



Para Athlete Stipends and Support Programs UPDATED: NOVEMBER 2024

A. Eligibility Guidelines (Para)

To receive Elite Athlete Stipends and/or Elite Athlete Health Insurance, recurve 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 signed USAA Athlete Agreement on file for the current year;
 - Athlete Agreement: Elite Athlete Stipends and 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 amount 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 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. 2025 Elite Athlete Stipends and Support Programs provided by the USOPC

Total: \$56,000

World Para Championship Year

Up to the top 3 ranked archers, per gender and division, as of December 31st, 2024, in the USAA Para National Rankings who meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria (See Table 1.) will receive an Elite Athlete Stipend in January and March (See Table 2). Ties for the 3rd place will be broken by the athlete's placement at the most recent USAA Target Nationals in the Para division (Total Double 72 Arrow Round Score), followed by 10's and then X's at the same event. To maintain eligibility, athletes ranked in the top three (3) must participate in the 2025 World Archery Para Championships U.S. Team trials event(s) and other required events (see Appendix A).

Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria: January to May

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

- a. Earn an individual medal at the 2024 Paralympic Games; or
- b. Achieve the 2024 Elite Standard MQS (See Table 2.) at least once at a USAT Series Event, U.S. Trials event or World Ranking Event between January 1st and December 1st, 2024

Table 1: 2024 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 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 May

Men's and Women's USA Archery Para National Ranking as of 12/31/24	Dollar Amount to be Equally to Distributed to Eligible Athletes
January	12,500
March	12,500

Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria: June and September

Following the conclusion of the final 2025 World Archery Para Championship U.S. Team Trials, the top three male and female finalists per gender and division who are nominated to the team and who have also met the Para United States Archery Team (USAT) MQS (See Table 3) between January 1, 2025, and the conclusion of the 2025 Para World U.S. Team Trials, will receive Elite Athlete Stipends in June and September (See Table 4). Athletes who do not achieve the Para USAT MQS but are nominated to the 2025 Hyundai World Para Archery Championship, will be eligible to receive the Elite Stipend if they:

- a. *Achieve the Para USAT MQS by the end of August 2025; or
- b. *Earn an individual medal at the 2025 Hyundai World Para Archery Championships

*Elite stipends will not be paid in arrears, but rather will be issued beginning the first payment scheduled (See Table 4.) following the achievement (i.e. September).

Table 3. Para USAT MQS

Category	72-Arrow Round MQS Score
W1 Men	590
Compound Men Open	650
Recurve Men Open	570
W1 Women	520
Compound Women Open	620
Recurve Women Open	530

*The Para USAT MQS is based on the Paralympic Games MQS set by World Archery.

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

2025 Hyundai World Para Archery Championship U.S. Team Trials Final Ranking	Monthly Stipend Amount
June	15,500.00
September	15,500.00

C. Operation Gold

The Operation Gold qualifying event for USA Archery is the 2025 World Archery Para Championships in Gwangju, Korea

In non-Paralympic Games years, Operation Gold is limited to one award per athlete in the Term; athletes who qualify for more than one award automatically receive the higher award. Individuals must finish in one of the top eight places, while teams must finish in one of the top six places at the qualifying event in a discipline on the program of the Paralympic Games to qualify for an Operation Gold Award in a non-Paralympic Games year. For the purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

2025 Operation Gold - Payment Schedule	
Place	2025 (1st Year of Quad)
1st	\$6,250
2nd	\$5,000
3rd	\$4,375
4th	\$3,750
5th	\$3,125
6th	\$3,125
7th	\$2,500
8th	\$2,500

In addition to Elite Athlete Stipends and Operation Gold, the USOPC may provide eligible recurve athletes the following benefits (subject to change based on USOPC funding and/or other limitations):

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.

EAHl Eligibility Criteria

EAHl will be offered, on or before January 31st to the top three eligible Para athletes per gender and division according to the Para National Ranking System as of December 31st, 2024, who also meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria (see Section B). EAHl will be available to these same athletes through May. [Following the nomination of the 2025 World Archery Para Championship Team, EAHl will be offered to the top three Para athletes per gender and division per the 2025 World Archery Para Championship U.S. Team Trials results for athletes who also meet the Elite Stipend Performance Eligibility Criteria \(see Section B\) June through December 31st, 2025.](#)

Mental Health Assistance Fund

The USOPC will provide access to the Mental Health Assistance Fund (MHAF) per the eligibility criteria below:

- 1) All existing EAHl, National Medical Network (NMH), and USOPC mental health resources have been accessed and exhausted or deemed inappropriate.
- 2) Athletes who are training and have either been selected or are in contention to represent the U.S. at the next Paralympic Games OR
- 3) Athletes selected to represent the U.S. in the past two years at an elite competition in an event (i.e. World Archery Para Championships, Para Pan American Championships, Para Pan American Games or Paralympic Games) in a discipline included on the program at the next Paralympic Games, and/or have been selected to represent the U.S. at a similar event in the current or next calendar year.

For MHAF Program information contact mentalhealth@usopc.org or call 719-866-2388.

D. 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 2025 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, 2025.**

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 Athletes Stipends and/or EAHI 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 then end of January annually and are subject to change each year based on fluctuating event schedules.

Sport Performance Services

Athletes selected to the 2024 Para USAT and/or funded to 2024 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.

E. 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.

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 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 16th or Later

If a Para international event with a closed registration process is held June 16th 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.

F. 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 2025, 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 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. Recurve Open, Compound Open and W1 athletes selected to the Hyundai Para Archery World Championships team who have achieved the Para USAT MQS (See Table 3) between June 1, 2024, and June 1, 2025, will be eligible for funding to the event and required camps, when applicable (see Appendix A).
 - o Athletes who self-fund to the Hyundai Para Archery World Championships who win an individual or a team medal will have their travel expenses reimbursed by USAA.
- c. Athletes who are not on Para USAT to include those 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).
 - o 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.

G. 2026 Elite Stipend and EAHI Elite Standard Criteria

Para athletes will need to meet one of the following requirements, to be eligible for USOPC Athlete Stipends and EAHI in 2026:

- c. Achieve the 2025 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, 2025; or
- d. Earn an individual medal at the 2025 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 12/31/25.

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
2025 Required Events

Required Events and Camps	Event Funding	Travel Stipend Provided
America's Para Cup – Mexico, July 16-20	A maximum of 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. will be funded.	\$500 Per Funded Athlete
America's Para Cup - Chicago, Aug 25-31	A maximum of 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. will be funded.	\$500 Per Funded Athlete
Hyundai World Para Archery Championships, Korea, September 20-28	A maximum of 3 athletes per category nominated to the team who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. 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.**