2027
PARA NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCEDURES

2027 World Rowing Championships
August 23 - August 29, 2027
Lucerne, Switzerland

USRowing

www.USRowing.org

Revision History

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Eligibility Requirements

The USRowing World Rowing Championships 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 Championships:

- 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 Championships.
- Athlete must abide by the 2027 Para National Team Selection Procedures and the USRowing Code of Conduct, Bylaws, Rules of Rowing, and other USRowing rules, requirements, and regulations.
- Athlete must have a US or World Rowing Sport Class classification with status of Review or Confirmed prior to participation in Para National Team Trials and/or Paralympic Events Selection Camp.
- Athlete must have read and sign a copy of the 2027 USRowing National Team Agreement (Appendix G).

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

Small Boat National Championship / Fall Speed Orders
November 14-15, 2026
West Windsor, NJ

Spring Speed Orders
May 14-16, 2027
West Windsor, NJ

Paralympic Selection Camp
May 30 - June 20, 2027
Boston, MA

World Rowing Championships Trials PR1M1x, PR1W1x, PR2Mix2x, PR3Mix2x
June 25-27, 2027
West Windsor, NJ

World Cup Račice
July 9-11, 2027
Račice, Czech Republic

World Rowing Championships
August 23-29, 2027
Lucerne, Switzerland

USRowing Competitive Standard Times (CST)

The purpose of the selection procedures is to select qualified athletes and crews to represent the United States at the World Rowing Championships. In order to ensure that all selected crews have the experience, skill, and speed necessary to compete with current international standards, minimum time standards are part of the selection procedures.

Rowing has no official world records. For the Elite level World Rowing registers World Best Times during all World Rowing events (World Cups, Continental and World Championships, Paralympics). These times are not called 'records' because of the variations rowers experience in wind, water temperatures and flow. For Under 23 and Under 19 World Rowing only registers World Rowing Championships Best Times.

World Best Times are helpful for developing standards. In order to determine fair and comparable standards across the events there are more criteria to take into consideration. The USRowing Competitive Standard Times (CST) for the Elite events are developed based upon three elements:

- Registered World Best Times;
- Theoretical calculation of the relative speed for each event based on the assumed power and weight of the World Class athletes and the drag of the boat;
- Statistical analysis of historical data of Paralympics, World Rowing Championships and World Cups since 2017: average winning times, relative time per event in relation to PR3Mix4+, spread in finals, trend per event over the last Paralympic cycle.

Para races are held over 2000m only since 2017. Furthermore, some boat classes are relatively new and/or have seen only limited entries. Therefore, the Para dataset is very limited and calculations for other categories are used to verify the relationship of the standards for the different events.

Event	*World Best Time*		*USA CST*	
	Year	*Time*	*Time*	*% PR3Mix4+*
PR3Mix4+	2024	6:43.60	**6:45.00**	100.0%
PR3Mix2x	2025	6:58.41	**7:00.00**	96.7%
PR2Mix2x	2024	7:56.92	**8:00.00**	84.6%
PR1M1x	2025	8:40.38	**8:45.00**	77.6%
PR1W1x	2023	9:47.83	**9:55.00**	68.7%

Selection Procedures

As outlined below, selection to the 2027 World Rowing Championships Team will be made in one of two methods:

Paralympic Selection Camp
PR3Mix4+

World Rowing Championships Trials
PR1M1x, PR1W1x, PR2Mix2x, PR3Mix2x

2027 NATIONAL TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

USRowing will announce the 2027 Para National Team no later than seven days after the final selection event.

Paralympic Selection Camp

SELECTION PROCESS PARALYMPIC SELECTION CAMP
PR3Mix4+

A. There will be approximately eight athletes (including coxswains) invited to the selection camp.

B. The objective of the camp is to select the PR3Mix4+ for the 2027 World Rowing Championships.

C. Athletes who want to be considered for the selection camp must submit at least one 6,000m erg test and at least one 2,000m erg test on the USRowing website before May 1, 2027 (tests must be completed on or after September 1, 2026), and must participate in the Spring Speed Orders (May 14-16, 2027 West Windsor, NJ). Athletes who are Visually Impaired and are classified as B1, B2, or B3, are exempt from the requirement to participate in Spring Speed Orders. VI-B3 athletes who are able to safely compete in a 1x unassisted are invited to do so. If an athlete is unable to fulfill one of these requirements because of injury or illness, the athlete needs to receive a medical exemption from the appropriate member of the USRowing Medical Committee. Collegiate athletes who want to be considered, but are unable to participate in the Spring Speed Orders because of academic constraints can request the Chief High Performance Officer or designee to be exempt.

D. The athletes will be invited upon discretion of the Chief High Performance Officer or designee. The following criteria will be used when deciding discretionary invitations (listed in no particular order):

a. Performance in 2026 and 2027 NT Testing, Speed Orders and Trials;
b. Performance in 2026 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 Para 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 Para 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 for the boat class and their seat;
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 2027 World Rowing Championships 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 2027 Para 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.

COXSWAIN SELECTION

The Chief High Performance Officer, in consultation with the coaching staff, will invite two coxswains to each Training Center by October 31, 2026. Coxswains who want to be considered are expected to be training at the Training Center with the team, and at camps and events when the team travels, as requested by the coaching staff, from the time of their invitation through the conclusion of the Selection Camp. The invitation is discretionary and is based upon the evaluation of the required competences. If an invited coxswain doesn't meet the expectations and doesn't show sufficient progress to be considered a candidate for selection, the Chief High Performance Officer, in consultation with the coaching staff, can replace this coxswain with another candidate.

Each invited coxswain will have the opportunity to demonstrate their specific abilities, their understanding of the technical model, their group dynamic skills and other required competencies over a prolonged period of time. The Lead Coach of the Selection Camp will select the coxswain after consultation with the selected rowers of the crew. This consultation will take place before the selection is made. The Lead Coach's selection will be included in the proposal presented to the Selection Panel at the conclusion of the Selection Camp and is final upon the Panel's approval.

Coxswains who want to be considered for a future invitation and who have not applied in 2026 through the link listed in Appendix L, Coxswain Selection Procedures, are encouraged to do so by May 31, 2027. The Coxswains Panel will review the applications and advise the Head Coaches about possible future candidates.

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 team 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 boats. 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 2027 World Rowing Championships.

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 Para 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.

SELECTION PROCESS WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIALS
PR1M1x, PR1W1x, PR2Mix2x, PR3Mix2x

A. The Chief High Performance Officer shall, in consultation with the High Performance Committee, appoint a Selection Panel for the World Rowing Championships Trials. 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.

B. The 2027 World Rowing Championships Trials will follow the 6-lane progression as outlined in Appendix C of the 2027 Selection Procedures. The event will follow the rules as outlined under Appendix A: General Trials Rules.

C. For the 2027 World Rowing Championships Trials time standards will be applied for the finals. These standards relate to the USRowing Competitive Standard Times (CST) for each event. The Performance Standard is 95% of CST under neutral or favorable wind conditions and a water temperature of 70° Fahrenheit or higher. The Pathways Standard is 90% of CST under neutral or favorable wind conditions and a water temperature of 70° Fahrenheit or higher.

Event	CST	Performance Std 95%	Pathways Standard 90%
PR1W1x	9:55.00	**10:26.32**	11:01.10
PR1M1x	8:45.00	**9:12.63**	9:43.33
PR2Mix2x	8:00.00	**8:25.26**	8:53.33
PR3Mix2x	7:00.00	**7:22.11**	7:46.67

D. The Selection Panel will evaluate meteorological and water conditions and may adapt the required Trials Standards. The Trials Standards will be communicated no later than one hour before the first final race at the World Rowing Championships Trials. The Trials Panel has the right to lower the standard for individual events if actual meteorological and water conditions change during the events.

E. Only boats that meet the Trials Standards can declare their intent to represent the United States at the 2027 World Rowing Championships in their event.

F. The winning boat in each event at the 2027 World Rowing Championships Trials that meets either the required Performance Standard or Pathways Standard can declare their intent to represent the United States at the 2027 World Rowing Championships in

their event.

G. 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 2027 World Rowing Championships 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 Championships Trials has been declared official.

H. 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, if second place meets either the required Performance Standard or Pathways Standard, will be given the option to declare their intent. If second place doesn't meet the standards, 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 Championships for the event in question.

I. Each qualified crew must nominate a coach who is required to travel with the crew for the length of the 2027 World Rowing Championships. Exceptions must be approved by the Chief High Performance Officer. Nominated coaches must meet the requirements in Appendix D – Coaches.

J. For qualified crews that did not meet the Performance Standard, the athletes and their respective coaches are required to pay the 2027 World Rowing Championships Fees covering local travel, support, and room and board expenses. The Fees exclude athlete(s) and coach airfare, boat and oar rental, and boat transportation costs; these costs and associated logistics are the responsibility of the athlete(s) and coach. The 2027 World Rowing Championships Fees will be announced and posted by May 1, 2027.

K. For issues and conflicts occurring during trial events the USRowing National Selection Event Due Process Checklist will be followed.

Funding Paralympic Boat Classes for 2027

For the athletes selected in the PR3Mix4+ during the Paralympic Selection Camp, and the athletes selected in one of the Paralympic boat classes that meet the Performance Standard at World Rowing Championships Trials the participation at World Cup Račice and World Championships Lucerne will be funded.

All Paralympic boat classes that qualify at World Rowing Championships Trials and meet the Pathways Standard but don't meet the Performance Standard will not be funded. Unfunded participation in a Paralympic boat class can be eligible for reimbursement of the paid participation fee for the athletes if the boat places top-6 at the 2027 World Rowing Championships.

All athletes and coaches attending the 2027 World Rowing Championships in an unfunded Paralympic boat class will be responsible for all costs. The fee will be posted by May 1, 2027. The fee will not include the cost of boat rental, oars, or airfare. The fee must be paid on or before July 4, 2027.

Coaches and Staff

COACHES

Trials boats must propose one coach for their boat to the 2027 World Rowing Championships subject to meeting the criteria outlined in Appendix D – Coaches. For the selection camp boat PR3Mix4+ the Lead Coach proposes the coach 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 PARA NATIONAL TEAM

In the event of a vacancy in a boat of the 2027 Para 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 and Para HPC

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

The Para High Performance Committee is comprised of:

Helmut Berthold – Chair, At-Large Member
Eli Margolin – Female Athlete Representative
Andy Wigren – Male Athlete Representative
Andrew Morrow – At-Large Member
Chris Meyer – At-Large Member
Judy Morrison – 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 54) 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 and Paralympic 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 2027 World Rowing Championships. 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.