



**Para Athlete Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026**

Attendees:

USA Archery Staff: Mary Emmons, Samantha Bauer

Para AAC: Wendy Gardner, Karen Sternfeld, Jason Tabansky, Ben Thompson, Kevin Mather

Absent: Andrew Pike

2027/2028 Para International Events

Emmons provided an overview of the 2027/2028 international events calendar. Para U.S. Team trials events will be held for the following international events (dates and locations estimated):

1. 2027 Para Pan Am Games
 - a. Event Date: Aug 13-22, 2027: Lima, Peru
2. 2027 Para World Championships
 - a. Event Date: October 4-10, 2027: Australia
3. 2028 Paralympic Games
 - a. Event Date: August 15th-27th, 2028: Los Angeles, CA

2027 Para U.S. Team Trials Schedule

Emmons provided an overview of the proposed 2027 national events calendar and various options for Para U.S. Team trials events to be held in conjunction with USAT and/or as stand-alone events (dates and locations were estimated):

1. 2027 Para U.S. Team Trials Timing: Two options were provided for the 2027 Para U.S. Team Trials events:
 - a. Host two separate trials events to select athletes to the Para Pan Am Games and Para World Championships team(s) or;
 - b. Host both trials events concurrently to select athletes to both international teams.
 - i. The Para AAC requested that the U.S. Team Trials events be held concurrently to name the team(s) for both the Para Pan Am Games and the Para World Championships events.

2. Para U.S. Team Trials Format/Scheduling: Emmons presented the Para U.S. Team Trials general format and the option to complete the trials at one or more 2027 USAT events. In addition, Emmons presented the proposed 2027 USAT schedule and overall national/international events calendar and explained that for purposes of timing USAT #3 (June) would likely be the best calendar option to begin the Para U.S. Team Trials for both events. With this schedule the teams would be named following USAT #4 (July).
 - a. The below format was presented to the Para AAC, which was supported (ranking points weighting was not discussed in this meeting):
 - i. Stage 1- USAT #3 72 Arrow Round #1
 - ii. Stage 2- USAT #4 72 Arrow Round #2
 1. Cut to top 8 after Stage 2
 - iii. Stage 3- Stand Alone Event after USAT #4
 - a. 7 Round Robin Matches
 - b. Emmons stated the next step would be to develop the selection procedures for all events. During this process athlete eligibility, ranking points and weighting would be reviewed.
 - i. As related the Para AAC expressed support for all athletes being required to register and participate in all stages of the trials, even if less than 3 athletes registered for the trials event. This is important to demonstrate commitment to participation and to gain more experience in the rounds conducted internationally.
 1. A guideline will be added to allow an athlete to miss a trials event prior to the cut to top 8, in alignment with the Policy for missing a required event in case of documented extenuating circumstances.
3. 2027 International Event Calendar: Emmons presented the tentative 2027 Para World Series schedule to the committee and stated until the calendar is confirmed USAA will not know which Para WRE event a team will be funded to in addition to the Para World Championships and Para Pan Am Games. Emmons stated teams are selected to Para WRE events held prior to June 15th based on the Para NRS as of 12/31.
 - a. Emmons provided recommended teams selected for international events that occur after June 15th (and after the conclusion of Para U.S. Team Trials) be selected based on the results of the trials.

- i. The Para AAC also recommended for events June 15th or later the Top 8 athletes in the Para U.S. Team Trials results would be offered the funded Para WRE international team positions followed by the para NRS 60 days prior to the event, where possible.
4. International Classification and Credentials: Emmons explained requirements for international classification and continued efforts to work with WA and IPC to create more flexibility in where international classifications can be obtained. Likewise, USAA continues to advocate for mandatory credentials at delegation events for an athletes' shooting assistant if designated on a classification card, followed by PCA's if possible. These two items continue to be known issues and can cause barriers to athlete participation.

Para Talent ID Program

1. Emmons introduced the new Para Talent ID Program to be launched by USAA on National Disability Day. The program goal is to recruit new para athletes to the sport of archery and to try to earn/fill all Para Archery quota slots for LA28 and to maximize medal opportunities. There will be increased focus on under-represented Para categories. Digital marketing efforts will be ongoing through USAA channels as well as other adaptive partner organizations. Athletes are encouraged to share the program through their networks in addition. A Para Talent ID Camp will be held fall 2027 to help identify and fast track selected athletes to prepare them for the 2028 Stage 1 Paralympic Games Trials.

Quick Links to USAA Resources

- [Para Athletes Stipends and Support Programs](#)
- [A Quick guide to Athlete Safety Procedures](#)
- [Short Term Training Program Policy and Application](#)
- [Athlete Ombuds](#)
- [Athlete Selection Procedures](#)
- [Team USA Eligibility](#)