



USA Goalball Development Training Pool Program

OVERVIEW & CRITERIA

Program Overview

USABA's High Performance (HP) Department is responsible for supporting athletes who have the mentality, goals and capability of assisting our teams in winning Paralympic Games medals, while identifying, supporting & developing future Games medalists in the sport of goalball. It is important that USABA is investing in our High Performance goalball programs in the most careful and thoughtful ways, in alignment with its strategic initiatives, capturing the important aspects of our development philosophy and high performance investment strategies. In addition, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) invests significant financial resources into the USABA's High Performance strategies and directly into its teams and athletes. USOPC does so with the belief that USABA teams are on track to continue winning medals in the Paralympic Games. If USABA's goalball teams are not on-track to achieve podium performances in the Games, USABA can expect a reduction in USOPC investment.

The development training pool program (also known as simply the "training pool") provides performance-based support to athletes in the form of performance advisement. This training pool is comprised of athletes with proven performance capability and is designed to support and observe athletes as they advance towards their goal of being selected for tournament teams and thus a berth on a National Team Program Roster. Athletes are expected to advance to the National Team Program within a reasonable amount of time, but not longer than after being in the training pool for three (3) years.

In addition to the selection process as outlined below, athletes must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for the Training Pool:

- Eligible to represent USABA in IBSA competition, including but not limited to:
 - USA Citizenship and be eligible to compete for Team USA at IBSA sanctioned tournaments immediately
 - Be nationally classified according to the master list with a Fixed Review Date ("FRD") or Confirmed ("C") status
 - Current IBSA license holder
- Current USABA annual or lifetime member in good standing
- Current with Safe Sport training & Background check
- Be 2024 or 2028 Paralympic Games eligible
- Commitment to an elite goalball training regimen whether or not part of the resident program
- Submission of an annual performance plan and monthly progress reporting to Sport Performance Director
- Have personal MyZone and tracking workouts on own with access given to Sport Performance Director

Performance Progress

Athletes who have been a part of the Men or Women National Team Programs within the last 4 years will not be eligible for the Training Pool.

Discretionary Disclaimer

Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USABA Director Sport Performance (aduke@usaba.org or 719-244-7761). In addition, athletes are encouraged to contact the Athlete Ombuds Office as a resource for confidential, independent advice and assistance with resolving disputes (contact information below). After the previous steps have occurred, athletes may contact USABA CEO (mquinn@usaba.org or 719-866-3220) to administer an executive review to ensure published criteria and process was followed. Athletes have the right to file a grievance per the [USABA's Grievance, Appeal, and Complaint Procedures](#). Athletes also have the right to report any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and will not be retaliated against for raising concerns or asking questions of USABA or the Athlete Ombuds Office. For more information, please see [USABA's Whistleblower Policy](#).

Athlete Ombuds - The Office of the Athlete Ombuds offers independent, confidential advice to elite athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and assists athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints and concerns.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: usathlete.org

USA Goalball Development Training Pool Selection Process

Step 1: Attend a Scouting Event(s).

- USABA Regional Qualifier tournaments
- USABA USA Goalball National Championships
- U.S. National H.S. Goalball Championships
- IBSA Youth International tournaments

Step 2: Fill out a USABA survey so we can learn more about athletes and athletes can express intent of being identified by fill out the survey

- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SM2DPWR>

Step 3: Invitation to a talent identification (TID) Camp for further assessment.

- When opportunities arise for TID camps, USABA will reach out directly to each athlete they wish to attend the camp. The cost of athletes to attend this camp will be the responsibility of each athlete and the athlete must be available for the entirety of the camp as advertised.
- Athletes will be assessed based on these skills and attributes in Appendix A.

Step 4: Discretionary Invitation to be part of the Dev Pool

- At the conclusion of the TID camp, the Director of Sport Performance along with applicable National Team Coaches may discretionarily select athletes to be named to the Development Talent Pool.
- These notifications will be in writing via email and only those athletes who are selected to be part of the pool will be contacted no later than 10 business days post camp conclusion.

Questions about this program should be directed the Director Sport Performance aduke@usaba.org

Attachment A – USA Goalball Skills and Attributes

Offensive:

- Throwing Power
- Throwing Accuracy
- Throwing Velocity
- Throwing Consistency
- Penalty Shot Accuracy
- Reading Opponent
- Clean Hand Off
- Throw Types
 - Straight
 - Spin
 - quick pitch

Defensive:

- Blocking Reaction Time
- Blocking Movement Time
- Blocking Range Laterally
- Blocking Range Vertically
- Smooth Block Form
- Shifting
- Defensive Cover
- Penalty Block Accuracy
- Loose Ball Chase

Game Tactics:

- Court Awareness
- Teammate Awareness
- Reading Opposing Team
- Listening to Coach Call
- Following Coach Game Tactics

Performance Services:

- Concentration
- Goal Setting
- High Performance Under Pressure
- Nutrition and hydration habits
- Sleep quality and duration
- Core stability
- Power
- Strength
- Explosiveness
- Mobility
- Anaerobic Endurance
- Aerobic Endurance