



**Para Athlete Advisory Council  
August 25th, 2026  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

USA Archery Staff: Sara Crowell, Samantha Bauer

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

1. 2027 National Event and U.S. Team Trials Schedule

Crowell provided an overview of the 2027 national event and U.S. Team Trials Schedule. Para U.S. Team Trials for Para World Championships and Para Pan Am Games will happen at the following USAT events:

- Stage 1: SoCal Showdown- May 20-24
- Stage 2: Lancaster Archery Showcase- June 24-27
- Stage 3: Standalone event following Lancaster Archery Showcase- June 28

2. 2027 Para Pan Am Games and Para World Championship Athlete Selection Procedures

Crowell presented the Para Pan Am Games and Para World Championship athlete selection procedures. The committee asked to review the feedback from the survey sent out to Para USAT regarding the procedures. Bauer mentioned there was very minimal participation in the survey and no informative feedback was provided.

Crowell mentioned that both procedures are similar to previous years. Crowell stated that following differences between the two selection procedures

- Citizenship
  - US citizenship is required to be named to the Para Pan Am Games team but it is not required to be named to the Para World Championship team. Para World Championship team will allow foreign national team transfer athletes to be named.

- Team Allotments
  - Crowell stated that the Parapan American Games quota opportunities are expected to be two places each for recurve and compound and one place each for W1 men and women. The Para World Championships will name three athletes per gender and discipline.

Crowell stated that there will be one registration fee for both the Para Pan Am Games trials and Para World Championships Trials in addition to registration for the individual USAT event.

Crowell mentioned that athletes will need to have an international classification by Stage 2 of the trials. Staff will communicate available classification opportunities, medical-intake deadlines, and related requirements through newsletters and direct outreach.

- As related the Para AAC expressed support for all athletes getting internationally classified by stage 2 of the trials as there are several opportunities to get internationally classified by this stage and any additional opportunities are unknown.

Crowell presented and explained the process for each stage and the point distribution. The committee had no objections.

Crowell asked for the committee to review the tie breaker process and provide any feedback.

Crowell presented the committee a possible medal-contender clause for a highly accomplished athlete who misses part of trials because of illness, injury, or another extraordinary circumstance.

- The committee raised fairness and implementation concerns.
- The committee also saw benefits to the clause as a high level athlete was recently injured and had to miss the required event this year and had it been the trials USA Archery would miss out on sending the best team.
- The decision was made that USA Archery will draft a possible model, including eligibility standards and a top-eight pathway, for committee review and consideration.

Crowell asked the committee for feedback on exemptions for missing Stage 1 of the trials. The committee had no concerns and supported the decision as it would allow USA Archery to send the best team.

### 3. Para USAT Athlete Selection Procedures

Bauer presented updates to the Para USAT Selection Procedures as related to how the 2028 Para USAT will be named. The number of USAT events has increased for 2027 but the number of events needed to make Para USAT will remain the same. Key updates included:

- 2027 Required Event – SoCal Showdown (also Stage 1 of the Para Pan Am Games Trials and Para World Championship Trials)
- New weather language addresses disruptions to the event schedule and informs athletes they need to modify their travel schedules, if and when applicable.
- The MQS deadline is proposed to move from December 31 to November 1 based on the 2027 outdoor event calendar concluding prior.

### 4. Para Head Coach Position Description

Crowell presented the Para Head Coach position description that incorporated athlete feedback from the survey sent to Para USAT on leadership, team culture, communication, availability, and support.

- The Para AAC brought up concerns that the description should more strongly emphasize equipment troubleshooting and repair capability.
- It was also mentioned that because one coach may not have equal recurve and compound expertise and that International Team Staff selections should intentionally fill technical gaps.

The next steps of the Para Head Coach search is to post the position publicly, with the goal of making the selection before year-end.

### 5. Para Talent ID Program Update

Crowell provided a Para Talent ID program update. Crowell stated 127 applicants applied for the program and 15 athletes were identified to participate in a try-out camp in Colorado Springs to be held September 6-10. Athletes will be evaluated at this camp to determine if they will move to the next process of the program as outlined in the Para Talent ID program guide.

### **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](#)