

NGB ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES

2004 Olympic Procedures

Soccer – Men

I. Selection System

- A. Prerequisites: Athletes who are citizens of the United States at the time of nomination, and who are eligible under all applicable eligibility rules for participation as defined by the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA), are eligible to be selected as a member of the US Soccer Federation's (USSF) U-23 National (**Olympic Games**) Team Player Pool (Pool). Nominated athletes for the 2004 Olympic Games Team will come from among those athletes who are members of the Pool at the time of the selections.
- B. US Soccer U-23 National (Olympic) Team Player Pool: Athletes who are members of the Pool will include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Athletes selected as a member of the US Soccer U-23 Men's National Team during the 2001-04 quadrennium.
 - Athletes selected as a member of a US Soccer Youth National Teams (U-20, U-18, U-17) during the 2001-04 quadrennium.
 - Athletes identified through US Soccer's Olympic Development Program (ODP).
 - Athletes identified through US Soccer's professional league system (MLS and A-League)

Selection as a member of the Pool during the 2001-04 quadrennium does not guarantee selection to the Pool for the entire quadrennium, nor does it guarantee selection to participate in any future US Soccer Federation programs. The selection procedure for the final Olympic team roster is such that the Head Coach submits a recommended list of athletes to the USSF President, General Secretary and Athlete Representative who meets the USOC definition of an athlete for review and approval.

- C. Ongoing Scouting (Identification / Evaluation): Members of the National Coaching Staff will observe athletes on a regular basis at various events throughout the quadrennium. Some of these events include, but are not limited to: professional league matches and competitions; USSF National Team events; ODP State and Regional tournaments; inter-collegiate competitions; and club tournaments. General Scouting will be conducted so that athletes can be identified who perform at a level consistent with the current international field. Players identified and evaluated through the scouting process will be considered for placement in the Pool, and potentially invited to participate in an Evaluative Event (training camp, foreign tour, etc.). Please see Attachment "A" for an example of USSF's "Scouting / Evaluation Form"
- D. Selection Criteria: In selecting athletes to be members of the U-23 National Team Pool, the USSF coaching staff will consider the information listed below: However, the general philosophy that will prevail throughout our evaluation / selection process will be to identify the athletes that will make up the "best team". In addition, the coaching staff is required to submit individual player evaluations after each event. These evaluations are utilized when making final selections, and will be kept 6 months after the Closing Ceremonies of the 2004 Olympic Games and will be made available to the USOC upon request.
- Current and Past Performance technical, tactical, physical, psychological
 - Other considerations potential to perform under pressure, teamwork, enthusiasm, versatility, maturity, aggressiveness, leadership, competitive spirit, communication

II. Discretionary Selection

- A. Subjectivity: The sport of soccer is not a measured or timed event. In the selection of athletes who will compete together as a team, it is impossible to make selection decisions based solely upon objective criteria. It is the belief of the USSF that selection criteria set out above, which includes subjective components in the evaluation of performance and ability, will result in the selection of the very best athletes to comprise our team.

- Who Selects: For the Olympic Games Team, the Head Coach, with advice from and consultation with his/her coaching staff, submits a recommended list of athletes (18 athletes plus 3 replacement athletes) to the USSF President, General Secretary and Athlete Representative to review and approve for nomination.

III. Evaluative Events

Athletes are evaluated at all U-23 Men's National Team events during the quadrennium. Please find a list of 2003/2004 events below. These events are subject to change. The team will be notified at least 30 days in advance.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| ▪ Training Camp | Nov. 2003 | TBD |
| ▪ Concacaf Qualifying (1 st Round) | Nov. 15-19 | TBD |
| ▪ Training Camp | Dec. 2003 | TBD |
| ▪ Foreign Tour | Jan. 2004 | TBD |
| ▪ Concacaf Qualifying (final round) | February 1-12, 2004 | Mexico |

IV. Publicity/Distribution of Procedures

These selection procedures will be posted on the USSF website, *www.ussoccer.com*, and in USSF's Media Guide, within thirty (30) days of approval from the USOC.

V. Date of Nomination

The US Soccer Federation will submit our final nominated athletes (18 plus 3 replacements) to the USOC for the 2004 Olympic Games by no later than **July 11, 2004**.

VI. Mandatory Training

The only US Soccer mandated training will be a mini-camp (3-4 days) immediately prior to departing for the Olympic Games. In addition, US Soccer will make

concessions for athletes who are unable to attend due to extreme circumstances (e.g. death in the family).

VII. Replacement Players

Should an athlete who is called into an event be unable to participate due to illness, injury or other availability issues (e.g. professional club commitments) that player would be replaced with another athlete within the current National Team Pool. All consideration will be given to the absent athlete so that he/she may resume training with the team as soon as possible. Should it be necessary to replace an athlete who has been nominated to the Olympic Games Team due to injury or illness, that athlete's injury would first need to be certified by a USSF prior to team nomination approval by the USOC by a USOC medical doctor after team nomination approval by the USOC. The athlete would then be replaced by one of the three (3) replacements athletes. The Head Coach submits the recommended athlete(s) to the USSF President, General Secretary and Athlete Representative who meets the USOC definition of an athlete for review and approval.

VIII. Due Process (USSF and USOC)

Any athlete may file a grievance with US Soccer regarding his opportunity to participate in, or attempt to qualify for the Olympic Games. The grievance must be in writing and signed under oath by the athlete making it. The grievance must state the names and addresses of the parties against whom it is made, and must include a complete statement of the acts which constitute the grievance, as well as the relief requested. Grievances are resolved by a hearing committee appointed by the President of the US Soccer Federation, which includes 20% athlete representation who meets the USOC definition of an athlete. A full description of the grievance process can be found in USSF Bylaw 703.

In addition, there is an athlete grievance process through the USOC which is set out in the USOC Constitution & Bylaws (Article IX & Chapter IX) and in the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

IX. USOC Ombudsman

If an athlete has questions regarding his opportunity to compete that are not answered in these procedures, the athlete may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Mr. John W. Ruger, by telephone at **888-ATHLETE** or by e-mail at *john.ruger@usoc.org*.

X. Disclaimer

These procedures are based on IOC, USOC and/or FIFA rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in IOC, USOC and/or FIFA rules will be distributed to the affected athletes as soon as practical. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to the USSF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically have not accounted for every possible contingency.

XI. Athlete Representation

These procedures were developed with the cooperation of US Soccer's duly elected athlete representatives who meet the USOC definition of an athlete. An athlete representative, along with the Secretary General (Executive Director) and the Head Coach, reviews selection procedures, provides input and makes revisions as appropriate.

Attachment "A"

**US SOCCER FEDERATION
Scouting Report Form**
(PRINT USING BLOCK LETTERS ONLY)

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>MI</i>
<input type="text"/>		
<i>Street Address</i>		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<i>Home Phone – (Area Code) Number</i>	<i>Parent / Guardian Names</i>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<i>Date of Birth (Month-Day-Year)</i>	<i>Nationality</i>	<i>US Citizen: YES NO TBD</i>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<i>Club / Team Name</i>	<i>Coaches Name</i>	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Name of Club Director of Coaching

Team Coach Home Phone – (Area Code) Number

Position 1st

Position 2nd

Quality of Game Observed

Name of Competition/Event Observed

EVALUATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Technical Ability									
Tactical Decisions									
Physical Qualities									
Speed									
Personality									
Leadership									
Game Mentality									
Communication									
Dominate Foot									
OVERALL RANKING									

COMMENTS

Date of Evaluation (Month-Day-Year)

Name of Scout Filling Report

Evaluation No

Office Use Only / Head Scout

Office Use Only / Head Scout

Scouting Area