



2026 BEACH SPRINT NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES

2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals
October 18 – October 21, 2026
Qingdao, China



USRowing

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Eligibility Requirements

The USRowing World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals selection process is open to all athletes who meet all the following criteria. Athletes must comply with these criteria through the date of the completion of the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals:

- Athlete must be Championship Member of USRowing and be in good financial and other standing with USRowing.
- Athlete must have current Safe Sport training.
- Athlete over the age of 18 must complete and pass a background check or have a valid background check on file upon invitation to selection camp or nomination to the team.
- Athlete must complete and submit a 12 Lead ECG that is signed by a doctor or have a valid submission on file upon invitation to selection camp or nomination to the team.
- Athlete must meet eligibility rules to compete for the United States under IOC, USOPC and World Rowing governance.
- Athlete must hold United States citizenship at the time of selection. Athlete must hold a valid passport that meets the travel requirements of the nation hosting the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals.
- Athlete must abide by the 2026 Senior National Team Selection Procedures and the USRowing Code of Conduct, Bylaws, Rules of Rowing, and other USRowing rules, requirements, and regulations.
- Athlete must have read and sign a copy of the 2026 [USRowing National Team Agreement \(Appendix G\)](#).
- Para athletes must be internationally classified as PR3 (PI). *

**Para athletes are required to be international classified. There will be a classification opportunity at the 2026 WRBSF in Qingdao on October 17 &18. All classification paperwork must be submitted before Monday, August 16th. Please contact Wendy.Wilbur@usrowing.org for more information about the classification process.*

Anti-Doping

All athletes participating in selection for the United States National Team must be in compliance with WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency), United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), IOC, USOPC, World Rowing and USRowing rules, decisions, policies, and procedures relating to banned substances, including but not limited to obtaining and maintaining current therapeutic use exemptions as needed. USRowing may implement additional eligibility requirements related to banned substances as necessary in order to maintain compliance with WADA, USADA, IOC, USOPC, World Rowing and USRowing rules, policies, and procedures; any such additional requirements will be incorporated herein and published as soon as practicable.

Athletes who violate WADA, USADA, IOC, USOPC, World Rowing, or USRowing rules, decisions, policies, or procedures relating to banned substances will be subject to penalties as established by the respective organization. Athletes are responsible for checking any medication they are taking and making sure the medication is not on the banned list. A complete guide to banned substances is available on the USADA's website:
<https://www.usada.org>.

Important Dates

Beach Sprint Speed Orders CM1x, CW1x

June 15 – June 17, 2026 (TBC)

Sarasota, FL

Beach Sprint Trials International Events – CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x, CJMix2x, INMix2x, CMix4x+**Speed Orders Events – CM1x, CW1x**

August 7 – August 9, 2026 (TBC)

New Bedford, MA

Selection Camp

August 30 – September 13, 2026

Sarasota, FL

World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals

October 18- October 21, 2026

Qingdao, China

Selection Procedures

As outlined below, selection to the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Team will be made in one of two methods:

Olympic Events Selection Camp

CM1x, CW1x, CMix2x

Beach Sprint Trials

CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x, CJMix2x, CMix4x+, INMix2x*

**Para athletes are required to be international classified. There will be a classification opportunity at the 2026 WRBSF in Qingdao on October 17 &18. All classification paperwork must be submitted before Monday, August 16th. Please contact Wendy.Wilbur@usrowing.org for more information about the classification process.*

2026 NATIONAL TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

USRowing will announce the 2026 Beach Sprint National Team no later than seven days after the final selection event.

Olympic Events Selection Camp

SELECTION PROCESS OLYMPIC EVENTS SELECTION CAMP

CM1x, CW1x, CMix2x

SELECTION CAMP

- A.** There will be approximately six to eight athletes (3 to 4 men and 3 to 4 women) invited to the selection camp.
- B.** The objective of the camp is to select the boats and crews. Boats will be prioritized based upon competitive level in relation to the international competition.
- C.** Athletes who want to be considered for the selection camp must submit at least one 6,000m erg test, at least one 2,000m erg test and at least one 50m run time on the [USRowing website](#) before July 1, 2026, and must participate in at least one of the Beach Sprint Speed Orders (June 16 – June 17, Sarasota, FL or August 7 – August 9, New Bedford, MA). If an athlete is unable to fulfill one of these requirements because of injury or illness, the athlete needs to receive medical clearance from the appropriate member of the USRowing Medical Committee.
- D.** The winners in CM1x and CW1x at each of the Beach Sprint Speed Orders earn automatic invitations. The remainder of the athletes will be invited upon discretion of the Chief High Performance Officer. The following criteria will be used when deciding discretionary invitations (listed in no particular order):
 - a. Performance in 2025 and 2026 National Team Testing, Speed Orders and Trials;
 - b. Performance in 2025 international competition;
 - c. Coach's recommendation.
- E.** Before the start of the selection camp a document shall be published to explain the objectives of the camp, the program, the selection criteria and the selection protocols that will be used. In order to participate in the camp, the athletes have to acknowledge the document.
- F.** The Chief High Performance Officer shall, in consultation with the High Performance Committee, appoint a Lead Coach and a Selection Panel for the selection camp. The selection panel consists of the Chief High Performance Officer or their designee, a member of the High Performance Committee or their designee, and a member of the Athlete Council or their designee. Final selection decisions shall be the responsibility of the Selection Panel.

G. The objective of the camp is to select the best athletes based on the following factors (listed in no particular order):

- a. Athlete's technical skills in different boat classes and seats;
- b. Athlete's absolute power and power efficiency;
- c. Athlete's team dynamic skills;
- d. Overall performance at selection camp;
- e. Meets minimal eligibility criteria set forth on page 3.

H. At the conclusion of the selection camp the Lead Coach shall present the proposal to the Selection Panel. After approval by the Selection Panel the decisions shall be published.

I. The selected athletes must sign and submit their declaration of intent to compete in the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals to the USRowing Chief High Performance Officer, or their designee, no later than three days after publication of the panel decision.

J. Each selected athlete will be named to the 2026 Beach Sprint National Team, provided the athlete submit their declaration of intent to compete on time and satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria set forth on page 3.

SELECTION PROCESS AT SELECTION CAMPS

Selection camps are used to determine the top athletes and the fastest combination of top athletes, allowing the fastest individual athletes to come together in one location to assemble the best combination of talent in the boats. In order to do so, at selection camps, individual athletes will be selected to form the best combination of talent for each boat. The selection camp process ensures that athletes in attendance have an opportunity to be selected for the team boat. However, the selection camp process, while based on objective performance markers, also must include team-related performance assessment. The dynamic of teamwork, leadership, and movement in a team boat requires development and assessment over time.

Results of measurable competitive processes at the selection camps, including, but not limited to time trials and seat racing, will be made available for athletes participating in the respective selection camp to review within 24 hours of the end of practice. USRowing will keep records of the underlying data used to evaluate athletes in the selection camp process for a period of six months after the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals.

GRIEVANCES RELATED TO THE SELECTION PROCESS

An athlete or coach who has grievances related to the selection process, is entitled to petition for a hearing by the Selection Panel. The hearing will include an appropriate representative of the High Performance Committee and the petitioner unless the petitioner waives this right, in which case the hearing will be conducted with written briefs only. A decision will be issued within two hours of the hearing. The petitioner may be entitled to further resolution of their grievance through the Bylaws of USRowing or USOPC.

World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Trials

SELECTION PROCESS WORLD ROWING BEACH SPRINT FINALS TRIALS

CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x, CJMix2x, INMix2x, CMix4x+

- A.** The winning boat in each event at the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Trials can declare their intent to represent the United States at the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in their event.
- B.** The athlete(s) in that boat must satisfy the minimum eligibility criteria set forth on page 3 and declare their intent to compete in the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals in writing to the USRowing Chief High Performance Officer, or their designee, no later than four hours after the final race at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Trials has been declared official.
- C.** Should the winning boat's athlete(s) decline, fail to declare their intent or fail to meet the minimum eligibility criteria set forth on page 3, the second-place finisher, will be given the option to declare their intent. If second place also declines or fails to meet the minimum eligibility criteria, the Chief High Performance Officer reserves the right to decline to send a boat to the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals for the event in question.
- D.** Each qualified crew must nominate a coach who is required to travel with the crew for the length of the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals. Exceptions must be approved by the Chief High Performance Officer. Nominated coaches must meet the requirements in [Appendix D – Coaches](#).
- E.** The selected athletes in the events CJM1x, CJW1x, CJM2x, CJW2x, CJMix2x, INMix2x, CMix4x+ and their respective coaches and boat handlers are required to pay, at the trial's site, the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Fees covering local travel, support, and room and board expenses. The Fees exclude athlete(s) and coach airfare, and oar rental; these costs and associated logistics are the responsibility of the athlete(s) and coach. The 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals Fees will be announced and posted by July 1, 2026.
- F.** For issues and conflicts occurring during trial events the [USRowing National Selection Event Due Process Checklist](#) will be followed.

Funding Olympic Boat Classes for 2026

For all athletes selected at Selection Camp the participation at the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals 2026 will be funded.

Boat Handlers, Coaches and Staff

BOAT HANDLERS

It is expected that all Coaches nominated by their crews can also act as boat handlers. Trials Boats may propose one boat handler of the opposite gender of their coach for their boat to the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals subject to meeting the criteria outlined in [Appendix J](#). The Chief High Performance Officer will select no more than 4 boat handlers to the Beach Sprint National Team based on the following criteria no later than five days after the day of nomination at Trials as applicable. All proposed boat handling candidates will be evaluated according to the following criteria (listed in order of priority):

- a) Choice of and compatibility with the selected crews
- b) Number of athletes on the team training with a particular boat handler
- c) Participation in Beach Sprint Trials as a boat handler
- d) International boat handling experience
- e) Domestic boat handling experience
- f) The number of available boat handling positions on the team

Those interested in being a boat handler at the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals are strongly encouraged to participate in trials as boat handlers. Boat handlers will be responsible for paying their own fee to attend the World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals.

COACHES

Trials boats must propose one coach for their boat to the 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals subject to meeting the criteria outlined in [Appendix D – Coaches](#). For selection camp boats the Lead Coach proposes the coach for each crew in consultation with the selected athletes.

The Chief High Performance Officer will select the coaches for each crew based on the following criteria no later than three days after the day of declaration. All proposed coach candidates will be evaluated according to the following criteria (listed in no specific order):

- a) Choice of and compatibility with the selected crew;
- b) Demonstrated commitment to the high-performance program;
- c) International and domestic coaching experience.

Once the Team is selected all coaches must abide by [Appendix D – Coaches](#).

STAFF

The Chief High Performance Officer will select the team manager, doctor, trainers, and other related staff.

REPLACEMENT OF AN ATHLETE OF THE BEACH SPRINT NATIONAL TEAM

In the event of a vacancy in a boat of the 2026 Beach Sprint National Team, that vacancy will be filled according to [Appendix I – Removal and Replacement of an Athlete, Coach or Staff Member from the Team.](#)

High Performance Committee

The High Performance Committee is comprised of:

Steve Whelpley – Chair, At-Large Member
Meghan Musnicki – Female Athlete Representative
Nick Mead – Male Athlete Representative
Catherine Starr – At-Large Member
Yasmin Farooq – At-Large Member
Wyatt Allen – At-Large Member

RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Duties related to the Trials process, as outlined in this document;
- b) Duties related to the Selection Camp process, as outlined in this document;
- c) Other duties related to athlete or coach selection or eligibility to compete, as necessary.

Additional Information

SAFEGUARDING AGAINST HARASSMENT AND ABUSE

In accordance to World Rowing's [Code of Ethics](#) (World Rowing Statutes, Appendix S11 – Bylaws to Article 58) USRowing is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all athletes, coaches and staff members. The High Performance Committee, in accordance with the USRowing Medical Committee, shall appoint a Safeguarding Officer for each National Team activity (Trials, Selection Camps, International Regattas).

Anyone who has a concern about a possible incident of harassment or abuse that relates to National Team activities should report it to the Safeguarding Officer. Directly affected individuals as well as third-party individuals who have witnessed a possible incident of harassment or abuse can report the incident. Any person who reports a possible incident of harassment or abuse in good faith shall not be subject to reprisal because of submitting a report; their identity shall be treated confidentially. These protections shall not apply to a person intentionally making false accusations.

Any information pertaining to an alleged incident of harassment and abuse shall be regarded as confidential and shall be shared on a strictly 'needs to know' basis with the Chair of the High Performance Committee. In particular, reports shall be treated confidentially and information (including name, date of birth, address of the concerned person or third party) shall not be disclosed, except, for example, if prior consent is given by that individual or if disclosure is necessary to protect someone from harm.

The Safeguarding Officer will, together with the Chair of the High Performance Committee identify the jurisdiction of the report. If the report is considered to relate to a criminal offence, it shall be referred to the Police and relevant authorities; If the report is considered to be outside USRowing's jurisdiction, it shall be referred to the appropriate person or organization. If the report is considered to be within USRowing's jurisdiction, they will carry out an assessment. For all cases, regardless of jurisdiction, the Safeguarding Officer shall keep the directly affected individual(s) and/or third party informed on next steps.

USOPC ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

The Athlete Ombudsman provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between athletes and their NGB/HPMO.

To contact the Athlete Ombudsman Office:

PHONE: (719) 866-5000

EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org

WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These Selection Procedures are based on World Rowing and/or USRowing rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in World Rowing and/or USRowing rules and regulations will be incorporated herein and distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USRowing. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.

PRIORITY OF WRITTEN PROCEDURES

The terms and conditions of these written Selection Procedures shall take priority over any verbal explanation, clarification or interpretation of the Selection Procedures, and an athlete or coach relies on a verbal explanation, clarification or interpretation of these Selection Procedures at his or her sole risk. Any request or question that would involve a formal clarification or interpretation of these Selection Procedures, or that would address an issue not otherwise covered in these Selection Procedures, should be submitted to the Chief High Performance Officer at USRowing in writing, and the response to such request by USRowing must be provided in writing and must be published promptly on the USRowing website.

ANTI-DOPING AND SAFE SPORT VIOLATIONS

If an athlete is alleged to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, that athlete shall remain on the Team (or remain eligible to be nominated to the Team) until: a) the athlete is provisionally suspended or declared ineligible after a hearing conducted pursuant to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency Protocol for Olympic Movement Testing or by World Rowing; b) the athlete voluntarily accepts a provisional suspension or sanction of ineligibility; or c) the athlete voluntarily withdraws from the Team or relinquishes eligibility to be nominated to the Team.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USRowing 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 2026 World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals. Records pertaining to a specific selection process under these procedures will be made available for review to an athlete involved in such selection, upon written request to the Chief High Performance Officer.

QUESTIONS

For questions regarding these procedures, you may contact the Director of High Performance Operations, Will Daly, will.daly@usrowing.org.