



TAEKWONDO CANADA

Internal Qualification Process

Pre-Qualification and Selection
Process for Los Angeles 2028
Olympic Games
Continental Qualifier

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Pre-Qualification and Selection Process for Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games Continental Qualifier

OVERVIEW

Taekwondo Canada will be hosting a pre-qualification tournament and selection process in eligible Olympic Weight Classes in order to determine entries for the Pan American Qualification Tournament for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28). The selection of athletes will precede Taekwondo Canada's evaluation and determination of which weight classes will be selected for entry.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this criteria is to select Taekwondo Canada's athletes for the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.
- 1.2 **Objective:** The objective of this document is to have a fair and transparent selection process which selects the best athletes and divisions to represent Canada.
- 1.3 **Participation of Taekwondo Canada:** Taekwondo Canada can send one (1) athlete per Olympic Weight Class, up to a maximum of two (2) athletes per gender. Available weight classes will be dependent on the Qualification Pathway outlined in the "Qualification System – Games of the XXXIV Olympiad – LA28" document (see Appendix A).
- 1.4 **Rationale:** The eligibility criteria to participate in the Taekwondo Canada Pre-Qualification and Selection Process towards Pan American Qualification for LA28 has been created with a primary goal of providing the greatest potential for Taekwondo Canada to qualify additional athletes for LA28. This pre-qualification and selection process is the first of two steps towards Olympic qualification via the continental tournament pathway.

2. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All athletes wishing to compete at the Taekwondo Canada Pre-Qualification tournament and selection process to attend the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28 must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- 2.1 **Must have been born on or before December 31, 2010.**
- 2.2 Must be a registered participant in good standing with Taekwondo Canada.
- 2.3 Must be a Kukkiwon Dan holder.
- 2.4 Must hold a valid World Taekwondo Global Athlete License.
- 2.5 Must be eligible to represent Canada at major international events under the eligibility requirements of World Taekwondo (WT) and Taekwondo Canada.
- 2.6 Athletes must be Canadian citizens to represent Canada at official international events or to compete at national championships.
- 2.7 Must not be serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation or be under a provisional suspension following the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation by either WT, Sport Integrity Canada (SIC) or any other Anti-Doping Organization.
- 2.8 Should any of the eligibility requirements enumerated above change between the time of publication of this document and the time of the event for reasons that are beyond the control of Taekwondo Canada, all athletes will be promptly notified.

3. ATHLETE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN ELEGIBILITY

- 3.1 Athletes must maintain ongoing eligibility requirements in accordance with [Section 2](#) above.
- 3.2 Athletes must declare to Taekwondo Canada any injury or illness (as soon as possible after it arises) that can affect their training preparation for the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.
- 3.3 A medical report (from a Taekwondo Canada recognized medical staff member) can be requested.

4. LOSS OF ELIBIGILITY STATUS

- 4.1 An athlete's eligibility may be withdrawn at any time, even after notification, acceptance, or signing of an Athlete Agreement, if in the opinion of Taekwondo Canada, an athlete has failed to:
 - 4.1.1 Fulfill eligibility to be selected and be invited (to the team or as an alternate);
 - OR
 - 4.1.2 Fulfill ongoing obligations under this policy.

5. REPLACEMENT OF AN ATHLETE

- 5.1 Should an injury or unforeseen circumstance prevent a selected athlete from competing at the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28, the athlete must immediately notify Taekwondo Canada in writing.
- 5.2 An alternate athlete may be named as the replacement. No entry will be made in the respective weight class if the alternate athlete is also unable to compete.
- 5.3 The decision to enter athletes to a particular weight class will be made at the sole discretion of Taekwondo Canada's High Performance Director (HPD).

6. AMENDMENTS AND UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

- 6.1 Any changes to this document shall be communicated directly to all affected parties. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials which formed part of the Internal Qualification Process (IQP) unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. This is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. In the event of a change to this document, Taekwondo Canada shall republish an amended IPQ immediately.
- 6.2 In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Taekwondo Canada that prevents the HPD from fairly implementing these IQP as written, Taekwondo Canada's Executive Director (ED) shall have the full discretion to resolve the matter as they see fit, considering factors and circumstances that they deem relevant.
- 6.3 In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the selection process to be fairly and objectively applied, the HPD in consultation with the ED, reserves the right to rule on an appropriate course of action.
- 6.4 The HPD reserves the right to review and modify any selection criteria or decision related to the selection process in the case of rule or policy changes from WT that affect the IQP set out in this document. In the event that the IQP are modified, Taekwondo Canada will promptly post an announcement on its website announcing the changes.
- 6.5 Further, situations may arise that do not allow the IQP to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including selection to teams, will be made by Taekwondo Canada's HPD, in accordance with the selection principles as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Taekwondo Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

- 6.6 Should it be necessary to cancel or postpone any event specified in this IQP that is conducted under the authority of Taekwondo Canada, such decision shall be made by the relevant person(s) or body within Taekwondo Canada under whose authority the event was originally to be held.
- 6.6.1 Decisions to cancel or postpone any event specified in this IQP shall be made:
- i. Only when necessary, such as when it has become impossible or unreasonably difficult to hold the event at all or on the originally scheduled date.
- AND
- ii. As soon as reasonably possible after Taekwondo Canada has become aware that the event cannot be held.
- 6.6.2 If any event specified in this IQP is canceled, Taekwondo Canada shall determine whether it is feasible to reschedule the event in a different location and on a different date than previously scheduled and shall communicate any such decisions to reschedule the event to all impacted individuals as soon as reasonably possible, taking into account the time needed for athletes to prepare for the rescheduled event and for any logistical matters in relation to the event to be addressed, including, but not limited to, any matters related to Taekwondo Canada's organization of the event, as well as athlete and athlete entourage travel to the location of the rescheduled event.
- 6.6.3 Taekwondo Canada may also determine, at its sole discretion, following consultation with the relevant and necessary individuals and/or committees within Taekwondo Canada's structure, to hold alternative replacement events or assessments for the purpose of nomination to the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28, but only where feasible and where the selection procedure indicated in this IQP, including the stated performance objectives, are not prejudiced.
- 6.6.4 Should any event specified in this IQP be canceled, postponed, rescheduled or replaced, Taekwondo Canada shall update the selection procedures indicated in this IQP, as applicable, as soon as reasonably possible and shall communicate any modifications to all impacted individuals, as well as publish the modified IQP on its website, prior to the postponed, rescheduled or replacement event.
- 6.6.5 Decisions made pursuant to this clause shall not be subject to appeal and do not apply to the cancellation of events that are conducted under the authority of organizations other than Taekwondo Canada.
- 6.7 Taekwondo Canada recognizes that athletes, athlete entourage and staff may, for safety reasons decide not to travel to and participate in events indicated in this IQP that will be used for nomination to the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28, even in circumstances when the event may proceed as planned, and even when Taekwondo Canada has decided host the event following consultation with medical and public health safety experts, that it is safe to do so.
- 6.7.1 In such circumstances, athletes will be responsible for any impact that their decision may have on their 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28 status, and their ability to obtain selection to the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.

7. PRE-QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 7.1 Weight Classes
- 7.1.1 Weight classes will be as per the WT Senior Olympic Weight Classes.
- 7.1.2 All eligible WT Olympic Weight Classes will be contested.
- i. Eligible WT Olympic Weight Classes are defined as the WT Senior Olympic Weight Classes that do not have a Canadian athlete with a ranking in the Top Six (6) WT Olympic Ranking as of the **January 2028** WT ranking update.
 - ii. In the event that a Canadian athlete that is ranked in the Top Six (6) WT Olympic Ranking as of the **January 2028** WT ranking update does not earn a quota allocation through to the close of qualification through WT Olympic Ranking and reallocation timeframe as published in the Qualification System – Games of the XXXIV Olympiad –

LA28 document, that athlete and respective weight class will be entered into the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.

7.2 Athletes will be eligible to register for the tournament if they meet the following minimum criteria:

7.2.1 Athletes with a ranking in the Top thirty-two (32) in a WT Olympic Weight Class as of the **December 2027** WT ranking update will be eligible to register for the tournament in that same weight class.

OR

7.2.2 Within the qualification period from July 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2027 athletes have earned forty (40) WT ranking points attributed to a WT Olympic Weight Class.

i. Any WT Olympic Weight Class points earned prior to July 1st, 2026, will not count towards the minimum required forty (40) points.

OR

7.2.3 Within the qualification period from July 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2027 athletes that have earned at least two (2) top three (3) finishes at WT Calendar G2, G3, or G4 events will be eligible to register for the tournament.

7.2.4 Athletes that have earned the minimum required forty (40) WT ranking points attributed to a WT World Olympic Class and/or at least two (2) top three (3) finishes at WT Calendar G2, G3, or G4 events must enter into their WT declared Olympic Weight Class as per the WT Ranking Bylaw:

Men's Division		Women's Division	
World	Olympic	World	Olympic
-54, -58, -63kg	-58kg	-46, -49, -53kg	-49kg
-63, -68, -74kg	-68kg	-53, -57, -62kg	-57kg
-74, -80, -87kg	-80kg	-62, -67, -73kg	-67kg
-80, -87, +87kg	+80kg	-67, -73, +73kg	+67kg

7.2.5 Pre-Qualification Tournament Format

- Best of 3 rounds format using double elimination system with all athletes seeded according to the January 2028 WT Olympic rankings.
- With the exception of Article 7.2.5.i, the latest published WT Competition Rules & Interpretation shall be applied.

7.2.6 The top two (2) athletes that reach the Finals of Taekwondo Canada's Pre-Qualification Tournament in each Olympic Weight Class will be required to participate in both the 2028 Canada Open and 2028 US Open WT events, and enter both tournaments at their pre-qualified Olympic weights.

8. EVALUATION & DETERMINATION OF ATHLETES AND WEIGHT CLASSES FOR ENTRY INTO THE 2028 PAN AMERICAN QUALIFICATION TOURNAMENT FOR LA28

After athlete selection and all mandatory events have been completed, Taekwondo Canada will undergo a review and evaluation in order to determine which of the eligible weight classes will be entered into the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28. The following factors will be used in the selection of weight classes for entry (not in priority order):

8.1 The results from the 2028 Canada Open and 2028 US Open will be evaluated both in terms of the relative placement of the two pre-qualified athletes, as well as their match results against other Pan American Taekwondo Union (PATU) region athletes.

AND

8.2 The ranking of the selected athlete in the corresponding WT Olympic Weight Class as of March 1, 2028.

AND

- 8.3 The relative ranking of the selected athletes in the corresponding WT Olympic Weight Class when only other PATU region athletes are included.

AND

- 8.4 Past performance history of the selected athlete.

- 8.4.1 The past performance history will include (but is not limited to):

- i. Results at past World Championships, WT Grand Prix Series events, Pan American Games, Pan American Championships
- ii. Match performance results in the Olympic Weight Class.
- iii. Head-to-head match history vs other PATU region athletes.

AND

- 8.5 The relative ranking of the selected athlete in the corresponding WT Olympic Weight Class with respect to what Taekwondo Canada predicts as other PATU region federation entries into the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.

- 8.5.1 While there may be a consultation process involving other PATU region federation representatives, Canadian coaches, and Taekwondo Canada members, the final determination of this relative ranking will be at the sole discretion of Taekwondo Canada's HPD based on the information available and the balance of probabilities.

The evaluation and determination process for selecting athletes and weight classes for entry into the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28 will consider all of the factors listed in this section in their entirety. No single factor will receive predetermined weighting or priority. The final assessment and decision will rest solely with Taekwondo Canada's HPD, whose discretion will be exercised to achieve the stated objective of this IQP.

As the published Qualification System – Games of the XXXIV Olympiad – LA28 document includes direct qualification processes that may occur after Taekwondo Canada's Pre-Qualification Tournament towards Pan American Qualification for LA28, athletes that earn quota spots through WT Olympic Ranking or the WT Grand Slam Champions Series will take priority over Taekwondo Canada's pre-qualification process. This may make an Olympic Weight Class no longer eligible for the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28.

9. APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCESS

- 9.1 Final decisions on the selection of weight classes for entry and athlete selection to those weight classes shall be made by Taekwondo Canada's HPD.
- 9.2 Any dispute relating to Taekwondo Canada's IQP for the 2028 Pan American Qualification Tournament for LA28 must follow Taekwondo Canada's appeal procedures in place at the time the criteria were published, and can be found at: <https://taekwondo-canada.com/about-us/bylaws-policies/>.
- 9.2.1 Appeals of Selection Criteria shall be made in writing to the Independent Third Party.
- 9.3 Final decisions on the selection of athletes to participate in a specific event shall be made by the HPD.
- 9.3.1 Appeals on matters of team selections can be brought directly before the Sport Dispute Resolution Center of Canada (SDRCC).
- 9.4 Issues not otherwise addressed by this selection document shall be resolved by the HPD

10. FUNDING

- 10.1 Funding for any associated mandatory event attendance and/or determined training camps will be dependent on the Taekwondo Canada high performance event budget.

CONTACT

For clarifications or questions on the contents of the Selection Criteria, please contact either Allan Wrigley awrigley@taekwondo-canada.com or Brittany Rich brich@taekwondo-canada.com.