



**Para Athlete Stipends and Support Programs**  
**Last updated: April 2023**

**ATHLETE SUPPORT**

**I. Paralympic Archery**

**A. 2023 Athlete Stipends**

1. Amount Available: \$50,000
2. Eligibility Criteria for Para Athlete Stipends and Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) and other support programs:
  - Must have achieved the 2022 Elite Standard MQS;
  - Must be a member of the current year Para USAT;
  - Be a citizen of the United States and/or meet all World Archery eligibility requirements to compete for USA Archery internationally and be actively working towards, meeting all eligibility requirements to compete for USA Archery in the following Paralympic Games;
  - 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 (if eligible);
  - Have a current USA Archery membership;
  - Have a current U.S. Center for SafeSport training;
  - Have a current USA Archery Background Screen;
  - Have a current valid International Para classification;
  - Be compliant with current USADA and WADA whereabouts standards and practices and all anti-doping policies and procedures;
  - Have signed USA Archery Athlete Agreement on file for the current year;
  - Adhere to training plans provided by USA Archery coaching staff;
  - An athlete who meets the eligibility criteria for EAHI and/or Athlete Stipends at the time of pregnancy will continue to receive EAHI and/or the same amount of qualified USOPC Athlete Stipends for the duration of the pregnancy plus an additional one-year period from the date of birth of the child or end of pregnancy, provided that the athlete agrees that it is her 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 Athlete Stipends.

- Athletes who cannot currently train or compete for more than two consecutive quarters due to a medical leave of absence will not receive an athlete stipend for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and subsequent quarter thereafter they are not actively training and/or competing. Upon return to training athlete stipends will be awarded once the athlete achieves at minimum, the current Para USAT MQS, at a USA Archery sanctioned state, national, USAT 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 payments will be made.

**Para Athlete Stipends and EAHI and/or other support programs will only be provided to athletes who are currently training and competing. Please note that USOPC Para Athlete Stipends may increase or decrease from year to year, and the number of athletes supported by USOPC Athlete Stipends may increase or decrease from year to year.**

A total of \$50,000 will be distributed equally between all eligible athletes quarterly. If athletes are not actively competing and training or fail to maintain a USA Archery Para national ranking, participate in required camps and/or events outlined in Addendum A and their associated trials events, the Athlete Stipend award(s) may be eliminated, reduced or given to the next highest ranked Para athlete who meets the eligibility requirements, on a case-by-case basis, pending approval by USA Archery and the USOPC.

A total of \$50,000 will be distributed equally between all eligible athletes in February, May, August and November.

- February payment- \$12,500 available to be distributed between the athletes on the 2023 Para USAT who met the 2022 Elite Standard.
- May payment- \$12,500 available to be distributed to the athletes on the 2023 Para USAT who met the 2022 Elite Standard.
- August payment- \$12,500 available to be distributed to the athletes on the 2023 Para USAT who met the 2022 Elite Standard.
- November payment- \$12,500 available to be distributed to the athletes on the 2023 Para USAT who met the 2022 Elite Standard.

<b>Table 1: 2022 *ELITE STANDARD</b>	
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>72 ARROW QUALIFICATION ROUND SCORE</b>
Compound Men Open	687
Compound Women Open	678
Recurve Men Open	626
Recurve Women Open	610
W1 Men	655
W1 Women	637

\*The 2022 Elite Standard scores are estimated to be in the range of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of qualification round scores shot internationally between 2017-2021. Athletes were required to meet the 2022 Elite Standard in 2022 to qualify for Athlete Stipends, EAHI and/or other Athlete Support Programs in 2023, pending USOPC Athlete Stipend and other Support Program funding and approval.

3. Stipulations for Athlete Stipends:
  - Each athlete recipient will be required to execute an agreement with the USOPC and will also be required to sign an agreement with USA Archery, outlining the athlete's commitment with respect to training, required camps and events, drug testing, compliance with applicable athlete codes of conduct and other policies and procedures.
  - When a provisional suspension has been imposed, USOPC and USA Archery shall suspend and accrue Athlete Stipend payments prior to a final determination of any violation. If an Athlete Stipend payment has been accrued and the athlete is subsequently found not to have committed a violation, the 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.
  
4. **2024 Athlete Stipend and EAHI Elite Standard Criteria**  
 Para athletes will need to meet one of the following requirements, to be eligible for Athlete Stipends and EAHI in 2024:
  - a. Achieve the 2023 Elite Standard MQS (See Table 2) at least once at either a USAT Series Event, World Ranking Event, Para World Championships or the Para Pan American Games event between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023; or
  - b. Earn an individual medal at the 2023 Para World Championships

<b>Table 2: 2023 ELITE STANDARD MQS</b>	
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>72 ARROW ROUND SCORE</b>
Compound Men Open	686
Compound Women Open	681
Recurve Men Open	625
Recurve Women Open	611
W1 Men	655
W1 Women	629

\*The 2023 Elite Standard MQS scores are estimated to be in the range of the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile of qualification round scores shot internationally between 2018-2022.

**B. Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI)**

Eligibility and Criteria Approved for EAHI:

(Non-Paralympic Year)

Para USAT athletes who achieve the Elite Standard Criteria the prior year will qualify for EAHI the following year provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined above.

(Paralympic Year)

Para USAT athletes who achieved the Elite Standard Criteria the prior year will qualify for EAHI up to the point that the Paralympic Team is nominated, provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined above. Once the Paralympic Team is nominated, only athlete(s) named to the Paralympic Team will be offered an EAHI slot upon acceptance by USOPC of being a member of the Paralympic Team through December 31<sup>st</sup> of that year, if athlete(s) submits all necessary paperwork by the required deadline.

**C. Operation Gold**

In a Paralympic Games year, teams and individuals must place in the top-three at the Paralympic Games to qualify for Operation Gold Awards; multiple Operation Gold Awards can be received if an athlete has multiple top-three finishes at the Paralympic Games.

In non-Paralympic years, Operation Gold Awards are limited to one award per athlete in a program year; 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 to qualify for Operation Gold Awards in non-Paralympic years, provided individuals/teams finish among the top 50% of the individuals/teams who started the event.

For purposes of Operation Gold, a team is defined as three or more athletes (pairs are awarded at the same rate as individual athletes).

<b>Summer Paralympic Sport Payment Schedule</b>	<b>2023 World Para Archery Championships</b>	<b>Paralympic Games</b>
<b>PLACE</b>	<b>3rd Year in Quad</b>	<b>*4th Year in Quad</b>
<b>1st</b>	\$7,500.00	\$37,500.00
<b>2nd</b>	\$6,250.00	\$22,500.00
<b>3rd</b>	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
<b>4th</b>	\$4,375.00	
<b>5th</b>	\$3,750.00	
<b>6th</b>	\$3,750.00	
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	\$2,500.00	
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	\$2,500.00	

#### **D. Mental Health Assistance Fund**

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

- 1) All existing EAHI, 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 who represented the U.S. in the past two years at an elite competition in an event or discipline included on the programs 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.

Please review Appendix B for additional eligibility criteria and MHAF Program information or contact [mentalhealth@usopc.org](mailto:mentalhealth@usopc.org) or call 719-866-2388.

#### **E. International Event Selection**

1. For funded Para International events with a closed registration process held prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> 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 ranking as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year up to the top three or up to the maximum quota slots available if less than three.
2. If a funded Para international event with closed registration is held after June 15<sup>th</sup>, athletes will be invited by order of placement in the current Para national rankings 60 days prior to the event up to the top three or up to the maximum quota slots available if less than three. 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 event will be used to determine the 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.
3. A reasonable deadline for acceptance will be determined for each event. If an athlete declines to participate or fails to respond within the given deadline, then the available position will be offered to the next highest nationally ranked Para athlete (to include non-Para USAT members) 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.
4. If additional slots are available after all athletes who are eligible for a funded position on the team have accepted, other athletes may self-fund to the event if slots are available and if the athlete is internationally classified or internationally classifiable and meets all eligibility requirement set forth by USA Archery and World Archery to compete internationally for USA Archery.

#### **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 2023 the following funding guidelines will be in place for international events and camps:

- Athletes who have not met the International Event MQS within the last 12 months will be eligible to self-fund to international events as slots become available (see Section E). Athletes who self-fund will be required to provide their own agent and/or personal coach.
  - Recurve Open, Compound Open and W1 athletes who have not met the International Event MQS within the last 12 months who self-fund to the

2023 Para World Championships event will be eligible for 2023 Para World Championships event registration and event travel reimbursement if they win an individual or mixed team medal or earn Paralympic Games quota slots for the U.S. at the 2023 Para World Championships event. Travel reimbursements must be requested within 30 days of the event and will be issued in accordance with USAA’s Travel Policy.

- Athletes who are not on Para USAT but met the International Event MQS (See Table 3) within the last 12 months at a sanctioned USA Archery USAT or national level event or World Archery sanctioned international event will be eligible for funding support for international events and related international prep-camps as slots become available to promote athlete development (see Section E).
  - Athletes will only receive funding for this purpose for a maximum of two consecutive years.
- Athletes on the 2023 Para USAT will be funded to international events and camps up to a maximum of three athletes per category or up to the maximum quota slots available if less than three (see Section E).

Table 3: International Event –MQS

DIVISION	72 Arrow Round *MQS
Men’s Individual W1	590
Men’s Individual Compound Open	650
Men’s Individual Recurve Open	570
Women’s Individual W1	520
Women’s Individual Compound Open	620
Women’s Individual Recurve Open	530

\*The International Event MQS is based on the 2024 Paralympic Games MQS.

## **G. Other Support**

### **Travel Stipends**

Athletes who met the 2022 Elite Standard will be eligible for a \$1,000 travel stipend reimbursement. Athletes may request the athlete stipend for reimbursement for eligible travel expenses according to USA Archery’s travel policy (i.e. event registration, airfare, ground transportation or lodging) incurred for participating in the USA Archery Outdoor Target Nationals, USAT events or other non-funded World Archery sanctioned World Ranking events. Funding may also be used for travel costs associated with using funded user nights in Chula Vista, CA. Funding may not be requested for event prize pool registration fees. **All reimbursement requests must be made by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

### **Funded User Nights at the Elite Athlete Training Center**

Eligible Para athletes may apply for funded Short-Term Training at the Chula Vista Elite Athlete training Center (CVEATC). Please review the [Funded Short-Term Training Program Policy and Application](#) for information on eligibility criteria and how to apply. When more user nights are requested than funding available USA Archery will evaluate applications based on Para national rank and equal distribution among male and female athletes within each category.

**Sport Performance Services**

Athletes selected to 2023 Para USAT and/or funded to the 2023 Para World Championship team or Para Pan American Games team will be eligible for USOPC provided \*Sports Medicine, Mental Performance and Dietician support as funding permits. USOPC Sports Medicine support may be accessed at the Chula Vista Elite Training Center only and requires pre-registration.

## APPENDIX A

### 2023 Required and/or Funded Trainings, International Events and Camps

USA Archery will provide funding for eligible athletes to attend the below trainings, international events and camps as noted below, if applicable:

*Required International Events and Camps	Funding Provided For	Travel Stipend Provided (For Mileage, Baggage Fees and/or Meals while traveling)
<b>*Annual USADA/WADA Training - Required</b>	FREE	N/A
<b>*Para World Championships Prep Camp - Required</b>	The top 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. Priority will be given to athletes based on the final Para World Championships Trials Rankings.	Yes – For Funded Athletes (\$500)
<b>*2023 Para World Championships Event - Required</b>	The top 3 athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. Priority will be given to athletes based on the final Para World Championships Trials Rankings.	Yes- For Funded Athletes (\$500)
<b>Para World Ranking Event – Chicago, IL</b>	The top athletes per category who meet the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section E and Section F.	Yes- For Funded Athletes (\$500)
<b>*2023 Para Pan Am Games Prep Camp - Required</b>	The top athlete per category who meets the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. Priority will be given to athletes based on the final Para Pan Am Games Trials Rankings.	Yes-For Funded Athletes (\$500)
<b>*2023 Para Pan Am Games - Required</b>	The top athlete per category who meets the funding eligibility criteria set forth in Section F. Priority will be given to athletes based on the final Para Pan Am Games Trials Rankings.	Yes – For Funded Athletes (\$500)

Dates and locations of events or camps will be announced 45 days prior to each event or camp, when possible. Events and/or camps dates may be modified or extended for due to COVID19 related local, state, or federal government restrictions.

**\*\*Required USAT Events: Athletes receiving athlete stipends and/or EAH from the USOPC or who are on Para USAT are required to attend the necessary amount of United States Archery Team (USAT) qualifier series events to be actively working towards making the Para USAT team for the following year. More information can be found in the United States Archery Team Qualification Procedures and the Para National Ranking System, as well as in the Athlete Agreement. Athletes who cannot attend a required Para USAT event as set forth in this document must adhere to the Policy for Missing a Required Event located at [www.usarchery.org](http://www.usarchery.org).**