
**USA DEAF SPORTS FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
MEN'S & WOMEN'S BEACH VOLLEYBALL
2007 Pan American Deaf Games
2009 Summer Deaflympics**

Background:

The USA Men's and Women's Beach Volleyball Athlete Selection Procedures (hereinafter "Selection Procedures") is developed as a guideline in which eligibility and qualification requirements determine how athletes are selected to represent the United States at the 2007 Pan American Deaf Games and 2009 Summer Deaflympics. The guideline conforms to the rules and regulations of USA Deaf Sports Federation (hereinafter "USADSF") and International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (hereinafter "ICSD").

Mandatory Eligibility Requirements:

The athlete shall:

- A. Possess a United States citizenship,
- B. 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,
- C. Possess a valid identity card (e.g. driver's license),
- D. Possess a valid passport for international competitions,
- E. Be a member of USADSF in good standing,
- F. Submit him/herself without any reservations to all doping control policies and procedures of the USADSF, ICSD and World AntiDoping Agency (WADA),
- G. Commit to train year-around from the time of selection to the 2009 Summer Deaflympics,
- H. Maintain contact with the USA Deaf Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee and US Team coaching staff and keep informed about training regimens and competition results from time of selection until the 2009 Summer Deaflympics,
- I. Exhibit good sportsmanship and character,
- J. Sign and abide by USADSF's *Code of Conduct* and any other applicable forms, and
- K. Complete the US Team application packet, which includes providing proof of having or in the process of obtaining a United States passport. Note: The passport shall be valid for at least 6 months past the conclusion of the 2009 Summer Deaflympics.

Athlete Quotas:

The maximum per National Association for the 2007 Pan American Deaf Games is 2 men's teams (of 2 athletes per team) and 2 women's teams (of 2 athletes per team).

The maximum per National Association for the 2009 Summer Deaflympics is 2 men's teams (of 2 athletes per team) and 2 women's teams (of 2 athletes per team).

Selection System:

- A. PREREQUISITES** – Athletes are identified as those who meet the Mandatory Eligibility Requirements provision of the Selection Procedures herein and register with USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee as a “Beach Volleyball Athlete” (hereinafter the “Pool”).

Athletes in the Pool are required to compete in National Beach events as determined by the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee.

Members of the 2007 Pan American Deaf Games Beach Volleyball Team and the 2009 USA Men’s and Women’s Deaflympic Beach Volleyball Team (hereinafter the “Team”) will be determined in a ranking order from those athletes who are members of the Pool at the time of qualification as determined by the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee.

- B. AUTHORIZED NOMINATIONS** – Nominations to the Team require the approval of the Executive Board of the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee prior to being forwarded to the USADSF Board for approval. The Executive Board is comprised of three (3) voting positions. The first two (2) positions are Chair and Team Director. The third position is one of which is a Player Representative who meets the USADSF definition of an athlete and one of which is a current member of one of the National Indoor Teams who meets the USADSF definition of an athlete. Both the Women’s National Indoor Volleyball Team and the Men’s Indoor National Volleyball Team send representatives; however, the current member of the National Team of the gender opposite to that of the Player Representative is the voting member of the Executive Board, thus providing Athlete Representatives (as defined by USADSF) with one-third (33%) of the vote.

- C. SELECTION OF USA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BEACH VOLLEYBALL NATIONAL TEAMS** – Those athletes in the Pool who are registering for, qualifying for and competing in USADSF-sanctioned national and ICSD-sanctioned international beach events in 2007-2009 shall be considered as the Beach Volleyball “National Team”.

- D. NOMINATION OF 2009 USA MEN’S AND WOMEN’S BEACH VOLLEYBALL DEAFLYMPIC TEAMS TO USADSF** – In accordance with the registration deadline established by ICSD, those athletes/teams eligible under ICSD and USADSF regulations and registering to compete in the 2009 Summer Deaflympics shall be verified by the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee prior to being nominated to the USADSF as the Deaflympic Beach Volleyball teams (the “Final Roster”). Once the nominations are accepted by USADSF, the Final Roster shall become the Beach Volleyball Teams to the 2009 Summer Deaflympics. The selections shall be based upon the Selection Criteria provision herein.

- E. SELECTION CRITERIA** – The selection criteria are as determined by ICSD Technical Regulations for Beach Volleyball, which are available on the ICSD website (<http://www.deaflympics.com/sports/regulations.asp?SC=Beach%20Volleyball>) and shall be hyperlinked to by the USA Deaf Sports Federation’s volleyball group (www.usdeafsports.org). The qualification period is as of the first National Beach event in 2007 through the last National Beach event in 2009. The qualification events are those designated by USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee over the 2007-2009 competitive seasons.

- F. WHO SELECTS** – Athletes self-select as a team for any given qualification event during the qualification period.

Qualifying Events:

To earn points, sanctioned outdoor beach volleyball tournaments (e.g. AVP, EVP, CBVA, USAV, etc.) and National Beach Qualifiers are only considered during the period from April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009:

1 st National Beach Qualifiers	Date/site to be determined in summer 2008
2 nd National Beach Qualifiers	Date/site to be determined in summer 2008
3 rd National Beach Qualifiers	Date/site to be determined in summer 2008
Final National Beach Qualifiers	Date/site to be determined in summer 2009, if necessary.

For the 2007 Pan American Deaf Games, the cut-off date to determine rankings is June 30, 2007.

Points System:

In order to determine the ranking of qualified Teams, the points are determined as follows:

- A. NATIONAL BEACH QUALIFYING EVENTS FOR THE DEAF** – Final placement per event is (placement – points): 1 – 40 pts, 2 – 36 pts, 3 – 32 pts, 4 – 28 pts, 5 – 24 pts, 7 – 20 pts, 9 – 16 pts, 13 – 12 pts, 17 – 8 pts, 25 – 4 pts. Non-attendance is worth a negative 20 pts per qualifying event.
- B. SANCTIONED OUTDOOR BEACH DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS** – 10 points per tournament at Level "A" or higher, with a full report including names of athlete and teammate, date, location, organizer name, competition level, and scores sent to the US Team Director of the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee for verification purposes. Incomplete participation due to forfeits, withdrawals, injuries, etc. shall not be considered.
- C. SANCTIONED OUTDOOR GRASS DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS** – 2 points per tournament at Level "A" or higher, with a full report including names of athlete and teammate, date, location, organizer name, competition level, and scores sent to the US Team Director of the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee for verification purposes. Incomplete participation due to forfeits, withdrawals, injuries, etc. shall not be considered.

Publicity / Distribution

These selection procedures shall be published on USA Deaf Sports Federation’s website (www.usdeafsports.org) within ten (10) days of approval of the procedures by USADSF. Information regarding USADSF-sanctioned National Beach Volleyball events shall be distributed through, but not limited to, e-mail, e-list, affiliated volleyball organizations (USA Volleyball and USADSF), and deaf publications. Such information shall include a reference to the entire Selection Procedures herein.

Mandatory Training / Events:

There is no established mandatory training under USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee. Training occurs at the discretion of the athletes and / or their designated coaches or trainers. Note: Each coach’s qualifications shall be submitted to the US Team Director of the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee for review and approval by the committee and USADSF Board if he or she will be named to any official US Team roster.

Removal Procedures:

The USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee and USADSF Board shall reserve the right to remove any athlete registered with the Pool or 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 National Team Director of the USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee.
- 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 Pool or Team.

- C. VIOLATION** – An athlete shall be removed for violation of any USADSF 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 Pool or Team 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 chair of USA Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee, in consultation with the National Team Director, 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 team meeting the other qualification requirements. If the ICSD, USADSF or Deaflympic Organizing Committee (hereinafter "DOC") requires different replacement procedures within a certain time period before the Pan American Deaf Games or Summer 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 the USA Deaf Volleyball Ad Hoc Committee, he/she may contact the USADSF Athlete Ombudsman, Mr. Jeffrey Salit, by email at salit@usdeafsports.org.

Disclaimer:

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

