



**Tennis – Athlete Selection Criteria**  
**2017**  
**Part A – General Application Process**

**Time Frame**

1. All athletes shall submit a letter of interest to the Tennis Team Director by Karl Reddy. Athletes are identified as those who meet the Mandatory Eligibility Requirements provision of the Selection Procedures herein and register with the United States Tennis Association (hereinafter “USTA”), Deaf Sports Organization, and USA Deaf Sports Federation (hereinafter “USADSF”) as a member.
2. In accordance with the registration deadline established by International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (hereinafter “ICSD”), those athletes eligible under ICSD and USADSF regulations and registering to compete in the 2017 Deaflympics shall be verified by the USA Tennis Selection Committee prior to being nominated to the USADSF Board of Directors as the Tennis teams (the “Final Roster”). Once the nominations are accepted by USADSF Board of Directors, the Final Roster shall become the Tennis Teams to the 2017 Deaflympics. The selections shall be based upon the Selection Criteria provision herein.
3. Those athletes who are registering for, qualifying for and competing in USADSF-sanctioned national and ICSD-sanctioned international between 2014 and 2017 are considered as a member of the USA Deaf National Team.

**Mandatory Eligibility Requirements**

- 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, (<http://www.deaflympics.com/forms/audiogram.pdf>).
- 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 2017 Deaflympics.

- H. Maintain contact with the Tennis Team Director and USA Team coaching staff and keep informed about training regimens and competition results from time of selection until the 2017 Deaflympics.
- I. Exhibit good sportsmanship and character.
- J. Sign and abide by USADSF's *Code of Conduct* and any other applicable forms.
- K. Commit to participation in a training camp.
- L. Commit to fundraise to cover expenses for training camp and 2017 Deaflympics.
- M. Complete the USA 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 2017 Summer Deaflympics.

### **Selection Criteria**

The selection criteria are as determined by ICSD Technical Regulations for 2017 Deaflympics, which are available on the ICSD website (<http://www.deaflympics.com/sports.asp?regulation=te> ).

### **Selection Process**

The Selection Committee shall review the resumes and interview each chosen applicant if necessary. The interviews may be conducted in person, via videophone or by e-mail. The Selection Committee shall make a final decision based on the interviews and qualifications.

### **Selection Committee**

USA Deaf Tennis Selection Committee is composed of 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 Deaf Tennis of USA (hereinafter "DTUSA") who meets the USADSF definition of an athlete.

## **Part B – Athlete Selection Process**

### **Press Releases:**

These selection procedures shall be published on USA Deaf Sports Federation's website ([www.usdeafsports.org](http://www.usdeafsports.org)) within ten (10) days of approval of the criteria by USADSF. Information regarding USADSF-sanctioned DTUSA events shall be distributed through, but not limited to, e-mail, e-list, affiliated tennis organizations (DTUSA 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 DTUSA. Training occurs at the discretion of the athletes and/or their designated coaches or trainers.

### **Removal Procedures:**

The USADSF Board of Directors shall reserve the right to remove any athlete 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 Karl Reddy, Team Director.
- 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 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 DTUSA Team Director, in consultation with the USA 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 Deaflympics 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 DTUSA, he/she may contact the USADSF *Chief Policy Officer* at [salit@usdeafsports.org](mailto: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 DTUSA. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen and intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.