



Para Athlete Stipends and Support Programs

UPDATED: AUGUST 2026

A. Eligibility Guidelines (Para)

To receive Elite Athlete Stipends and/or Elite Athlete Health Insurance, athletes must:

- Be a citizen of the United States and/or meet all World Archery (WA) eligibility requirements to compete for USA Archery (USAA) internationally and be actively working towards, meeting all eligibility requirements to compete for USAA in the following Paralympic Games;
- Be a member of the current year Para United States Archery Team (USAT);
- Meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria required for each payment period;
- Commit to a program of preparation with the intent of qualifying for and competing in the next Paralympic Games;
- Be actively competing in a Para division of domestic and international events;
- Have a current USAA membership;
- Have a current U.S. Center for SafeSport training;
- Have a current USAA Background Screen;
- Have a current International Para classification;
- Be compliant with current USADA and WADA whereabouts standards and practices and all anti-doping policies and procedures;
- Have a signed USAA Athlete Agreement on file for the current year;
 - Athlete Agreement: Elite Athlete Stipends and Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) will only be provided to athletes who are currently training and competing in the same discipline they earned a national ranking the previous year. Each athlete recipient will be required to execute an agreement with the USOPC and will also be required to sign an Athlete Agreement with USAA, outlining the athlete's commitment with respect to a required training program, camps and events and compliance with USOPC and USAA policies and procedures. If an athlete fails to maintain a Para national ranking and/or does not participate in required events or prep camps (see Appendix A) or violates their athlete agreement, the Elite Athlete Stipend and EAHI may be eliminated, reduced or given to the next highest ranked athlete who meets the eligibility criteria, on a case-by-case basis, pending approval by USAA and the USOPC. Please note that USOPC Elite Athlete Stipends may increase or decrease from year to year, and the number of athletes supported may increase or decrease from year to year.
 - High Performance Program Agreements: Athletes in the National Elite Program or Regional

Elite Program will be required to sign a separate High Performance Program Agreement, which outlines the specific additional requirements, rules and expectations of each program, respectively.

- **USADA Training:** Athletes are required to attend one FREE USADA online training annually. USA Archery will provide the online training schedule, and athletes are required to self-register.
- **Pregnancy Clause:** An athlete who meets the eligibility criteria for EAHI and/or Elite Athlete Stipends at the time of pregnancy will continue to receive EAHI and/or the same Elite Athlete Stipend amount for the duration of the pregnancy, plus for an additional one-year period from the date of birth of the child or end of pregnancy, provided that the athlete remains eligible to receive the Elite Athlete Stipend and agrees that it is their intent to return to competition at an elite level. Receipt of these benefits shall not be conditioned upon any agreement that the athlete must continue to train during pregnancy or for the one-year period after the birth of the child or end of pregnancy. Upon the conclusion of the one-year period, the athlete will then have to re-qualify for EAHI and/or the Elite Athlete Stipend.
- **Medical Leave of Absence:** Athletes who cannot currently train or compete for more than two consecutive quarters (6 months) due to a medical leave of absence will not receive the Elite Athlete Stipend for the 2nd quarter and subsequent quarter thereafter if they are not actively training and/or competing. Upon return to training, the Elite Athlete Stipend will be awarded once the athlete achieves at minimum, the Para USAT MQS, at a USAA sanctioned national level event, U.S. Team Trials or world ranking event post return to training. If all necessary requirements are met, the athlete's stipend will be awarded the following quarter. No retroactive Elite Athlete Stipend payments will be made.
- **Suspension:** When a provisional USAA membership suspension has been imposed, the USOPC shall suspend and accrue Elite Athlete Stipend payments prior to a final determination of any violation. If an Elite Athlete Stipend payment has been accrued and the athlete is subsequently found not to have committed a violation, the Elite Athlete Stipend payment accrued shall be paid to the athlete. For EAHI, no consequences will occur until after a final determination of a rule violation has been found.

B. 2026 Elite Athlete Stipends and Support Programs provided by the USOPC

Total: \$66,000

Non-Op Gold Event Year

Up to the top three (3) ranked archers, per gender and division, as of December 31st, 2025, in the USAA Para USAT Rankings who meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria will receive an Elite Athlete Stipend in January and March. Ties for the 3rd place will be broken by the athlete's placement at the most recent USAT required event in the 72 Arrow Qualification Round (total score), followed by X's and then 10's. To maintain eligibility, athletes ranked in the top three (3) must participate in the 2026 required camps or events (see Appendix A).

Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria: January to March

In addition to meeting the eligibility guidelines in Section A., athletes must meet one of the following performance requirements:

- a. Earn an individual medal at the 2025 Para World Championships; or
- b. Achieve the 2025 Elite Standard MQS (See Table 1.) at least once at a USAT Series Event, U.S. Team Trials event or World Ranking Event between January 1st and December 1st, 2025

Table 1: 2025 Elite Standard MQS*

DIVISION	72 ARROW ROUND SCORE
Compound Men Open	682
Compound Women Open	672
Recurve Men Open	627
Recurve Women Open	592
W1 Men	647
W1 Women	620

***The Elite Standard MQS scores are based on 80th percentile average of qualification round scores shot at the last three Para World Championships.**

Table 2. Elite Athlete Stipends to be Paid Monthly January to March

Payment Month	Elite Stipend Amount (to be equally distributed to eligible athletes)
January	14,000
March	14,000

Up to the top three (3) ranked archers, per gender and division, as of June 1st, 2026, in the USAA Para USAT Rankings who meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria will receive an Elite Athlete Stipend in June and September. Ties for the 3rd place will be broken by the athlete's placement at the most recent Para USAT required event in 72 Arrow Qualification Round (total score), followed by X's and then 10's. To maintain eligibility, athletes ranked in the top three (3) must participate in the 2026 required camps or events (see Appendix A).

Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria: June and September

In addition to meeting the eligibility guidelines in Section A., athletes must meet the following performance requirements prior to the month of payment:

- a. Achieve the Para Elite Standard MQS within the current calendar year (see Table 1.)

Table 4. Elite Athlete Stipends to be Paid June and September

Payment Month	Elite Stipend Amount (to be equally distributed to eligible athletes)
June	15,500
September	15,500

Medalist Incentive Bonus / Enhanced Operation Gold (\$7,000)

The following performance incentive is intended to reward consistent medalists and top performers. If athletes meet the minimum criteria for Elite Athlete Stipends in Section A. and B., and medaled at the 2025 World Championships, they will additionally receive the following payments:

Payment Month	2024 Paralympic Medalist and 2025 World Championships Medalist	2025 World Championships Medalist
January	\$750	\$500
March	\$750	\$500
June	\$750	\$500
September	\$750	\$500

Note: An athlete may only qualify for one supplemental payment per period, regardless of number of medals earned at the 2025 Para World Championships.

C. Operation Gold

N/A

D. Elite Athlete Health Insurance

Designated Team USA athletes are eligible to receive health insurance through the USOPC's Elite Athlete Health Insurance Program (EAHI). EAHI is a preferred provider organization (PPO) plan. For EAHI program information contact eahi@usopc.org.

EAHI Minimum Eligibility Criteria and Additional Information:

- EAHI minimal eligibility will be based on the USOPC Team USA Eligible Athlete Definition. For more information, visit <https://www.usopc.org/TeamUSA-Eligibility>
- USA Archery was awarded six (6) EAHI slots for Para archery
- If an EAHI recipient declines the slot, the slot may not be transferred to the next eligible athlete.
- USOPC Medical Assistance Fund, Psychological Services, and access to the USOPC's Olympic and Paralympic Training Center Sports Medicine Clinic is only available to athletes enrolled in EAHI.
- EAHI will be offered to a max of two (2) athletes per discipline and gender

Recurve Open, Compound Open, W1

August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

Members of the 2025 Para World Championship Team were eligible for EAHI as of August 1, 2025. Those athletes who enrolled in EAHI will remain enrolled through July 31, 2026, barring self-removal or not meeting minimum eligibility standards. This is holdover criteria from 2025.

August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027

Athletes who were named to the team in a funded position and competed at the 2026 World Para Series Leg 2 – Nove Mesto, will be eligible for EAHI. EAHI will be offered to eligible athletes in the following priority order:

1. Athletes who have met the Elite Standard MQS between August 1, 2025 and July 31, 2026. A max

- of two (2) athletes per discipline will be offered EAHl.
2. Followed by the highest Elimination Round placement at the 2026 World Para Series Leg 2 – Nove Mesto (individual events results – max one (1) athlete per discipline, if Criteria 1. was not maximized)

Tie breakers:

Tiebreakers within **different** disciplines will be broken by selecting the athlete with the highest 2026 World Para Series Leg 2 – Nove Mesto 72 Arrow Qualification Round **placement**, followed by X's and 10's.

Tiebreakers within the **same** discipline will be broken by selecting the athlete with the highest 2026 World Para Series Leg 2 – Nove Mesto 72 Arrow Qualification Round **score**, followed by X's and 10's.

E. BENEFITS PROVIDED BY USA ARCHERY

United States Archery Team (USAT) Jerseys

USA Archery provides all athletes named to USAT two free jerseys.

USAT Retail Discounts and Benefits

Athletes named to USAT, may be offered retailer discounts and other equipment at a free or reduced cost. These benefits are subject to change annually, are not guaranteed and vary by team.

Short-Term Training Program

The Short-Term Training Program provides coaching and training access to athletes who desire to represent the U.S. at Para World Championships, Para Pan American Games and/or Paralympic Games and for whom USAA coaches believe are capable of achieving international podium success. Training sites are available in Charlotte, NC and Chula Vista, CA. Funding amounts and program services vary by location and year. Please review the [Short-Term Training Program Guide](#) to learn more about the program and eligibility criteria. Athletes may apply for self-funded training programs.

Para USAT Training Stipends

Up to the top 3 athletes per gender and division named to the 2026 Para USAT will be eligible for a \$500 travel reimbursement. Athletes may request reimbursement for eligible travel expenses according to the USAA travel policy for event registration, airfare, ground transportation or lodging expenses incurred due to participation in the USAA Outdoor Target Nationals and U.S. Open, USAT events or other non-funded WA sanctioned World Ranking events. Funding may also be used for travel costs associated with high performance and/or short-term training programs. Funding may not be requested for event prize pool registration fees. **All reimbursement requests must be made by October 1, 2026.**

Funded International Events and Prep Camps

USA Archery will fund eligible athlete travel to international events (hereafter, required events) outlined in **Appendix A**. Funding is provided for event registration, travel expenses (per the USA Archery travel policy), travel insurance and event uniforms. **Athletes receiving Elite Athlete Stipends and/or EAHl from the USOPC, and/or who are members of the Para USAT team who have a signed USAA Athlete Agreement are required to attend the required events in Appendix A.** Required events will be announced by the end of January annually and are subject to change each year based on fluctuating event schedules. Athletes must maintain their USAA National Ranking to remain eligible for team selection and funding consideration.

Sport Performance Services

Athletes selected to the 2026 Para USAT and/or funded to 2026 international teams will be eligible for Mental Performance and/or Dietician support as funding permits. Athletes are required to provide their own medical insurance and cover out of pocket expenses, if not supported by EAHI.

F. International Event Athlete Selection

The following guidelines apply for athlete selection to Para international events that do not have a U.S. Team Trials process to nominate athletes to a team.

Nationality/Passport requirements:

- ii. To be eligible to participate as a member of a National Team in International Events, an athlete shall have a valid passport from the country of which they are a National Team Member and shall not have represented any other Member Association as a National Team Member for at least one year before the date of the competition. If an athlete wants to compete for a National Team other than the one for which they hold a valid passport, they shall have resided in the new country for at least one year before the date of the competition and shall have the written permission of the Member Association, if any, of the country from which they have a valid passport.
- iii. An athlete who has changed their nationality, or acquired a new nationality, will need to notify World Archery of the change before they compete internationally representing USA and may not represent the USA until one year after such a change or acquisition.
- iv. An athlete who has a valid passport of two or more countries at the same time may represent either of them, as they choose. They shall, however, meet the conditions in i. through iii. above.

Other Requirements:

- o Athlete must hold a valid passport that will not expire for 6 months after the conclusion the event. The valid passport must be presented to USA Archery during the Accept/Decline process.
- o Athlete must have a current international para classification or submit an international medical intake form by the required deadline to attend an international classification panel at the event they will attend.
- o Athlete must be a current member of USA Archery in good standing.
- o Athlete must have met any required minimum scores set by USA Archery or World Archery, if applicable.
- o Any athlete age 18+ will be required to complete and clear a USA Archery background screen prior to the event.
- o Any athlete age 18+ as of the last day of the event will be required to complete the U.S. Center for SafeSport's online training prior to the event.
- o Athlete must successfully complete all Event Registration requirements and pay associated fees, if applicable, by stated deadline.
- o Athlete should review the Personal Coach Policy and the International Events Participation Policy.

Selection to an International Event:

Events Held Prior to June 15th

For Para International events with a closed registration process held prior to June 15th that do not have a unique trials process such as Para World Ranking events or the Para Pan Am Championships, Para USAT members will be given the first opportunity to attend based on their final Para national ranking as of December 31st of the prior year.

- a. If a Para USAT athlete declines to participate or fails to respond by the accept/decline deadline, the available position will be offered to the next highest ranked Para USAT athlete (to include eligible non-Para USAT members with a Para national rank) 60 days prior to the event. This process will repeat itself until all available slots are filled or until all eligible athletes have had the opportunity to accept or decline.
 - i. Non-Para USAT athletes, or Para USAT athletes who lose their USAA national ranking (by not maintaining the required number of USAT events) will be required to self-fund to the event and must provide their own shooting assistant or agent if they indicate on the accept/decline survey they require one.
- b. If additional slots are available after all Para USAT and Para nationally ranked athletes have accepted or declined, non-ranked Para athletes may self-fund to the event if slots are available if they meet all eligibility requirements set forth by USAA and WA to compete internationally for USAA. All athletes must be internationally classified or register for international classification at the event.

Events Held June 15th or Later

If a Para international event with a closed registration process is held June 15th or later, athletes will be invited by order of placement in the current Para national rankings 60 days prior to the event. If the “60-day prior” to the event timing falls over the top of a Para USAT ranking event, the results of the updated Para national rankings upon completion of that Para USAT event will be used to determine the order of selection of the team. If the event invitation is received after the 60 days’ timeframe, individuals will be selected based on the most current Para national rankings as of the date the invitation is received.

- a. If an athlete declines to participate or fails to respond by the accept/decline deadline, the available position will be offered to the next highest nationally ranked Para athlete 60 days prior to the event. This process will repeat itself until all available slots are filled or until all eligible athletes have had the opportunity to accept or decline.
- b. If additional slots are available after all Para nationally ranked athletes have accepted or declined, non-ranked Para athletes may self-fund to the event if slots are available if they meet all eligibility requirements set forth by USAA and WA to compete internationally for USAA. All athletes must be internationally classified or register for international classification at the event.

E. International Event and Camp Funding

Funding guidelines will be announced no later than January of each year and are subject to increase or decrease annually based on fluctuating travel costs and yearly budgets. For 2026, the following funding guidelines will be in place for international events and related camps,

when applicable:

- a. Recurve Open, Compound Open and W1 athletes selected to Para USAT who also have a current Para national ranking at the time of selection will be eligible for funding to the international events and required camps up to the number of positions to be funded (see Appendix A).
- b. Athletes who are not on Para USAT, athletes without a Para national rank and athletes in visually impaired categories may opt to self-fund to international events as slots become available (see Section D).
 - 2026 Para Pan American Championship Exception:
At the time of team selection, self-funded athletes who have met the 2027 Para USAT qualification criteria will be eligible for event funding. USA Archery will provide funding to a max of three (3) qualifying athletes in each discipline and gender category, as further outlined in Appendix A. Athletes receiving funding under this exception should be prepared to provide their own agent, personal coach, and/or personal care assistant, if needed, as USA Archery cannot guarantee support personnel for these roles.
 - Note – Self funded athletes will not be prioritized for coaching and/or other support services at international events and should plan to bring their agent, personal coach and/or personal care assistant, if required.

F. 2027 Elite Stipend Criteria

Para athletes will need to meet one of the following requirements, to be eligible for USOPC Athlete Stipends in 2027:

- a. Achieve the 2026 Elite Standard MQS (See Table 5.) at least once at either a USAT Series Event, U.S. Trials event or World Ranking Event between January 1st and December 1st, 2026; or
- b. Earn an individual medal at the 2027 World Archery Para Championships

Funding will only be provided for up to the top 3 athletes in the Para national rankings per gender and division to include Recurve Open, Compound Open and W1 as of 12/31/26.

Table 5: 2025 ELITE STANDARD MQS	
DIVISION	72 ARROW ROUND SCORE
Compound Men Open	681
Compound Women Open	673
Recurve Men Open	624
Recurve Women Open	597
W1 Men	648
W1 Women	625

***The 2025 Elite Standard MQS scores are based on 80th percentile average of qualification round scores shot at the last three Para World Championships.**

APPENDIX A

2026 Required Events

Required Events and Camps	Event Funding	Travel Stipend Provided
CANCELED -America's Para Cup – Chicago, Sep 23-27	A maximum of 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section E. will be funded.	\$500 Per Funded Athlete
America's Para Cup – Czech Republic, June 28-July 4	A maximum of 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section E. will be funded.	\$500 Per Funded Athlete
Para Pan Am Championships – Lima, Peru, Oct 21-27	A maximum of 3 athletes per category nominated to the team who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section E. will be funded.	\$500 Per Funded Athlete

***International events schedule and dates are subject to change per World Archery and/or local organizing committees. In the case of event cancelation, the event will not be required, and athletes will not receive travel funding or a travel stipend.**