

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in representing the United States and USA Ultimate at the 2021 World U-24 Ultimate Championships. This application includes information for players (and parents, as applicable), information about how to apply and the application itself.

COVID-19

This U-24 cycle is different from any that has preceded it. At all times USA Ultimate will work within its Return To Play Guidelines, and put safety of its members, staff and volunteers as the highest priority. We intend to run the U-24 national team program to the best of our ability, including having tryouts, with the understanding that in person tryouts may not be possible. If that is the case, the coaching staff will find other ways to evaluate players to create a 2021 national team. This may include requests for additional information, interviews, and video tryouts. Some of these selection methods are contemplated in the application below, but no final decisions have been made on how additional information will be gathered.

In addition to uncertainty around team selection, there is a significant amount of uncertainty around the U-24 World Championships themselves. The tournament is scheduled for July 3-10, 2021 in Limerick, Ireland. However, the event will not be confirmed as going forward until December 2020, at the earliest. WFDF is currently waiting for additional information regarding vaccine distribution plans to make final decisions.

It is possible that the event is canceled altogether. In that event, USA Ultimate may still choose to name a national team and create training opportunities for the program, however, no final decisions have been made in that regard.

Throughout this process, USA Ultimate is committed to being flexible, and working with applicants if their situation requires it. We ask that all applicants be flexible and communicative with us as well.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Players eligible to represent the United States and USA Ultimate on the U-24 National Team must meet the following criteria:

- A) Be U.S. citizens or have lived in the U.S. for over 2 years;
- B) Will be current, 2020 and 2021, USA Ultimate members;
- C) Must not turn twenty-four (24) years old before January 1, 2022 (born in 1998 or later);
- D) Have parent/guardian permission (if under 20);
- E) Will agree to abide by the team code of conduct;
- F) Will respect the decisions of the selection committee;
- G) Will be able to attend training camp and the trip to the world championship event.

TRYOUT INVITE TIMELINE

December 6, 2020 (11:59 PM MT): Application and recommendation due

Late January 2021: Applicants invited to tryout camps*

Mid February, 2021: Players invited to tryout camp confirm attendance and pay tryout camp fees

*Applicants not initially selected for an invitation will be placed on a wait list. Applicants may be invited to participate in a tryout off of the wait list at any time.

HOW MANY PLAYERS WILL BE CHOSEN FOR THE U.S. TEAMS?

Coaches will determine the number of players on each team. In the past, 22-28 players have been on each team.

* 1. By selecting "Yes" below, should you be selected to attend tryouts and subsequently selected to be a member of a 2021 USA U-24 National Team, you understand and agree to fulfill the requirements and responsibilities of your membership on the team for the duration of your involvement on this team, from the date of your acceptance of team membership until you are released by your coach and the USA Ultimate Team Leader. A copy of the 2019 Player Agreement laying out team member responsibilities can be found [HERE](#). BEFORE YOU CONSIDER APPLYING FOR THIS TEAM, it is important to fully understand and agree that participation on this team must take precedence over any and all other personal, professional, athletic and educational obligations. Please note that incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Yes

No

* 2. Please also sign the box below to indicate that you fully understand and agree to the requirements outlined above. (First and last name. Please no nicknames).

* 3. HOW WILL THE TEAMS BE SELECTED?

The USA Ultimate National Team's core values are Excellence, Respect, Unity, and Opportunity. With that context in mind, team members will be selected by the Coaches based on many factors: Sport specific criteria includes: excellence in skill, athleticism and spirit, dedication to the sport, ability to be strong teammates in behavior and style of play, and ability to be ambassadors for USA Ultimate. We also value community involvement and work ethic. We want to especially encourage players with unique ultimate backgrounds to apply. Geographic diversity of the team will be taken into consideration. The questions in this application will cover all aspects discussed above.

Tryout camp information:

*As noted above, it is possible that a tryout will not take place, and the coaches will determine additional criteria to make team decisions.

USA Ultimate will hold two tryout camps in late March, 2021.

West Coast Tryout Camp: Location TBD

East Coast Tryout Camp: Winston Salem, NC

The final details of the camps are still being determined. The camps will be run by the U-24 National Team coaches and the Manager of Competition & National Team Programs. The camps will run from 8am-5pm on Saturday and 8-3 on Sunday. The camp fee will include instructor and field fees, lunch, water and snacks. Camp attendees will be responsible for transportation to and from the camps, room and board, and chaperones (if necessary).

The camps' primary focus will be to evaluate players for team selection. The format of the camp will be designed to assess the attendees on the criteria listed above. Activities will include drills, scrimmages and tests of physical fitness, as well as opportunities to demonstrate teamwork with and a willingness to learn from other tryouts, coaches and USAU personnel. Attendees will be taught advanced skills, strategies and concepts as well.

The number of applicants of each gender invited to attend each tryout camp will be determined by the coaches.

I have read and understand the above and agree to abide by the decisions of the coaching staff(s) and USA Ultimate.

Yes

No

Basic Information

This set of questions will provide basic information regarding your background and contact information.

* 4. Name

5. Nickname or preferred name, if not your first name

* 6. WFDF Competition Gender

Male

Female

* 7. Pronouns

He/Him/His

He/Him/His/They/Them/Theirs

He/Him/His/She/Her/Hers/They/Them/Theirs

She/Her/Hers

She/Her/Hers/They/Them/Theirs

They/Them/Theirs

Ze/Hir/Hirs

Ze/Zir/Zirs

* 8. Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY) You must be born on or after January 1, 1998 to be eligible

* 9. USA Ultimate ID#

* 10. Contact Information:

Current Address:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

11. Permanent Address (if different from current address)

Same as Current Address

Other (please specify)

* 12. Height (#' #")

* 13. Dominant Throwing Hand

Left

Right

14. Current School (if applicable)

* 15. Please upload a head shot photo. It should clearly show your face.

Photos must be in PNG or JPG/JPEG format

Choose File

Choose File

No file chosen

Participation Information

This section will ask questions about your ability to participate in the tryout process as well as the team itself.

16. If you are under 20, do you have parent/guardian permission to participate on the team?

Yes

No

* 17. Please indicate whether you would like to limit your tryout to one division-specific team or trust the coaching staff to make a decision that creates the best opportunity for all three teams to be successful.

Note that by selecting options 2 or 3, you are taking yourself out of consideration for the other division. If you change your mind before tryouts please email tom@hq.usultimate.org. You cannot change your answer after tryouts begin.

Coaches' choice - I would like to be considered for all teams that I am eligible for and will be excited to play for any team the coaching staff feels is the right fit.

Mixed only - I would only like to be considered for the Mixed team.

Men's/Women's only - I would only like to be considered for the Men's/Women's teams.

* 18. If health and safety rules permit, do you anticipate being able to attend one of the two tryout camps?

Yes

No

Tryout Camp Information

* 19. Typically we have one tryout on the East Coast and one on the West Coast. We anticipate the tryouts occurring during March [or April], during the school year. If selected, which camp would you prefer?

- East (only)
- West (only)
- Either (Prefer East)
- Either (Prefer West)

Ultimate Background

This section will ask basic questions about your experiences playing ultimate.

* 20. When did you start playing Ultimate? (Month/Year e.g 06/2010)

* 21. Did/do/will you play on a college team and if so for which school?

If you have played for multiple schools, please list any additional schools below:

* 22. What division of club ultimate did you play in 2019?

- Men's
- Mixed
- Women's
- I did not play club ultimate in 2019

23. If you played in the 2019 club men's division, what team did you play for?

24. If you played in the 2019 club mixed division, what team did you play for?

25. If you are played in the 2019 club women's division, what team did you play for?

26. Please list, in reverse chronological order (most recent/current first), the organized youth team(s) you have played for and what seasons you played with them.

- Year, Team, Gender, Placement

Sample formatting:

2017, Triforce, Boy's, 1st place at YCC

1.

2.

3.

4.

27. Please list, in reverse chronological order (most recent/current first), the organized college team(s) you have played for and what seasons you played with them.

- Year, Team, Gender, Placement

Sample formatting:

2016, Stanford University Superfly, Women's, 1st place at College Nationals

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

28. Please list, in reverse chronological order (most recent/current first), the organized club team(s) you have played for and what seasons you played with them.

- Year, Team, Gender, Placement

Sample formatting:

2017, Seattle Mixtape, Mixed, 1st place at Club Nationals

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

29. Please list, in reverse chronological order (most recent/current first), the Nationalteam(s) you have played for and what seasons you played with them.

- Year, Team, Gender, Placement

Sample formatting:

2019, U-24 National Team, Mixed, 1st place at U-24 World Championship

1.

2.

3.

4.

30. Please list, in reverse chronological order (most recent first), all awards and recognitions you have earned (e.g., All-Region, Freshman of the Year, Ultiworld recognition, etc.).

- Year, Organization, Award

Sample formatting:

2015 Ultiworld All-America Second Team

2015 USA Ultimate First Team All-Region Atlantic Coast

2014 USA Ultimate Second Team FOTY Metro East

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

* 31. What other sports do you or have you played? Please list them, number of years played and at what level along with any accolades received.

* 32. Outside of playing ultimate, please list any other ways in which you've been involved in shaping or giving back to the ultimate community (ie coaching, teaching clinics, participating in leagues, team leadership roles/committees, leadership in equity and diversity)?

Your Current Team

This section will ask questions about your recent teams and your role on them. Please be sure to specify which team you are describing in each answer.

33. If applicable, how did you help your current YCC/college/club team navigate the pandemic-related cancellation of ultimate in 2020?

* 34. In 3-5 sentences, describe the type of player and teammate the coaches can expect you to be if you are selected as a member of the U-24 team.

* 35. Describe your off-the-field role on the two most recent teams you have played on. What do you bring to the team as an organizer, a leader, a captain, a teacher, a follower, a sideline presence, etc.?

* 36. For the two most recent teams you have played for: describe the team's offense and your role in it. (What position do you play? What are some of your team's main strategies? What skills make you successful good in that role? Etc.)

37. How would you see yourself contributing offensively on team USA?

* 38. What offensive position would you like to fill tryouts?

- Handler
- Cutter
- Hybrid (both)

* 39. Different players may have different styles of play, even though they may both be labeled as the same position. To get a feel for your style of play, can you describe what you would expect to show the coaches at tryouts in this role? What does it look like when you're playing this position at your best?

* 40. What specific areas of your offensive game are you focusing on improving?

* 41. For the two most recent teams you have played for: describe the team's defense and your role in it. (What strategies and tactics does your team employ, and how do you fit into those strategies? What position(s) do you play in zone defense? What type of player do you guard when playing person defense? What skills make you good in this role? Etc.)

* 42. How would you see yourself contributing defensively on team USA?

* 43. What player positions do you prefer to guard? Describe the strategies you employ to guard this type of player?

* 44. What strategies do you employ when guarding a player that is outside your comfort zone?

* 45. What specific areas of your defensive game are you are focusing on improving?

46. If available, please provide hyperlinks to full-game footage of recent games in which you have played. Please describe how we can identify you in the video (jersey #, hat color, etc) (Note: coaches will review only full-game footage, and not Callahan-video-style highlight reels).

Preparation

This section will provide an opportunity for you to describe how you prepare for competition

* 47. Briefly describe how you approach physically and mentally preparing for ultimate and specifically for high-pressure situations you may face?

* 48. Describe how you will approach preparing for tryouts given the pandemic and with associated health restrictions.

Beyond Competition

There is so much more to representing the USA on a National Team than just competition. This section will ask you to think about team culture, spirit of the game and being an ambassador for USA Ultimate.

* 49. The U.S. National Team program's mission includes a goal of representing and inspiring a diverse ultimate community. How would you help build an inclusive team culture that values the different backgrounds of your teammates?

* 50. What does Spirit of the Game mean to you? Briefly share examples of when you both upheld and failed to uphold this standard for yourself.

* 51. Describe what being a member of the USA Ultimate National Team program means to you and the role members of the team have as ambassadors for USA Ultimate.

* 52. What two traits would you hope your teammates and coaches would most likely use to describe you?

* 53. There are many ways to be a good teammate. Please describe some of the ways you interact with your teammates on the field, either in games or at practices. What does "being a good teammate" mean to you? How do those behaviors help your team to be successful?

* 54. How would you define success for the USA U-24 national team, and what is one goal you would like a national team that you're a player on to pursue?

* 55. Who is your favorite teammate and why?

* 56. Are there any U24-eligible players in your region (in the college or club division), who you have not been teammates with, who you think deserve more recognition for their on-field contributions? What, in your opinion, makes them stand out? Please limit your response to one or two players.

This cycle, coaches did not have the opportunity to watch players in the college or club series. This question is intended to help us identify players who you all really appreciate, but who might not have applied, or who might not catch our attention through applications.

How Much Will It Cost?

Please know that there is significant expense required for participation. As a non-profit organization, USA Ultimate is interested in attracting sponsorship and grants to support our national teams.

However, until this happens, players must bear most costs themselves. The final costs are still being determined, but estimated costs include the following (all costs listed below are approximations only).

Costs for tryout camps:

USA Ultimate membership dues: \$64

Tryout camp fee: \$160

Travel: Cost of travel + room/board for tryout camps.

We understand that traveling to tryouts and covering the player fee is difficult for some athletes, and we do not want finances to dictate whether someone can represent our country on the ultimate field.

If you are invited to attend and are unable to cover the expenses, it is highly recommended that, as a first step, you create a personal fundraising campaign. In our experience working with players across all of our National Teams, we've found personal fundraising to your community and network to be most effective, primarily because your community knows you and would want to support your personal journey and experience as part of the U-24 National Team. Some successful ways that people have raised money previously are to run campaigns through RallyMe or GoFundMe, generate support through your local disc organization (see example here), hold a hat tournament, etc.

Additionally, if you are a BIPOC (black, indigenous, person of color) tryout invitee and are facing financial hardship, you can receive support with your tryout fee through the Delrico Johnson Fund. This fund was originally established by Delrico Johnson to help increase access for BIPOC players to try out for USA Ultimate's national teams.

If you need further assistance to cover these expenses, please reach out to tom.manewitz@hq.usultimate.org to learn about the different opportunities for financial assistance available to you and how you may qualify. Again, asking for financial assistance will NOT affect whether or not you are invited to tryouts.

Lastly, if you are interested in supporting other tryout invitees, you can donate directly to the Delrico Johnson Fund or to another players' individual fundraiser.

* 57. I understand the cost of attending tryouts and understand that it is my responsibility to cover these expenses either with my own finances, by fundraising, or financial aid. Please write your name.

Costs for USA Ultimate National Team membership (all costs are approximate):

\$1900-\$3000 + Airfare to and from Ireland

Total includes:

Travel Costs associated with the event and the tournament (~\$100)

Room and board at the event and training camp, this is two weeks of housing and three meals per day (~\$1200)

Player fees (~\$250)

A portion of coach, medical and staff costs (~\$300)

Just as noted above with respect to tryouts, we understand that some of these costs may be difficult, and like tryouts, while we recommend personal fundraising as the most effective tool, there may be additional assistance available and you should reach out to tom.manewitz@hq.usultimate.org

* 58. I understand the costs as presented and that they are an estimate. Actual costs may vary, and I am aware that I am responsible for covering these expenses either on my own, through fundraising, or any available financial aid. Please write your name.

Recommendation

In addition to the application you will need to obtain a recommendation from a non-related adult that knows sports, knows Ultimate, knows you, and has seen you play. Please have your advocate complete the Recommendation Survey linked below.

Recommendation Survey: [Player Recommendation Form](#)

Your advocate will be responsible for completing the recommendation survey by the application deadline (December 6, 2020).

If possible, please ask someone other than a member of the U-24 National Team coaching staff to write your recommendation. The credentials of your advocate will be taken into consideration.

59. I understand that I may be disqualified from consideration without the above detailed recommendation and agree to abide by the decision of the coaches and USA Ultimate to either consider or not consider my candidacy for the U.S. National Teams without a recommendation.

Yes

No

Additional Information

60. Please include anything else you would like the coaches and USA Ultimate to consider here.