 months**

If there is no athlete, pair, or team demonstrating **dominance** in any given division, then **all athletes** who qualified for the National Team Roster via the methods described on the previous page **will be entered into a seeded (if necessary) Team Trial for the National Team** position in that division. It is important to compete in Major Tournaments even if you cannot make Dominant Athlete status, as **your performance may have a significant effect on your seed in any team trial!**

This new system will give *every athlete* a fair and equal chance to prove they have **what it takes to be the National Team Member**, while also recognizing the very best who have proven it in the only place that matters - on the mat - and rewarding them for that dominance in competition with a highly coveted Team USA spot!



NEW!



Where Olympic & Paralympic Journeys Begin





HOW DO I...

3. BECOME A NATIONAL POOMSAE TEAM MEMBER FOR 2021?

PATH 1:

BECOME THE DOMINANT ATHLETE



TO QUALIFY AUTOMATICALLY FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM!

If two (or more) athletes qualify for Dominant Athlete status through this method ONLY those athletes will be eligible for the team trial.

PATH 2:

IF THERE IS NO DOMINANT ATHLETE ALL NATIONAL TEAM ROSTER ATHLETES WILL COMPETE IN A **TEAM TRIAL**.

Twelve weeks prior to the first competition date of the (Event TBD) the results of ALL athletes who have qualified or been selected for the National Poomsae Team Roster in the previous 12 month period will be assessed by the USA Taekwondo Selection Committee to determine if any athletes have met the criteria to be named as a Dominant Athlete.

- If there is **ONE** dominant athlete in a division that athlete will be automatically named to the team.
- If **TWO (or more)** athletes have met the criteria to be named as Dominant Athletes a Team Trial will be scheduled between those athletes no later than 8 weeks prior to the first competition day of the (Event TBD).
- If there are **NO** dominant athletes in a division ALL qualified National Team Roster athletes will compete in a seeded (if necessary) team trial no later than 8 weeks prior to the first competition date of the (Event TBD). There will be no limit placed on the maximum number of athletes - everyone who has qualified for the National Team Roster will be invited. For clarity, **this Team Trial is GUARANTEED** if no athlete achieves Dominant Athlete status.

If there is no dominant athlete ALL qualified Roster athletes will compete in a seeded (if necessary) team trial based on points and/or point totals. **Please note, in a team trial scenario, an athlete who qualified for the Academy but has subsequently aged up into a new division may still be added to the National Team Qualification Roster if judged to be of sufficient quality and medal capable by the Athlete Academy coaches.**

Athletes selected for the National Poomsae Team Roster as wildcard entries by the Selection Committee will receive the lowest seed. An athlete will only be eligible for consideration as a National Team Roster wildcard if they are proven at international level and have medaled in a minimum of two World Taekwondo G-rated events in the previous twelve months. If there are two or more unseeded athletes in the same division, seeds for those athletes will be decided by random draw.

The dominant athlete OR winner of the team trial (if applicable) will be named to the 2021 National Poomsae Team in the division they competed in and move on to the final preparation phase, consisting of training camp(s) and collaboration between home and National Team coaches. **Good luck to EVERYONE!**

WHO IS ON THE SELECTION COMMITTEE?

The Selection Committee is responsible for determining dominant athlete statuses and adding potential wildcards to any team trial will be comprised of the following individuals:

Dan Chuang - USA Taekwondo Poomsae Head Coach

Non-conflicted Athlete Representative - Chosen by the AAC

May Spence - Director of High Performance

Non-conflicted Coach - chosen by the Executive Director Steve McNally

TERMS & CONDITIONS

I. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. Citizenship:

- 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.).
- All athletes must be U.S. Citizens in order to compete.

2. Minimum IF standards for participation:

- World Taekwondo (WT); 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 WT National Taekwondo Association.
 - Holder of Taekwondo Dan certificate issued by the Kukkiwon or WT.

3. Other requirements:

- Athlete must be a USA Taekwondo member in good standing.

These procedures will be used to name a National Poomsae Team needed for any championship competition in 2021.

II. 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 USATKD physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USATKD 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.

An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's Bylaws (USATKD Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

C. Violation of the NGB's Athlete Agreement.

An athlete who may be removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the NGB's Bylaws (USATKD Bylaws, Section 15, Complaint Procedures) or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

D. Doping violations

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.

III. Replacement of Athletes

A. Describe the process by which the replacement pool of athletes will be identified:

The athlete who places 2nd in the same division of team trial will serve as the replacement athlete, should circumstances arise in which the 1st place athlete needs to be removed for any of the reasons listed above. The 3rd place athlete will be the 3rd replacement athlete if needed. The 4th place athlete will be the 4th replacement athlete if needed. After this, the team spot will remain vacant. To replace a dominant athlete, the next highest ranked athlete(s) will be the replacement.

IV. Required Documents

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

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

V. Publicity/Distribution of Procedures

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

A. NGB website: www.usa-taekwondo.us

VI. Date of Nomination

12 weeks before 1st competition date of National Team event.

VII. Mandatory Training and/or Competition:

N/A

VIII. Anti-Doping Requirements

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

IX. Development of Selection Procedures

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

- Steve McNally, CEO, USA Taekwondo
- May Spence, Director of High Performance, USA Taekwondo
- Dan Chuang, National Poomsae Team Head Coach, USA Taekwondo

X. NGB Bylaws and Grievance Procedures

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

XI. International Disclaimer

These procedures are based on IOC and/or World Taekwondo (WT) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused

by a change in IOC and/or WT 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.

XII. Athlete Ombudsman

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

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

XIII. 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.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| USA Taekwondo, CEO | Steve McNally | <i>Steve McNally</i> | 7/6/20 |
| USA Taekwondo, Director of High Performance | May Spence | <i>May Spence</i> | 7/6/20 |
| USATKD/USOPC, AAC Representative | Stephen Lambdin | <i>Stephen Lambdin</i> | 7/6/20 |



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