

**USA WRESTLING**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2016 OLYMPIC GAMES**  
**Men's Freestyle**  
**August 28, 2015**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

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

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

Athlete must be a national of the United States at the time of nomination.

Athlete must hold a valid U.S. passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Games.

1.1.2. Minimum International Olympic Committee (IOC) standards for participation:

Any competitor in the Olympic Games must be a national of the country of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) which is entering such competitor. For additional information regarding an athlete who is a national of two or more countries, has changed his or her nationality or acquired a new nationality, refer to the IOC Charter (Rule 42), or the PASO Statutes (Article XXII, Sections 4 and 5).

1.1.3. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation (if any):

Athlete must be 18 years of age or older on or before December 31, 2016; however, athletes born between 1 January 1998 and 31 December 1998 will have to provide a medical certificate and authorization of a parent or legal guardian to UWW.

1.1.4. Other requirements (if any):

Athlete must be a current Athlete member of USA Wrestling in good standing.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Provide the event names, dates and locations of all trials, events and camps to be used as part of the selection process.
- 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling: Iowa City, IA, held on April 8-10, 2016
- 1.2.2. Provide event names, dates, locations and description of how athletes qualify for the trials, events and camps listed above in 1.2.1. (if any).

The athlete must first qualify for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling through the following process.

NOTE: There is no requirement to have a certain number of athletes entered to compete within any given weight category at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling.

#### **Past USA Olympic and World Medalist**

Any past USA Olympic and/or World medalist from 2012, 2013 or 2014 is automatically qualified to enter the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling.

#### **2015 Senior World Championships September, 2015**

Any 2015 World Championship Medalist in an Olympic weight will earn an automatic berth into the final wrestle-off (i.e., Part Two) at that respective weight in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling.

#### **2015 Senior World Championships September, 2015**

2015 World Championship Team members from each of the 8 weight categories will earn a spot into the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling at the weight they choose.

#### **2015 Bill Farrell International Open November, 2015**

The highest placed USA athlete per weight category winning a medal who has yet to qualify will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling.

#### **2015 U.S. Olympic Trials Qualifier December, 2015**

The top 7 finishers per weight category at the USA Wrestling Olympic Trials Qualifier will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.

**2016 Dave Schultz Tournament**

**January, 2016**

The highest placed USA athlete per weight category winning a medal who has yet to qualify will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.

**2016 Pan American Championships**

**February, 2016**

Any USA champion will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.

**2016 Pan American Olympic Qualifier**

**March, 2016**

The USA athlete who qualifies the Olympic weight category at the Pan American Olympic Qualifier will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.

**NCAA Division I Championships**

**March, 2016**

The 2016 NCAA Division I champion will earn a spot in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling at the weight category they choose.

**Final U.S. Olympic Trials Qualifier**

**April, 2016**

The champion of this event per weight category will qualify for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling. Athletes who have already qualified will not be allowed to compete in this event.

- 1.3. Provide a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how athletes will go through the selection process to become Team nominees (include maximum Team size).

The 2016 Olympic Team will be comprised of a maximum of six athletes - one athlete within each of the six Olympic weight categories (57kg, 65kg, 74kg, 86kg, 97kg, 125kg). The 2016 Olympic Team will be determined based on results at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling as described below.

NOTE: An athlete who has qualified to compete in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling through any of the methods outlined above may declare

any weight category he chooses to compete in at trials regardless of the weight category in which he qualified. Should any 2015 World Championship medalist choose to compete at a different weight in which he medaled, he will NOT earn the automatic berth in the new weight category he enters. Each athlete must declare his weight category just prior to the scheduled weigh-ins at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.

## **2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling**

**April 8-10, 2016**

The tournament procedures for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling will be posted at: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Wrestling/Team-USA/Team-Selection-Criteria>.

### Determining seeds for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling

- (1) Wrestlers will be seeded by a seeding committee. Majority vote is classified as the majority of the total number of voting representatives present in the meeting. If a majority vote can't be reached on a motion, then the vote will be taken down to the top 2 athletes receiving votes. All voting representatives will be required to vote as there will be no abstentions allowed.
- (2) The seeding committee shall consist of one coach or representative from each of the USAW registered clubs entered in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials - Wrestling, as well as two or more athlete representatives. Individuals who are not members of a club will be represented by a member of the seeding committee designated by the President of USA Wrestling.
- (3) National Team Head Coach will vote only in the case to break a tie.

### Seeding Criteria

- a. A 2015 World Championship team member who qualifies the weight for the 2016 Olympics will automatically receive the #1 seed at the same weight category in which he qualified, with medalists earning an automatic berth to Part Two as explained below.
- b. Ranked criteria to be used when voting on seeds will be limited to the following:
  - i. Head to head within the last year. The "last year" is defined as the 2015 World Team Trials up to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling.
    1. If there is a split in matches, the last win determines the top seed.

- ii. Common opponents within the last year as defined above.
- iii. Medalist at a United World Wrestling (UWW) calendar event within the last year as defined above.
- iv. Majority vote will decide the higher seed if there are multiple medalists.

### **Weight category with a 2015 World Championship medalist**

#### **1. Part One (Olympic Team Trials Tournament)**

Part One will determine who will wrestle the 2015 World Championship medalist (the 2015 World Championship medalist earns a bye-out of Part One, provided he is competing in the same weight category in which he won his World Championship medal). The finals of Part One will be a single match unless there is a delay to Part Two, in which case Part One will be the best of three matches. (For information regarding a delay to Part Two, see below.)

#### **2. Part Two (best of 3 match final wrestle-off)**

The winner of Part One will face the 2015 World Championship medalist in a best of three matches.

Both Parts One and Two of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials – Wrestling will be held on the same day, except when a request for delay is granted for Part Two.

#### Request for Delay Due to Injury or Illness

- Only a 2015 World Championship medalist in an Olympic weight category who earned an automatic berth into the final wrestle-off can request a delay for competing in Part Two for medical reasons at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled weigh-in time (no request for delay will be allowed, or granted, with less than 48 hours before weigh-in).
- The request must be submitted in writing to the Freestyle Sport Committee Chair for review, to include a written certification of the injury or illness from a USA Wrestling-approved medical doctor. USA Wrestling's approval of a medical doctor will not be unreasonably withheld.
- If a certified medical doctor's note is provided within the appropriate timeframe to support a 2015 World Championship medalist's request for a delay, the request for a delay in competition will be granted. If a delay is granted, the Freestyle

National Coach with the two athletes involved shall determine the date for conducting Part Two of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling. If an agreement cannot be reached by the two athletes involved then the Freestyle Sport Committee will determine the date and place. The wrestle-off, or Part Two, must be held prior to the sport entry deadline of June 18, 2016.

The winner of Part Two shall be USA Wrestling's designee for the Olympic Games. However, if a delay was granted and if for any reason the 2015 World Championship medalist does not compete, or is not able to compete, in Part Two prior to the sport entry date of June 18, 2016, the winner of Part One shall be declared the winner of Part Two and will be USA Wrestling's designee for the 2016 Olympic Games.

If the winner of Part One does not compete, or is not able to compete, in Part Two (whether or not in the case of a granted delay), the 2015 World Championship medalist shall be declared the winner of Part Two and will be USA Wrestling's designee for the 2016 Olympic Games.

**Weight category does not have a 2015 World Championship medalist**

**1. Part One (Olympic Team Trials Tournament)**

The finalists of Part One will compete in a best of three matches to determine who will be USA Wrestling's designee for the 2016 Olympic Games.

**Weight categories are not qualified into the 2016 Olympic Games prior to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling**

All Olympic weight categories will be contested at the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling, regardless of whether or not it has been qualified into the 2016 Olympic Games at that point. In this case, USA Wrestling would have to qualify the weight category at one of the following World Olympic Games qualifying tournaments.

**World Olympic Games qualifying tournament - 3<sup>rd</sup> phase  
April 2016 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**

**World Olympic Games qualifying tournament - 4<sup>th</sup> phase  
May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey**

The winner of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling tournament will then compete in the qualifying event(s) listed above. If for any reason the Olympic Trials winner is unable to compete in the event(s) listed above, a replacement will be determined in accordance with 4.1.1. In any case, if the weight category is qualified via the event(s) listed above, the winner of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling will be USA Wrestling's designee for the 2016 Olympics, regardless of who qualifies the weight category.

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

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

N/A

2.2. List the discretionary criteria and explain how they will be used (if any):

N/A

2.3. Provide the name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles currently serving on the committee:

N/A

2.3.1. Specify the process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee.

Any member of the selection committee that has a possible conflict of interest must disclose it. If such conflict exists, the selection committee member must recuse him/herself from committee discussions and voting. Further, the committee member should not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the nomination process. However, a committee member who recused him/herself, but who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a national team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and the committee member who declared the conflict of interest does not vote toward the final decision.

## **3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES**

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

An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Wrestling may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Wrestling:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Wrestling CEO/Executive Director.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Wrestling. If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USA Wrestling, his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Violation of USA Wrestling's Code of Conduct (Attachment A).
- 3.1.4. Not following the mandated weight control plan as mutually agreed upon by the athlete and National Coach. In an effort to maximize performance, all Olympic team members will have a mandated weight control plan. Each wrestler will meet with the Freestyle National Coaching and Medical Staff to lay out his particular plan. Failure to follow the plan may be grounds for removal from the team.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USA Wrestling's Constitution and Bylaws per Article XI-XIV and the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. Once an athlete nomination is accepted by the USOC, the USOC has jurisdiction over the Team, at which time, in addition to any applicable USA Wrestling Code of Conduct, the USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures apply. The USOC's Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman/Resources/Code-of-Conduct>

<http://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Governance-Documents>

- 3.3. An athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of IOC, PASO, IPC, WADA, IF, USADA and/or USOC anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures, as applicable.

#### **4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES**



4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement athlete(s) should a vacancy occur:

4.1.1. prior to submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

**Weight category is qualified for the Olympic Games prior to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling**

If for any reason a replacement athlete is needed, the next ranked athlete from trials at the weight category in question will be selected, up to and including the fourth-ranked athlete, from the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling provided the replacement is substantially completing the requirements of the Olympic Team Training Camp (see Section 9 below) as determined by the National Coach.

**Weight category is not qualified into the Olympic Games prior to the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling**

If for any reason a replacement athlete is needed for the World Olympic Games qualifying tournament(s) listed at the end of 1.3., the next ranked athlete from trials at the weight category in question will be selected, up to and including the fourth-ranked athlete, from the 2016 U.S. Olympic Trials - Wrestling provided the replacement is substantially completing the requirements of the Olympic Team Training Camp (see Section 9) as determined by the National Coach.

4.1.2. after submission of Entries by Name to the Local Organizing Committee, including any applicable group or committee:

See Section 4.1.1.

**5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

USA Wrestling will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

**6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

In addition to the USOC Code of Conduct, the following documents are required to be signed by an athlete as a condition of nomination to the Olympic Games and are included as attachments:

USA Wrestling Code of Conduct – Attachment A

## **7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES**

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

7.1. NGB Web site: [www.teamusa.org/usa-wrestling](http://www.teamusa.org/usa-wrestling)

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

7.2. Other: N/A

## **8. DATE OF NOMINATION**

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOC on or before:

June 18, 2016

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

Specify the location, schedule and duration of mandatory training and/or competition:

The date of the 2016 Team Training camp has yet to be determined. The Team will be required to attend and participate in the Team Training Camp as determined by the National Coach. The training camp schedule will be set at least six months prior to the Team selection. The schedule will be worked out through the Freestyle National Coach.

In an effort to maximize performance, all Olympic team members will have a mandated weight control plan (see 3.1.4.). Each wrestler will meet with the Freestyle National Coaching and Medical Staff to lay out his particular plan. Failure to follow the plan may be grounds for removal from the team.

## **10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS**

Athletes must adhere to all IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the IOC, IPC, PASO, WADA, IF, USADA and USOC Rules, as applicable.

## 11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

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

Freestyle Sport Committee:

Mike Duroe – At Large	Kerry McCoy – At Large
Jamill Kelly – Athlete	Greg Strobel – Chair
Mark Reiland – JOWC	JD Bergman – Athlete
Coleman Scott – Athlete	Dave Foxen - Federation of Clubs
Sam Julian – USWOA	Sean Bormet – CC
Bruce Baumgartner – At Large	Bruce Burnett – National Coach

## 12. NGB BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The USA Wrestling Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found at:

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Wrestling>: 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.

## 13. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or UWW rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PASO, as applicable, and/or UWW 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.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures will be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.




## 14. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN

Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USA Wrestling may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Email at [Kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:Kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- <http://www.teamusa.org/Athlete-Resources/Athlete-Ombudsman>

## 15. NGB SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by our IF and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USA Wrestling.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
NGB President or CEO/Executive Director	Rich Bender		9/1/15
Nat. Team Coach, Head Coach, or Nat. Program Director	Les Gutches		9/1/15
USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative*	Marcie Lane - Van Dusen		9/2/15

\* If the 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.

\* Signature by the Athlete Representative constitutes that he/she has read and understands the Selection Procedures. If the Athlete Representative reads and does not agree with the Athlete Selection Procedures being submitted by the NGB, he/she may submit those reasons in writing to his/her Sport Performance Team.

\* If, for some reason, a sport does not have an elected USOC AAC Representative, the NGB must designate an athlete from that sport to review and sign the Selection Procedures.

## 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 an anti-doping rule 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 United World Wrestling (UWW) rules;
- am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule 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 UWW;
- 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 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
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I may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman  
at 719-866-5000 or [athlete.ombudsman@usoc.org](mailto:athlete.ombudsman@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

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Relationship (Parent or Guardian)

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- 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 an anti-doping rule 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 United World Wrestling (UWW) rules;
- am not currently serving a sanction for an anti-doping rule 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 UWW;
- 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;
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- 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
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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

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Relationship (Parent or Guardian)