

USA Deaf Swimming

Athlete Criteria Policy

5th World Deaf Swimming Championships
Sao Paulo, Brazil, August 25-31st, 2019

Part A – General Application Process

Time Frame

1. All athletes shall submit an application packet to USA Deaf Swimming (USADS) Team Director by January 1st, 2019 (see below for submission procedure). Athletes are identified as those who meet the Mandatory Eligibility Requirements provision of the Selection Procedures herein and are selected by the USADS Selection Committee. These athletes selected shall register with the USADS and USADSF as a member.
2. In accordance with the registration deadline established by ICSD, those athletes eligible under ICSD and USADSF regulations and registering to compete in the USA Deaf Swimming National Team shall be verified by the USA Deaf Swimming Selection Committee prior to being nominated to the USADSF Games Preparation Chair. Once the nominations are approved by USADSF's Board of Directors, the Final Roster shall become the USADSF's Deaf National Team to the World Deaf Swimming Championships. The selections shall be based upon the Selection Criteria provision herein.

Mandatory Eligibility Requirements

- A. Possess a United States citizenship.
- B. Possess a valid identity card (e.g. driver's license, SSN card).
- C. Possess a valid passport for international competitions.
- D. Be a member of USADSF in good standing.
- E. Have a hearing loss of at least 55 dB (3-tone frequency average at 500, 1000 and 2000 Hertz, ISO 1964 Standard) in the better unaided ear, as documented on a recent audiologist-certified audiogram, (<http://www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf>).
- F. Submit him/herself without any reservations to all doping control policies and procedures of the USADSF, ICSD and World AntiDoping Agency (WADA) (<https://www.deaflympics.com/icsd.asp?anti-doping>).
- G. Commit to maintaining a consistent training regimen from the time of selection to the 5th World Deaf Swimming Championships (WDSC).
- H. Maintain contact with the USADS Sport Director, USA Team coaching staff and USADS's Team Leader to keep informed about training regimens and competition results from the time of selection until the 5th WDSC.
- I. Exhibit good sportsmanship and character as evidenced by letters of recommendation, appropriate social media presence, and prior history as a competitive athlete.
- J. Sign and abide by USADS's Code of Conduct and any other applicable forms.
- K. Commit to participation in a training camp(s).
- L. Commit to fundraise to cover expenses for training camp(s) and 5th WDSC in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- M. Complete the USADS's Deaf National Team application packet, which includes providing proof of having or in the process of obtaining a United States passport. Note: The passport must be valid for at least 6 months past the conclusion of the 5th WDSC in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Application Packet

Submit the following to **Linda Klotz, USA Deaf Swimming Communications Coordinator**, via email (Email: info@deafswim.org):

- Complete athlete application form
- Two letters of reference
- Audiogram: New prospective team members must submit an official audiogram documenting hearing loss from audiologist (if not previously submitted) per USA Deaf Sports Federation Guidelines (Link: <https://usdeafsports.org/resources/audiogram/>).
- Apply for dual USA Deaf Swimming & USA Deaf Sports Federation membership by contacting Rene Massengale at renemassengale@deafswim.org.
- **DEADLINE: January 1st, 2019**

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are as determined by ICSD Technical Regulations and USA Deaf Swimming. The criteria include 1) hearing loss of 55 dB or greater in the better ear, 2) achievement of one or more minimum qualifying times for the 5th World Deaf Swimming Championships ([Qualifying Times](#)), 3) submission of character reference letters to USA Deaf Swimming, and 4) approval by the USA Deaf Swimming Selection Committee.

Selection Process

The USA Deaf Swimming Committee shall review the resumes, qualification times or other necessary means of qualifications and interview each chosen applicant. The interviews may be conducted in person, via videophone or by e-mail. The Selection Committee shall make a final decision based on both the interviews and qualifications.

Selection Committee

USA Deaf Swimming Selection Committee is composed of the following voting positions. These individuals include:

Doug Matchett, Director, USA Deaf Swimming

Rene Massengale, Assistant Director, USA Deaf Swimming

Dana Elam, Treasurer, USA Deaf Swimming

Linda Klotz, Media Relations, USA Deaf Swimming

Coach member, TBD

Athlete member, TBD

Press Releases

These selection procedures shall be published on USA Deaf Sports Federation's website (<http://www.usdeafsports.org>) within ten (10) days of approval of the criteria by USADSF. Information

regarding USADSF-sanctioned USA Deaf Swimming events shall be distributed through, but not limited to, e-mail, e-list, affiliated Swimming organizations (USA Deaf Swimming and USADSF), and USADSF approved deaf-related publications. Such information shall include a reference to the entire Selection Procedures herein.

Mandatory Training / Events

There is no established mandatory training under USA Deaf Swimming. Training occurs at the discretion of the athletes and/or their designated coaches or trainers. Approved final roster athletes must participate in all trainings while on-site during the international competition. Approved final roster athletes must have approval in writing for any social media post or interview immediately prior to, during, and after the competition.

Removal Procedures

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

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

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

Replacement Procedures

In the event a qualified Team loses one of its athletes due to illness, injury or "force majeure" then the USA Deaf Swimming Team Director, in consultation with the USADSF's National Team Leader, shall propose two athletes, playing the same position as the removed athlete, for the other team member to accept as a teammate. The two replacement athletes shall be the highest ranked athletes from non-qualified teams. If the non-injured athlete does not accept to play with one of the two alternates proposed, that athlete shall forfeit the right to compete as a member of the Team. The then-vacant berth shall be filled by the next highest ranked athlete meeting the other qualification requirements.

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

Due Process

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

USADSF Ombudsman

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

Disclaimer

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

For Additional Information, please contact:

Linda Klotz, Communications Coordinator

USA Deaf Swimming

Email: info@deafswim.org

USA Deaf Swimming

Athlete Application for National Deaf Swimming Team

5th World Deaf Swimming Championships

Sao Paulo, Brazil, August 25-31st, 2019

ATHLETE INFORMATION:

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Gender: Male Female Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Current Age: ____
Day / Month / Year

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Athlete Cell Phone: _____

Athlete Email: _____ School: _____

USA Swimming Membership Number: _____

USA Deaf Swimming Membership Number (if available): _____

Deaf or Hard of Hearing at least 55 Db OR GREATER? YES NO

Height: _____ Weight: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN INFORMATION (if under age 18):

Parent 1 Name: _____ Parent 2 Name: _____

Parent 1 Street Address: _____ Parent 2 Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent 1 Home Phone: _____ Parent 2 Home Phone: _____

Parent 1 Cell Phone: _____ Parent 2 Cell Phone: _____

Parent 1 Email: _____ Parent 1 Email: _____

PERSONAL REFERENCES (Provide at least 2 personal references. Request letters from these references to be sent as part of your application packet).

Reference #1:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Position: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Reference #2:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Position: _____

Cell Phone: _____

SWIMMING INFORMATION:

Primary Events: Indicate your primary swim events by placing an X by the appropriate ones. Include those in which you compete regularly and/or your strongest strokes. Indicate at least 2-3 of your primary events.

| Your events (mark with X) | Distance & Stroke | Distance | Stroke |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------|---------------------|
| | 50 freestyle | | 50 butterfly |
| | 100 freestyle | | 100 butterfly |
| | 200 freestyle | | 200 butterfly |
| | 400/500 freestyle | | |
| | 50 backstroke | | 50 breaststroke |
| | 100 backstroke | | 100 breaststroke |
| | 200 backstroke | | 200 breaststroke |
| | 200 individual medley | | 800/1,000 freestyle |
| | 400 individual medley | | 1,500 freestyle |

Swim Times: Indicate your primary swim event times by filling in recent swim times for events of your choice. Include those in which you compete regularly and/or your strongest strokes. Include your fastest time per event & whether it is LCM or SCY.

| Top times (indicate LCM or SCY) | Distance & Stroke | Top times (indicate LCM or SCY) | Stroke |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 50 freestyle | | 50 butterfly |
| | 100 freestyle | | 100 butterfly |
| | 200 freestyle | | 200 butterfly |
| | 400/500 freestyle | | |
| | 50 backstroke | | 50 breaststroke |
| | 100 backstroke | | 100 breaststroke |
| | 200 backstroke | | 200 breaststroke |
| | 200 individual medley | | 800/1,000 freestyle |
| | 400 individual medley | | 1,500 freestyle |

OPEN RESPONSE QUESTIONS: Your answers to these questions will be used in the athlete selection process.

Why do you want to be a member of Team USA?

How do you see yourself making a meaningful contribution to your teammates and to the team overall in training, competition, and travel?

Please initial the following:

_____ I understand that I must refrain from unauthorized media contact immediately prior, during, and after the event unless I receive written approval from USA Deaf Swimming to speak to or communicate with the media.

_____ I understand that if selected for the USA Deaf Swimming Team USA that I will represent USADS before, during and after training and travel to and from the event. Therefore, I agree to make careful and appropriate choices in any social media post that I make before, during, and after that time.

_____ I understand that failure to abide by the team code of conduct, travel policy, and social media or communications guidelines may result in dismissal from the team or removal from competition.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION STATEMENT:

I attest that this document provides true and correct information, that I am willing to abide by the athlete code of conduct and athlete criteria before, during, and after the 5th Annual World Deaf Swimming Championships.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

