

## **YONEX U.S. Junior Selection Event for 2026 Pan Am Junior And 2026 BWF World Junior Championships**

**Dates:** April 3-6, 2026

**Location:** Wayside Athletic Club in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Results from the Yonex U.S. Junior Selection Event will be used to determine eligibility for the following events:

**2026 Pan Am Junior Championship** (July 19-26, 2026, in Joao Pessoa - Paraiba, Brazil)

**2026 BWF World Junior Championship** (October 5-18, 2026, in TBC by BWF)

### **Events for Selection**

- Categories: Boy's Singles, Girl's Singles, Boys' Doubles, Girls' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.
- Age Divisions: UNDER-13, UNDER-15, UNDER-17, AND UNDER-19.
- To qualify for an age division, the player's age must be under the age limit as of 12/31/2026.
  - UNDER-19 (born year 2008, 2009 and later)
  - UNDER-17 (born year 2010, 2011 and later)
  - UNDER-15 (born year 2012, 2013 and later)
  - UNDER-13 (born year 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017)

### **Entry Eligibility**

Participation in the U.S. Junior Selection Event is open to athletes who meet the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen and able to obtain a U.S. passport. The passport must be valid six months after the last day of the respective tournament.
- Registering players must be born between January 1, 2008, and December 31, 2017. USAB reserves the right to decline registrations from players who do not meet the age criteria for the respective age group events.
- All players competing in USAB Sanctioned Junior Tournaments/Selection Events are responsible for notifying the USAB National Office and the Tournament Director of the event if they have represented a foreign country/countries. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the player being disqualified from USAB-sanctioned tournaments.
- Players may also be disqualified from the Pan Am Junior Championship and/or the World Junior Championship under the following circumstances:
  - U.S. Citizens
    - U.S. Citizens who are currently competing under the jurisdiction of another country but who have qualified to represent USAB may be removed from the USA team after they have qualified if:

Approved by USAB High Performance Committee on February 24, 2026.

- There is insufficient time prior to the BWF entry deadline to change their jurisdiction back to USA, as it involves the BWF and their current country's approval.
- They are not in good standing with the country they are competing under.
- They are not in good standing with BWF (which may include issues related to misconduct, anti-doping, etc.).

See **Exhibition A** for BWF Statutes on athlete eligibility to participate in International Representation tournaments (including Pan Am Junior Championships and World Junior Championships).

## **Pan Am Junior Championships and World Junior Championships Team Event Overview**

- Both Pan Am Junior Championship and World Junior Championship have an UNDER-19 Mixed Team Event.
- The Team Event format for the Pan Am Junior Championships is based on the Sudirman Cup format (BWF World Team Championships), where each tie consists of 1 women's singles (WS), 1 men's singles (MS), 1 women's doubles (WD), 1 men's doubles (MD), and 1 mixed doubles (XD). **Please note that the PAJC team event COULD be played in the Relay Format. USAB is waiting for confirmation from Badminton Pan Am on this.**
- The Team Event format for the World Junior Championships was changed by the Badminton World Federation and is now a team relay format. USAB is waiting for BWF's announcement on the details of the relay format.
- PAJC and WJC selection criteria will remain valid regardless of the final team event play format.

## 2026 PAN AM JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (PAJC) SELECTION PROCESS

### OVERVIEW

- Location: Joao Pessoa - Paraiba, Brazil
- Dates: July 19-26, 2026
- The BWF and BPAC control the maximum number of players that can be nominated by each member association to compete at the PAJC.
- All participation and confirmation fees for the 2026 Pan Am Championships will need to be paid at the U.S. Junior Selection Event to USA Badminton by PayPal. See **Exhibition B** for the breakdown and amount of the participation check and confirmation check.
- USA Badminton shall only send U.S. athletes to the 2026 Pan Am Junior Championships who qualify through the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event and the procedure as detailed below.
- If the athlete is selected for the PAJC, the parent will ensure that the athlete will abide by the team regulations, including attending team training, staying at the official hotel during the PAJC if required by USAB, and meeting deadlines for documents sent by the USAB National Office and Team Manager(s).
- **HPC Approval Process:** The final selection of an athlete's participation at PAJC shall be approved by the USAB High Performance Committee (HPC; formerly called High Performance Advisory Group, HPAG).
- If BWF or BPAC changes the criteria for participation for athletes, the number of spots allotted to each country, or other changes, USA Badminton reserves the right to modify the published selection procedure to meet the new criteria.

### **Team Event - U19 only** (July 19-21, 2026):

- USAB will select four (4) boys and four (4) girls for the PAJC.
- The aim of the Selection Event is to identify one team of **four (4)** female players and **four (4)** male players for the 2026 PAJC from the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event
- USAB reserves the right to add additional players to the PAJC team according to the Selection Procedure as described below in the "Athlete Addition Procedure" and "Athlete Replacement Procedure."
- If BPAC decides to play the Team Event with a Sudirman Cup Format, the format will be the following:
  - The Pan Am Junior Championships (PAJC) Team Event format is one (1) Boy's Singles, one (1) Girl's Singles, one (1) Boy's Doubles, one (1) Girl's Doubles, and one (1) Mixed Doubles.

### **Individual Event - U13, U15, U17, U19** (July 22-26, 2026):

- USAB will select the top 4 for singles, top 2 pairs for Boys' Doubles (BD) and Girls' Doubles (GD), and top 4 pairs for Mixed Doubles (XD) in the U13, U15, U17, and U19 age groups in the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event.
- In the Pan Am Junior Championships, each selected player is allowed to play in a higher age category, as long as he/she does not play in that/those event(s) in his/her own age category.

### **Withdrawal & Retirement Rule (for both U19 Team and U19-U13 Individual Event)—**

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.

- 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).
  - 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 will not be changed.
  - The above examples are illustrative and not exhaustive; the referee will determine, in its sole discretion, whether a situation qualifies as an unforeseeable emergent situation.
- 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
  - **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.
  - **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.
  - **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 mixed doubles, and a forced withdrawal will be shown in both draws.

## 2026 PAJC Team Event (U19 Only) Selection Process

- 1) Team Size: 4 boys and 4 girls
- 2) Top-placed doubles pairs accepting entry are selected as a pair/team. If one player of the top-placed doubles pairs accepting entry is unable to compete, the other player is consequently not selected (but may be selected by the steps below – “PAJC Rank Order”).
- 3) The top-placed finisher accepting entry in each U.S. Junior Selection event (MS, WS, MD, WD, and MXD) shall be selected.
- 4) USA Badminton reserves the right to revoke the selection of an athlete at USA Badminton’s sole discretion.
- 5) **PAJC Rank Order** — After the top-placed players who accept entry are selected, the following rank order procedure (“PAJC Rank Order”) shall be used to determine additional member(s) for the team:
- 6) The Selection Process for the remaining “Male Players” (the same process will be applicable to Female Players) from the top 8 finishers is as follows:
  - a) The next best finishers accepting entry in all U.S. Junior Selection events will be considered and placed into a pool.
  - b) From the pool, the next best finishers accepting entry will be ranked in the following order: Singles (first), Doubles (second), and Mixed (third).
  - c) Rank Order Tied Situations:
    - i) If athletes’ rank orders are tied, the eligible athletes will be ranked based on their respective highest U.S. Junior Selection Event singles result.
    - ii) If there is no U.S. Junior Selection Event singles result and athletes’ rank order remains tied, they will be ranked based on the U.S. Junior Selection Event doubles result.
    - iii) If there is no doubles result and athletes’ rank order remains tied, they will be ranked by the U.S. Junior Selection Event mixed doubles result.
  - d) If athletes are still tied, then the eligible athletes will be ranked based on the highest USAB Junior Ranking (on the date as specified in the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event prospectus for qualification and entry into the U.S. Junior Selection Event) in the following order: Singles (first), Doubles (second) with any partner, and Mixed Doubles (third) with any partner.
  - e) In a very unlikely scenario, if there is still a tie, the rank order will be determined by HPC, based on but not limited to, past results, playing skills, attitude, etc.
  - f) This process will be continued for next place finishers accepting entry until 8<sup>th</sup> place U.S. Junior Selection Event finishers have been exhausted.
- 7) If slot(s) remain open, the slot(s) will be filled by the HPC at its sole discretion from any top U19 or U17 players in the USAB Junior Ranking.
- 8) For example, two boys, D1 and D2, partner with each other in Boy’s Doubles and win 2<sup>nd</sup> place; D1 is 5<sup>th</sup> in Boy’s Singles and D2 is 7<sup>th</sup> in Boy’s Singles. Both D1 and D2 will be placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers pool. Since D1 has a higher U.S. Junior Selection Event singles result than D2, D1’s rank order will be higher than D2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers pool. The final 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher’s rank order will be:
  - 1 – Boy’s Singles 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher
  - 2 – D1 (as he is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Boy’s Singles)
  - 3 – D2 (as he is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in Boy’s Singles)
  - 4 – Mixed Doubles 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher

## 2026 PAJC Individual Event (U13, U15, U17 & U19) Selection Process

1. Allowed Entries per Country (subject to change by BPAC and BWF)
  - a. Singles (BS/GS) — Up to 4 players each event
  - b. Doubles (BD/GD) — Up to 2 pairs (4 players) each event
  - c. Mixed Doubles (XD) — Up to 4 pairs (8 players)
2. Team members will not be given priority/preference with regard to their entries into the individual competition.
3. Doubles pairs are selected as a pair/team. If one player of a Doubles pair/team rejects selection or is unable to compete, then that player's partner is consequently de-selected in that event.
4. **For (individual event) Boy's Singles and Girl's Singles**, the top four (4) singles finishers of the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event results will be selected (subject to slot availability, determined by BPAC and BWF).
  - a. If there are any slots available, then players will be selected according to their Singles rank order based on the top 8 (eight finishers) of the U.S. Junior Selection Event results. If all top 8 ranked players from the U.S. Junior Selection Event results have been exhausted, then the selection for Singles event shall be deemed as completed.
5. **For (individual event) Doubles and Mixed Doubles events**, the two (2) top Boys' Doubles and Girls' Doubles pairs, as well as the top four (4) Mixed Doubles pairs from the U.S. Junior Selection Event results, will be selected (subject to slot availability, determined by BPAC and BWF).
  - a. If there are still any slots available, then players will be selected according to their rank (as a pair) order based on the top 8 (eight finishers) of the U.S. Junior Selection Event results for the specific event. If after all the top 8 ranked players from the U.S. Junior Selection Event results have been selected, then the selection for the event shall be deemed as completed.
6. USA Badminton reserves the right to revoke selection of an athlete at USA Badminton's sole discretion.

## 2026 World Junior Championships (WJC) Selection Process

### OVERVIEW

- Location: To be determined by BWF
- Dates: October 5-18, 2026  
*The 2026 BWF WJC U19 Team Event will likely be played in the Relay Format. USAB is currently waiting for BWF to announce the details of the Relay Format.*
- USA Badminton shall only send U.S. athletes to the 2026 BWF World Junior Championships who qualify through the U19 age division of the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event and the procedure as detailed below.
- If the athlete is selected for the BWF WJC, the parent will ensure that the athlete will abide by the team regulations, including attending team training, staying at the official hotel during the BWF WJC if required by USAB, and meeting deadlines for documents sent by the USAB National Office and Team Manager(s).
- **HPC Approval Process:** The final selection of an athlete's participation at BWF WJC shall be approved by the USAB High Performance Committee (HPC; formerly called High Performance Advisory Group, HPAG).
- If BWF or BPAC changes the criteria for participation for athletes, the number of spots allotted to each country, or other changes, USA Badminton reserves the right to modify the published selection procedure to meet the new criteria.

### **Team Event** (October 5-10, 2026):

- USAB will select five (5) boys and five (5) girls for the WJC.
- The aim of the Selection Event is to identify one team of five (5) female players and five (5) male players for the 2026 BWF WJC from the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event.
- USAB reserves the right to add additional players to the WJC team according to the Selection Procedure as described below in the "Athlete Addition Procedure" and "Athlete Replacement Procedure."
- The BWF controls the maximum number of players that can be nominated by each member association to compete at the World Junior Championships. USAB reserves the right to select a team for these events within these guidelines.
  - The USAB team for the BWF WJC Team Event will consist of ten (10) players emerging from the U19 age group at the Selection Event. Five (5) women and five (5) men will be selected for the USAB team.
  - Doubles players are selected as a pair. If a doubles player rejects an invitation to the WJC Team Event, the partner will also be removed from the respective team unless she/he has qualified for the team based on their 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event results in singles or mixed doubles. The same applies for Mixed Doubles players.

### **Individual Event** (October 12-18, 2026):

- See the section below for the number of players/pairs that will be selected for each event for the 2026 BWF WJC Individual Event from the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event.

### **Withdrawal & Retirement Rule (for both U19 Team and U19 Individual Event) —**

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.

- 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).
  - 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 will not be changed.
  - The above examples are illustrative and not exhaustive; the referee will determine, in its sole discretion, whether a situation qualifies as an unforeseeable emergent situation.
- 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
  - **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.
  - **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.
  - **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 mixed doubles, and a forced withdrawal will be shown in both draws.

## 2026 BWF WJC Team Event (U19 Only) Selection Process

- The following are selected to the team:
  - Top 2 singles finishers in women's singles and in men's singles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the BWF WJC Team
  - Top one doubles pair finisher (in women's doubles and in men's doubles) at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Team
  - Top one mixed doubles pair finisher at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Team
- 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 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event 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 five (5) female and five (5) male athletes for the BWF WJC Team
  - Additions will be based on the following criteria:
    - If there is one duplicate (female and/or male) the next top finishing singles player(s) (female and/or male) will be added.
    - 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.
    - 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.
- Athlete Replacement Procedure:
  - Only athletes who competed in the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event 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 WJC Team Event to have fewer than ten (10) players, then additional team members will be replaced until the ten (10) player team size emerging from the Selection Event is met.
  - The process below will be used for replacements:
    - If a singles player declines an invitation or withdraws from the team:
      - The next best finisher in the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event singles event will be named to the team.
      - The step above will be repeated until the team has two qualified singles players (both female and male).
    - If a doubles or mixed player declines an invitation or withdraws from the team:
      - The next best doubles or mixed doubles finishing pair in the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event doubles or mixed doubles event will be named to the team.
      - The step above will be repeated until the team has one (1) qualified doubles pair (female, male & mixed).

## **2026 BWF WJC Individual Event (U19 Only) Selection Process**

- USA is eligible for the following EYE-LEVEL CUP Individual Event slots due to USA finish at No. 7 at the 2025 BWF WJC Team Event:
  - 4 MS players
    - Top four (4) singles finishers in men's singles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Individual Event
  - 4 WS players
    - Top four (4) singles finishers in women's singles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Individual Event
  - 3 MD pairs
    - Top three (3) doubles pair finishers in men's doubles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Individual Event
  - 3 WD pairs
    - Top three (3) doubles pair finishers in women's doubles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Individual Event
  - 4 XD pairs
    - Top four (4) doubles pair finishers in mixed doubles at the 2026 U.S. Junior Selection Event accepting entry to the WJC Individual Event

## **Exhibition A**

### **BWF Regulation**

**6.3.** A Player shall be qualified to represent a Member, providing the Player is in good standing with that Member and satisfies Regulation 6.3.1:

**6.3.1.** Is eligible as follows: Has not represented any other Member for three years immediately preceding the date of the Tournament, and either:

- Holds a passport of a country whose territory the Member has jurisdiction over; or
- Holds a passport of a country, where such passport is the generally accepted passport of the territory the Member has jurisdiction over (e.g. Players from New Caledonia holding a French passport); or
- A Player who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as the Player may elect. However, after having represented one country the Player may not represent another country unless the Player meets the conditions set forth in Regulation 6.3.1 that apply to Players who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality; or
- Has been registered under that Member as a “Registered Player for Entry” (Member name shown for the Player on the World Ranking and/or World Junior Ranking) for a period of minimum 3 years immediately preceding the date of the Tournament.

## Exhibition B

### PAN AM JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP - Participation and Confirmation Fees

Pan Am Junior Championships Deposits			
Purpose	Amount	Who Collects & When	Conditions
Payment #1 PAJC Participation Fee (made through PayPal)	<b>\$260</b>	Made to USA Badminton near the end of the tournament  There will be a QR code to scan for payment through PayPal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If selected for PAJC, and the player goes to PAJC, the payment will be used for PAJC entry fee, apparel, administration fee, and other expenses.</li> <li>2. If selected for PAJC, and the player does not go to PAJC for any reason and at any point, the payment will be added to the Junior Development Funds.</li> </ol>
Payment #2 PAJC Confirmation Fee (made through PayPal)	<b>\$290</b>	Made to USA Badminton near the end of the tournament.  There will be a QR code to scan for payment through PayPal.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If selected for PAJC, and the player turns down the selection immediately, the payment will not be collected.</li> <li>2. If selected for PAJC, and the player does not go to PAJC for any reason at any point, the check will be added to the Junior Development Funds.</li> <li>3. <b>If the selected player participated in the tournament, the refund will be made 2 weeks after the conclusion of the 2026 PAJC Individual Event.</b></li> </ol>

**PARENTS — IMPORTANT REMINDER:** For PAJC entries to be VALID, the following payments must be completed by the end of the tournament (before the completion of the award ceremony).  
All players who would like to be considered for the PAJC must pay both the Participation Fee and the Confirmation Fee.