



2026 Battle of the Border Selection Criteria

The Battle of the Border is an integral piece of US Squash National Team programming, providing players from the U13, U15 and U17 age categories the opportunity to represent Team USA in a team format—often for the first time. This experience helps prepare the players for potentially representing Team USA in the Pan American Junior Championships, World Junior Championships, and other competitions later in their junior careers. US Squash will nominate four (4) players each from the U13, U15 and U17 age groups to represent Team USA, with the players being selected based on the following criteria.

Note that this trip is self-funded by the players.

1. Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered for selection, all players must:

- Maintain full United States citizenship.
- Be age-eligible for the competition in question.
- Maintain US Squash membership from the start of the candidate process through the end of the competition.
- Have no documented serious on or off-court conduct violations of the US Squash Code of Conduct.
- Sign and comply with all US Squash U.S. Junior Team policies and contracts.

2. Selection Information

Players wishing to participate on the U.S. Team for the 2026 Battle of the Border hosted in Canada will be selected based on the following criteria:

- The top four (4) ranked players competing in the Boys and Girls U13, U15, and U17 age divisions, who confirm their interest, will be selected for the U.S. Team.
 - Rankings will be based on the first rankings run after the 2026 U.S. Junior Championship (March 18, 2026).
- Should any player(s) decline a position, the next highest-ranked player(s) will be selected.
- In the event that players are tied in ranking point average, player ratings are used to break the tie, with the higher-rated player earning the team selection.

3. Team Order of Play

Once the Team has been selected, the final team order for the players will be at the discretion of the the Director of Junior National Teams, and National Junior team Coaches. Their criteria will be based on, but not limited to, the following:

- National ranking
- Results of challenge matches
- General performance & fitness level
- On and off-court behavior



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4. Replacement & Removal of Athletes

Following final selection of the Team members, replacements will only be made if any of the following apply:

- An athlete voluntarily withdraws due to injury or illness, certified by a physician.
- An athlete is injured but refuses verification of their fitness for competition by a physician; the injury may be assumed to be disabling and the player may be removed.
- A qualifying Team member voluntarily submits their resignation from competition in writing to the Director of Junior National Teams at nationalteams@ussquash.org.

Removal of Team members — players are expected to engage in all team preparatory activities and uphold a high level of conduct. Potential grounds for removal of a team member include but are not limited to:

- Violation of team rules.
- Violation of US Squash Code of Conduct.

5. US Squash Coaches

US Squash will assign national/regional coaches to accompany the players during the 2025 Battle of the Border competition. Players may not bring their private/personal coaches on this Team USA trip.