

Army World Class Athlete Program

Selection Standards for the sport of **Track & Field**.

1. The Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) is organized with the mission to provide soldiers with high national ranking or world class potential the opportunity to train in order to compete for a place on the US Olympic Team. As such, selection standards are established, consistent with recommendations from the national governing body of each sport, to best identify soldiers who have Olympic potential. Factors taken in to account in the process of establishing selection standards include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Standards established by the International Federation charged with oversight of the sport.
 - b. Standards established by the US National Governing Body recognized by the US Olympic Committee (USOC).
 - c. The number of competitors in the US and the level of proficiency of US competitors.
 - d. The number of quotas allotted to a given sport and the likelihood of the US filling those quotas.
 - e. The cost to support an athlete in a given sport.
2. With the above guidelines in mind, the minimum selection standards for the sport of **Track & Field** are established. Soldier-athletes who meet one or more of the standards below is deemed athletically qualified for entry into the Army WCAP.
 - a. Qualified for or competed in the Olympic Games held immediately prior to the date of the soldier's WCAP application. Qualified for the Olympic Games means the athlete finished in the top three at the US Olympic Trials and met the Olympic "A" standard, or met the standard established by USA Track & Field (USATF) for selection to the US Olympic Team. Athletes who were named as alternates do not qualify under this definition.
 - b. Met the qualifying standard published by USATF for the Olympic Trials, or for the US National Championship in an Olympic event, within the three-year period prior to the WCAP application.
 - c. Finished in the top three of any USATF sanctioned national championship competition. This includes the national cross-country championship, national road race championship or indoor national championship.
 - d. Qualified for any team to represent the US at a World Championship in any track & field or road race event.
 - e. Held a top 10 ranking among open senior athletes as published by Track & Field News in any Olympic event within the three-year period prior to the WCAP application.

3. Athletes, who fail to meet the qualifying standards set forth in paragraph 2, may request an exception to policy for acceptance based upon established selection standards. Such requests should make a compelling case that the athlete has demonstrated Olympic potential by performing at the national level in USATF certified competition. The request should include recommendations from individuals qualified to judge the athletic potential of the athlete and who have recognized credentials as experts in track & field.