

2026 Pan Am M&F Cup Team Selection Principles and Procedures

Tournament Name: 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup (Men's and Women's Team)

Dates: February 12-15, 2026

Location: Guatemala City, Guatemala

Tournament Prospectus: <https://www.badmintonpanam.org/?p=14881>

Coach and Staff Selection – Revised by HPC [January 11, 2026] to clarify staff roles; no changes were made to athlete selection criteria or athlete eligibility. Changes are marked in RED.

Principles:

Pan Am M&F Cup

- BWF/BPAC Regulations govern the team size (maximum of 10) for the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup, which will determine the teams that represent the Pan Am region in the 2026 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals. The dates of the Nationals were selected so as not to conflict with BWF or Pan American events; however, the dates are in close proximity to the BWF World Tour Finals in China.
- USA Badminton shall only send U.S. athletes to the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup & Thomas & Uber Cup Finals who participate in the 2025 BWF World Tour Finals **or** who qualify through the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals Selection Procedure as detailed below.
 - A. The selection event aims to identify two teams, Men's and Women's, of ten (10) players each for the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup.
 - B. USAB reserves the right to add additional players to the Pan Am M&F Cup team according to the Selection Procedure as described below in the "Athlete Addition Procedure" and "Athlete Replacement Procedure".
 - C. In the event that the USA Men's/Women's team qualifies for the 2026 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, and player withdrawal(s) happen(s) after the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup and before the 2026 Thomas & Uber Cup Finals, additional players will **not** be added to the team to fill the maximum team size (10 players). However, if the number of players left on the team does not meet the minimum requirement set by BWF (4 players per team), additional players will be added (according to the Athlete Replacement Procedures as described below) till the minimum number required by BWF/BPAC is met.

Procedures:

- The BWF and BPAC control the maximum number of players that can be nominated by each member association to compete in the Pan Am M&F Cup and Thomas & Uber Cup. USAB reserves the right to select a team for these events within these guidelines.

- The USAB Team for the Pan Am M&F Cup and Thomas & Uber Cup Finals will consist of ten (10) players for each team emerging from the 2025 BWF World Tour Finals and the Adult Nationals.
- Doubles players are selected as a pair. If a doubles player rejects an invitation to the Pan Am M&F Cup, the partner will also be removed from the respective team unless she/he has qualified for the team based on their 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals singles result.
- If a player retires or gives a walkover in any match that is part of the selection event with a forced withdrawal being recorded in other selection events, they will not be able to play any other matches in the selection events. The player will keep the spot in the tournament for the loss in those matches and still be eligible for team selection in that event if they qualify. *****The “selection event” mentioned here refers to the Singles, Men’s Doubles, and Women’s Doubles events in this tournament. Mixed Doubles is not part of the selection; therefore, this rule does not apply to the Mixed Doubles event.***
 - A. If a player decides to withdraw from consolation matches after losing in the Main Draw in one of the selection events (singles, men’s doubles, women’s doubles), the player will have a penalty for other selection events (if any) in accordance with the retirement and walkover and default rules implemented for the selection events (singles, men’s doubles, women’s doubles).
 - 1. If the withdrawal is due to unforeseeable emergent situations (i.e. family emergencies, natural disasters), the retirement and walkover and default rules will not apply to other selection events (if any). Players will need to notify the referee team and tournament director over email IMMEDIATELY with documentation of the incident/situation. If the player failed to inform the referee team and tournament director over email in a timely manner, once the forced withdrawal (walkover) is put in the Tournament Software, it cannot be changed.
 - B. Before the tournament draw is published, a player may withdraw from any event without penalty. Once the tournament draw is published, any withdrawal is treated in accordance with the retirement and walkover and default rules for the events included in the selection event (singles, men’s doubles, and women’s doubles).
- **Examples**
 - 1. **Player A** walks over his singles match but still has his doubles final to play. He will not be able to play the doubles final and will be awarded 4th place in singles and 2nd place in doubles. As mixed is not part of the selection event, he could still play in any remaining XD matches if he wishes.
 - 2. **Player B and Player C** are playing the WD quarter finals, and **Player B** is still in Singles. **Player C** has to retire due to injury. **Player B and Player C** will be awarded the 8th place in doubles. **Player B** will still be able to play her singles matches
 - 3. **Player D and Player E** are playing doubles, singles and mixed. **Player D and Player E** do not show up for their Doubles match and are defaulted (opponent won by walkover). They will not be able to play singles and a

forced withdrawal will be shown in the singles draw. They both will still be able to play mixed doubles as this is not part of the selection event.

4. **Player F and Player G** are playing doubles, singles and mixed. They have played and won a mixed match and are still in singles and doubles. They walkover their next mixed match as this is not part of the selection event, and they can keep playing singles and doubles.

Ten (10) women and ten (10) men will be selected for the USAB team for the Pan Am M&F Cup from the BWF World Tour Finals and the Adult Nationals. The Pan Am M&F Cup Team will be the same team for the Thomas & Uber Cup finals. The following are selected on the team first:

- Any **singles** participant in the BWF World Tour Finals, plus the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Singles finishers at the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals accepting entry to the Pan Am M&F Cup Finals. If there are no U.S. singles participants in the BWF World Tour Finals, the 4th place Singles finisher at the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals accepting entry to the Pan Am M&F Cup Finals will also be selected.
- Any **doubles pair** in the BWF World Tour Finals, plus the 1st and 2nd Doubles finishers at the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals accepting entry to the Pan Am M&F Cup Finals. If there is no U.S. doubles pair in the BWF World Tour Finals, the 3rd place Doubles pair finisher at the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals accepting entry to the Pan Am M&F Cup Finals will also be selected.

This will conclude the selection unless one or more players have qualified in one or more events.

Athlete Addition Procedure:

- Only athletes who competed in the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals (exception for any player participating in the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals) and are injury free will be considered for additions.
- Additions will be necessary if athletes have qualified for the team in more than one event in order to achieve a team size of ten female and ten male athletes for the Pan Am M&F Cup.
- Additions will be based on the following criteria:
 - A. If there is one duplicate (female and/or male), the next top finishing singles player(s) (female and/or male) will be added.
 - B. If there are two (female and/or male) duplicates, the next top finishing doubles pair (female and/or male but not mixed) will be added.
 - C. If there are three duplicates, the next top finishing singles player(s) (female and/or male) and the next top finishing doubles pair (female and/or male but not mixed) will be added.
 - D. If there are four duplicates, the next top finishing two (2) singles players (female and/or male) and the next top finishing doubles pair (female and/or male but not mixed) will be added.

Athlete Replacement Procedure:

- Only athletes who participated in the HSBC BWF World Tour Finals or competed in the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals and are injury free will be considered as replacement athletes.
- If a(n) athlete(s) decline(s) an invitation or withdraw(s) for any reason (injury, other obligations, etc.) which causes the USAB team for the Pan Am M&F Cup to have fewer than ten (10) players, then additional team members will be replaced until the ten (10) player team size emerging from the Nationals is met.
- The process below will be used for replacements
 - A. If a singles player declines an invitation or withdraws from the team
 - 1. The next best finisher in the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals singles event will be named to the team.
 - 2. Step one will be repeated until the team has four qualified singles players (both female & male)
 - B. If a doubles player (pair) declines an invitation or withdraws from the team
 - 1. The next best doubles finishing pair in the 2025 YONEX USA Adult Nationals doubles event will be named to the team.
 - 2. Step one will be repeated until the team has three qualified doubles pairs (female, male).

Pan Am M&F Cup and Thomas & Uber Cup Funding:

- As the purpose of the competition is to vie for excellence as a team, all athletes are equally important to the contribution of the team's performance in the competition; hence, all athletes will receive equal distribution of available funds.
- At present, no USAB funding is available for the Pan Am M&F Cup teams (Men's and Women's). Should funding become available, USAB may pay a stipend as set by the USAB Board of Directors to reimburse the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup teams for travel expenses directly related to the 2026 Pan Am M&F Cup and/or the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals.
- Should any funding be available from BWF and/or BPAC, the funds will be shared between the team.

Coach Selection:

- USAB intends to appoint one(1) Head Coach & Team Manager, one (1) Men's Team Coach, and one (1) Women's Team Coach, a total of 3 team staff members serving the Men's team and the Women's team. Please check [USAB's website](#) for the Coach Selection announcement.
- ~~A USAB staff will serve as the Team Manager for both the Men's and Women's team.~~
- In the event that no qualified candidate applies for the **Head Coach & Team Manager** position, USAB may select a USAB staff member to serve as the Team Manager (they will assume the responsibilities of the Team Manager listed above). In this scenario, the Head Coach's responsibility will be shared among the two Team Coaches.