

Sprint & Slalom

Direct Athlete Support will be given to athletes who meet the Team USA Athlete Definition or, if needed, have evidence to show an athlete's trajectory is on target to meet the Team USA Definition moving into LA 2028, and have signed a 2026 Athlete Agreement.

Tier 1 qualification: monthly award to athletes who earned Olympic medals at consecutive Olympic Games.

Tier 2 qualification: monthly award to athletes who medaled at the 2024 Olympics or who achieved a Podium finish at the 2025 Senior World Championships.

Tier 3 qualification: monthly award to athletes who finished within 5% of the winning time in an A Final at the 2024 Olympics or qualified for the A final at the 2025 World Championships or won a gold medal (top 1) at the 2025 ICF Canoe Sprint U23 World Championships.

Tier 4 qualification: monthly award to athletes who qualified for the A Finals at a 2025 World Cup or who qualified for the A Finals at the 2025 Junior/U23 World Championships.

Elite Athlete Health Insurance Criteria

Athletes who meet the Team USA athlete definition and who meet Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 criteria will receive EAH and awarded at the beginning of 2026.

2025 Qualifying Events for 2026 EAH

2025 Sprint and Slalom World Championships

All results and rankings to award EAH will be determined following the completion of both Sprint and Slalom World Championships and the end of Season 2025 ICF World Ranking (must be in the Top 20)

2026 Qualifying Events for 2027 EAH:

2026 Sprint and Slalom World Championships

All results to award EAH will be determined following the completion of both Sprint and Slalom World Championships.

Slalom World Championships - Oklahoma City, USA

Sprint World Championships - Poznan, Poland

Paralympic

Athlete Support will be given to athletes who meet the Team USA Athlete Definition and if needed, evidence to show an athletes' trajectory is on target to meet the Team USA Definition moving into LA 2028 and have signed a 2026 Athlete agreement.

Tier 1: Athletes achieving the finishing placement positions and finishing time standards based upon the ACA Paracanoe EAP standards at the following events:

- 2025 ICF Paracanoe World Championships: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 10% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.
- 2026 ICF Paracanoe World Cups: Top-3 A-Finalist meeting a 10% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.
- 2026 ICF Paracanoe World Championships: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 10% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.

Tier 2: Athletes achieving the finishing placement positions and finishing time standards based upon the ACA Paracanoe EAP standards at the following events:

- 2025 ICF Paracanoe World Championships: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 12% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.
- 2026 ICF Paracanoe World Cups: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 12% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.
- 2026 ICF Paracanoe World Championships: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 12% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.
- 2026 ICF Paracanoe World Cups: A-Finalist or Top-3 B-Finalist meeting a 12% ACA Paracanoe EAP standard within respective event.

Elite Athlete Health Insurance Criteria (EAHI)

Athletes meeting the USOPC's Team USA Definition criteria will be eligible for EAHI. In the event that there are more athletes eligible than available EAHI slots allocated to the ACA, the following event results will be considered in the following priority order to offer EAHI slots. Additionally, a tie break procedure will be applied as necessary to factor in first the athletes with the highest finishing placement within their respective event, followed by a tie breaker to the athlete meeting a faster relative ACA EAP Standard percentage. EAHI slots will be awarded at the start of each Period:

Period 1: January 1st, 2026

2025 World Championship Athletes achieving a finishing placement within their event's respective A-Final and/or Top-3 B-Final with a finishing time equating to at least 12% of ACA's EAP Standard

2024 Paralympic Games – Athletes finishing within their events respective A Final

2024 Paralympic Games - Athletes finishing within their event's respective B Final.

Period 2: September 1st, 2026

2026 World Championships- Athletes achieving a finishing placement within their event's respective A-Final and/or Top-3 B-Final with a finishing time equating to at least 12% of ACA's EAP Standard.

2026 World Cups – Athletes achieving a finishing placement within their event's within respective A-Final and/or Top-3 B-Final with a finishing time equating to at least 12% of ACA's EAP Standard