

# United States Olympic Committee



## ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURE FORMS

### for the OLYMPIC GAMES

VERSION 3



**USA Wrestling**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2008 Olympic Games**  
**(Men's Freestyle)**  
**May 21, 2007**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

A. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

1. Citizenship:

Athlete must be a USA Citizen, or have proof of swearing in date to become a US citizen prior to the nomination date and have a valid US passport at the time of nomination.

2. Minimum IF standards for participation (if any):

Athlete must turn a minimum 18 years of age on or before December 31, 2008 and must carry a passport of the country of which they will be representing.

3. Other Requirements (if any):

Athlete must be a current Athlete member of USA Wrestling.

B. Provide a brief summary outlining how an athlete is selected as a nominee to the Team.

USA Wrestling will be using the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials as the selection process. Athletes qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials through several different competitions from July 1, 2007 to the May 2008 USA Wrestling Northern Plains Regional at a site to be determined. The 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials will be held June 15-16, 2008 in Las Vegas NV. The winner of each of the 7 weight categories will be USA Wrestling's nominees to the Olympic Games Team.

C. Tryout Events:



1. Provide the event names, dates and location of all trials, events and/or camps to be used as part of the selection process.

2008 Olympic Games Team Trials June 15-16, 2008 Las Vegas, NV

2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for any “preliminary or qualifying” events or procedures that are prerequisites to attend any of the events listed above in C. 1 (if any).

Athletes qualify into the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials through the following:

- Past USA World and Olympic Team members.
- Top 7 per weight category from the 2008 Senior National Championships.
- Champion from four Regional qualifiers in each of the seven weight categories March-May 2008 with at least one Regional qualifier held after the 2008 Senior National Championships. Sites and dates TBD.
- Champion from the 2008 USA Wrestling University National Championships from each of the seven weight categories.

Dates and locations of all competitions can be found on the USA Wrestling web site [themat.com](http://themat.com).

For the 2008 Senior National Championships and Regional qualifiers the athlete must meet the eligibility requirements listed in section I.A. There is an age criteria for the USA Wrestling University National Championships where the athlete must be born in the years of 1984 through 1990 and their high school class must have graduated.

3. Provide the event name, dates and locations of additional trials that will be used to determine “start positions” (if any).

N/A

- D. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become team nominees.

### 1) Qualification

The athlete must first qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials through the following process.



- Any past World and/or Olympic Team member is automatically qualified to enter the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials; otherwise athletes must qualify through any of the following means.
- Champion in each of the seven weight categories from the 2008 USA Wrestling University National Championship.
- Champion in each of the seven weight categories of four Regional qualifiers to be held March-May of 2008. Sites and dates TBD.
- Top 7 in each of the seven weight categories from the 2008 Senior National Championships.

The individuals that qualify from the events listed above will compete in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials to be held June 15-16, 2008 in Las Vegas NV.

## **2) 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials**

The 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials will be held in a one day format. Athletes will be seeded by the Seeding Committee, members of which will be determined by USA Wrestling's Federation of Clubs. The two (2) highest place finishers from the 2008 Senior National Championships competing in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials will be given the top two (2) seeds. Any changes from the 2008 Senior National Championships for the remaining seeds other than the top two (2) seeds will require 2/3 majority vote of the seeding committee.

The 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials will be a line bracket double elimination to third place format. The finals will a best of three match competition, with the exception as stated below. If this situation occurs the finals will be a single match.

## **3) National Champion Conditional Exception**

2008 Senior National Champions who meet one of the following will receive a bye out of the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials and will wrestle the winner of the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials in a best of three match competition.

- Top Ten Place finish from the 2005, 2006 or 2007 Senior World Championships
- 2005 University World Medalist
- 2005, 2006 or 2007 Junior World Medalist
- Multiple time World Team member



#### **4) Modification of 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials at Weight categories that must participate in the Olympic Qualification Tournament.**

**Scenario 1:** Athlete that participates in the Olympic Qualification Tournament is an individual that meets the standards set up by the Freestyle Sport Committee to go to the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals if they were to win the 2008 Senior National Championships.

If that person qualifies the weight they earn the spot into the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals. If the 2008 Senior National Champion is also an individual that would have qualified into the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals that person will be put into the number two position and will face the winner of the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials in a single match. The winner would move to the best of three 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals to determine the Olympic Team. If the athlete does not qualify the weight then he will be seeded appropriately in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials and the winner of the 2008 Senior National Championships will be placed based on the established criteria.

**Scenario 2:** Athlete participating in the Olympic Qualification Tournament does not meet the standards set up by the Freestyle Sport Committee to go to the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals if they were to win the 2008 Senior National Championships.

If that person qualifies the weight they will earn the number 1 seed in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials if the 2008 Senior National Champion is not an individual that has earned a spot in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals based on standards set up by the Freestyle Sport Committee. If the 2008 Senior National Champion has earned a spot in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals then the athlete that qualified the weight will be put into the number two position and will face the winner of the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials in a single match. The winner would move to the best of three wrestle-offs against the 2008 Senior National Champion to determine the Olympic Team.

A 2008 Senior National Champion that receives a bye out of the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials can request a delay in the final best of three match competition for injury or illness prior to the weigh-ins. The Freestyle Sport Committee shall determine whether or not the delay shall



be granted and, if granted shall determine the new date and site of the final matches. A medical doctor approved by USA Wrestling must certify the injury or illness in writing.

USA Wrestling approval of a medical doctor will not be unreasonably withheld. After the start of weigh-ins no delay will be granted. In this case the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals will be a best of three match competition. The delay in the final wrestle-off may not go beyond the final entry date for the 2008 Olympic Games which is July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. If this happens then the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials winner will be USA Wrestling's designee for the Olympic Games.

If the 2008 National Champion fails to make weight then the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials finals will be a best of three competition with the winner being USA Wrestling's designee for the Olympic Games.

The winner of each weight category will be USA Wrestling's nominee for the 2008 Olympic Games.

- E. Provide the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.

The National Staff at USA Wrestling is responsible for making sure the Trials procedures are followed. The National Teams Director is the main person on staff that oversees the process.

## **II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

- A. Provide rationale for utilizing discretionary selection (if any):

Discretion may be needed in the case of a replacement athlete. USA Wrestling needs to make sure that athlete is prepared to compete at the highest level.

- B. List the discretionary criteria and explain how it will be used:

If the nominee to the Olympic Games at any weight category is removed for injury, illness or extenuating circumstances after the 2008 Olympic Trials and before the final entry deadline for the 2008 Olympic Games, the Freestyle Sport Committee shall assign the position to the next place finisher at the weight in question up to and including the sixth placed wrestler from the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials. This is provided the next placed wrestler is present and substantially completing the requirements of the 2008 Team Training camp as



determined by the Freestyle Sport Committee of USA Wrestling and approved by the Executive Committee.

Should the Freestyle Sport Committee be unable to fill the 2008 Olympic Games Team position based on the above criteria, the Freestyle Sport Committee shall

invite wrestlers that placed in the top eight in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials to a challenge tournament to determine the Olympic Games replacement athlete. The winner of the challenge tournament will become the replacement athlete.

C. Discretionary Selection Committee

1. Provide the name of the committee(s) that will be responsible for discretionary selection.

The Freestyle Sport Committee and approved by the Executive Committee of USA Wrestling.

2. Provide a complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity.

Greg Strobel	Chairman
Jim Ravannack	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Mike Dowden	Junior Olympic
Mike Duroe	Coach
Les Gutches	At-Large
John Welch	At-Large
Archie Randall	At-Large
Chris Bono	Athlete
Tolly Thompson	Athlete

### III. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

- A. Prior to acceptance of nomination by the USOC, USA Wrestling has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

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



- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the National Teams Director of USA Wrestling.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USA Wrestling physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USA Wrestling approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of the USA Wrestling'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 USA Wrestling's Constitution and Bylaws per Article XI-XIV or USOC Bylaws, Article 9.

- B. After acceptance of nomination by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team under the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures. This occurs no earlier than 45 days and no later than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies of the Games (unless expressly waived by the USOC).

A USOC approved team member is subject to the USOC Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures.

- C. An athlete may be removed from Nomination or from the Team at any time for violation of IOC, FILA, 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**

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

The replacement athletes will come from the athletes that participated in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials.

- B. Describe how the replacement athlete(s) will be selected to replace a previously nominated athlete, should a vacancy occur.

The Freestyle Sport Committee will be notified upon the need to replace an athlete. The Freestyle Sport Committee will place the next place finisher at the weight in question up to and including the sixth place finisher from the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials provided they are substantially completing the requirements of the Team Training Camp as determined by the Freestyle Sport Committee of USA Wrestling and approved by the Executive Committee.



Should the Freestyle Sport Committee be unable to fill the Olympic Team position based on above criteria, the Freestyle Sport Committee will invite the wrestlers that placed in the top eight in the 2008 Olympic Games Team Trials to a challenge tournament to determine the 2008 Olympic Games replacement athlete. The winner of the challenge tournament will become the replacement athlete.

C. Identify the group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete replacement determinations:

1. Group or committee who determines the replacement pool:

N/A

2. Group or committee who determines a replacement to the team:

The Freestyle Sport Committee and approved by the Executive Committee of USA Wrestling.

## V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USA Wrestling 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 Closing Ceremonies of the Games.

## VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination in the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Wrestling Code of Conduct (Attachment A)

## VII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

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

A. NGB website: [www.themat.com](http://www.themat.com)

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than 5 business days following notice of approval by the USOC.

B. NGB Official Publication (if any):



USA Wrestler magazine

C. Other:

USA Wrestling will send an e-mail to the National Coaching Pool and the athlete data base. A copy of the selection procedures will also be mailed to the top 8 ranked athletes at the Senior level at each weight, the NCAA Div. I coaches and USA Wrestling registered senior clubs.

## **VIII. DATE OF NOMINATION**

Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be submitted to the USOC by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

## **IX. MANDATORY TRAINING AND/OR COMPETITION**

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition: Date of Training camp has yet to be determined. The Team will be required to participate. Training camp schedule will be set at least six months prior to the Team selection.

## **X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

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

## **XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:

Freestyle Sport Committee                      See Section II.C.2

## **XII. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

The USA Wrestling Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found:  
USA Wrestling Bylaws can be found on the website [themat.com](http://themat.com) There is a link to the Bylaws on the Homepage. Copies of the Bylaws are also available upon request from the USA Wrestling office. Articles XI through XIV deal with the grievance procedures.

## **XIII. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER**



These procedures are based on IOC, and/or FILA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, and/or FILA rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Wrestling. 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 Wrestling may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman: John W. Ruger by:

- Toll free telephone at (888) ATHLETE
- E-mail at [john.ruger@usoc.org](mailto:john.ruger@usoc.org)
- [www.888athlete.org](http://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 Wrestling.**

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or Executive Director	Rich Bender		
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Mitch Hull		
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Shawn Sheldon		

\*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 of USOC Approval _____
Date Revision Submitted _____	



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 Wrestling.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or Executive Director	Rich Bender		6/21
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Mitch Hull		6/21
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Shawn Sheldon		6/20

\*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 of USOC Approval _____
Date Revision Submitted _____	

To be completed by the USA Wrestling representative contact the USOC Athlete Ambassador John



## Attachment A USA Wrestling Code of Conduct

### ATHLETE PLEDGE

I pledge to uphold the spirit of the USA Wrestling Code of Conduct (the “Code”), which offers a guide to my conduct as a member of the National Team. I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of my selection to the National Team.

**As a Member of the Team, I hereby promise and agree that I:**

- will abide by all rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by USA Wrestling;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) or the FILA rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of FILA;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;



- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will follow my Team's rules, including by way of example, rules regarding curfew and required attendance at team meetings;
- am aware that USA Wrestling sponsors, suppliers and licensees provide critical support for the Team and, in recognition of this fact, I will wear designated USA Wrestling apparel at all official Team functions and events;
- will not conceal or cover-up any USA Wrestling sponsor, supplier or licensee brand or other identification appearing on my USA Wrestling apparel;
- agree to be filmed and photographed by the official photographer(s) and network(s) of USA Wrestling under conditions authorized by USA Wrestling and give event organizers and USA Wrestling the right to use my name, picture, likeness, and biographical information before, during and after the period of my participation in these activities to promote the activity in which I participate or to promote the success of the team on which I compete; in no event may USA Wrestling or the event organizers use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my USA Wrestling apparel or equipment or the use of the USA Wrestling logo for the purpose of trade, without the prior written consent of the USA Wrestling (which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld);
- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, USA Wrestling and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country and the Olympic Movement.

## ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman,  
toll free at 888.ATHLETE (888.284.5383) or [John.Ruger@usoc.org](mailto:John.Ruger@usoc.org)  
for further information regarding my rights under this Code  
that are not answered by USA Wrestling.



# PARTICIPANTS' AFFIRMATION

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of being selected to participate as a member of the Team.

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Signature

Date

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NGB Name

Sport

<p><b>PARENT/GUARDIAN CERTIFICATION</b> <b>(For Participants Under the Age of 18 as of Date of Signature)</b></p>
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Signature

Date

Relationship (Parent or Guardian)