U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Veteran Monthly Assistance Allowance for Disabled Veterans Training in Paralympic and Olympic Sports Program (VMAA)

In partnership with the United States Olympic Committee and other Olympic and Paralympic entities within the United States, VA supports eligible service and non-service-connected military Veterans in their efforts to represent the USA at the Paralympic Games, Olympic Games and other international sport competitions. The VA Office of National Veterans Sports Programs & Special Events provides a monthly assistance allowance for disabled Veterans training in Paralympic sports, as well as certain disabled Veterans selected for or competing with the national Olympic Team, as authorized by 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and Section 703 of the Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2008.

Through the program, VA will pay a monthly allowance to a Veteran with either a service-connected or non-service-connected disability if the Veteran meets the minimum military standards or higher (i.e. Emerging Athlete or National Team) in his or her respective Paralympic sport at a recognized competition. In addition to making the VMAA standard, an athlete must also be nationally or internationally classified by his or her respective Paralympic sport federation as eligible for Paralympic competition. VA will also pay a monthly allowance to a Veteran with a service-connected disability rated 30 percent or greater by VA who is selected for a national Olympic Team for any month in which the Veteran is competing in any event sanctioned by the National Governing Bodies of the Olympic Sport in the United State, in accordance with P.L. 114-223. Since qualification for the Olympic sports is based on disability rating by the VA, this rating functions as the qualifying disability classification for determining a Veteran’s eligibility. For both Olympic and Paralympic sports, the national sport organizations include those of the United States Olympic Committee, including its Paralympic Division, and the equivalent organizations for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. Athletes must have established training and competition plans and are responsible for turning in monthly and quarterly reports to continue receiving the monthly assistance allowance. The allowance rate for an athlete approved for monetary assistance is the same as the 38 U.S.C. Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) rate.

Evaluative criteria differ from sport to sport and can vary from open tryouts, invitation-only tryouts, world rankings, achievement standards or a combination of standards and tryouts. The VMAA Standard for each sport is determined by the respective National Governing Body (NGB) or High Performance Management Organization (HPMO), National Paralympic Committee (NPC), based on the sport and/or discipline/event international competitive analysis and existing athlete pipeline. Generally, the initial VMAA Standard is 25 percent less than the respective sport’s national team criteria or equal to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) determined Minimum Qualifying Standard (MQS) where applicable. Standards may be graduated to require periodic improved performance over time to achieve progress as a developing athlete. To learn more about the specific sport standards, the VMAA, or sport pipelines, please visit our website at www.va.gov/adaptivesports.

For more information on classification visit the following links:
International - IPC: http://www.paralympic.org/Sport/Classification/.
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Summer Paralympic Sports
Contact: Mary Emmons at memmons@usarchery.org  
George Ryals at gryals@usarchery.org

**VMAA Standard**

- Athletes must be a member of USA Archery
- Standard must be achieved during World Archery Federation (Star FITA) tournament shooting 50 meter (compound) or 70 meter (recurve)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event*</th>
<th>70M/50M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W1 Compound Men</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Compound Men</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W1/W2 and Standing Recurve Men</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Compound Women</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Recurve Women</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open W1 Women</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following is a description of the events:

Compound shooters shoot 72 arrows at 50 meters at an 80 cm 6 ring (individual) target.  
W1 shooters shoot 72 arrows at 50 meters at an 80 cm 10 ring target.  
Recurve shooters shoot 72 arrows at 70 meters at a 122 cm 10 ring target.

Scores must be shot at registered Star FITA tournaments. A tournament schedule is at USArchery.org.

*The World Archery Federation is in the process of reinstating Visually Impaired Archery competition in 2019, but it is not sufficiently established to authorize the VMAA at this time. If the situations changes, the VMAA standards for Archery will be updated as appropriate.*
**BADMINTON**

Contact: Steve Kearney  
steve@usabadminton.org / 719-360-3848.

**VMAA Standard**

- Be a USA Badminton member in good standing and classified by Para National classifier.

- Train a minimum of four days per week with a coach or training group. Training requires planning. We have listed coaching and locations on the USA Badminton website.

- USA Badminton will distribute a basic warmup, simple routines and development, and advanced work for each classification.

- Learn all the rules and standards. Watch videos on USA Badminton and Badminton World Federation (BWF) website. Standards include minimum requirements of tournament participation, BWF tournament points, and BWF rating and results. There will be different standards established for:
  - Becoming a member of the U.S. Para-badminton National Team
  - Becoming a member of U.S. Paralympics Badminton National Team
  - Qualifying for entry into international competitions (i.e. Para-Pan American Games, World Championships, Paralympic Games, etc.)

- Will be invited to all camps and clinics.

To register for the Para event in one of the USAB tournaments, new Para athletes must be a USA Badminton member and classified by Para National/International Classifier.
Boccia

Contact: Charley Wright
charleywright@yahoo.com / 314-652-4100 ext. 64590.

VMAA Standard

The athlete must:

- Be named to the USA Boccia National Pool of emerging athletes,
- Place first, second or third at the National Boccia Championships in one of four Paralympic individual divisions,
- Or is placed in the top five on the USA Boccia ranking list for the divisions BC1, BC2, BC3 or BC4.

*There is a provision for scouting for Paralympic eligible athletes and Veteran sponsored events. If athletes appear to ‘class in’ to BC4 via a video presentation, they could be considered for the U.S. Team Pool for a regional event*

Canoe

For more information contact:
Deborah Page at DebSmithPage@gmail.com

VMAA Standard

- Athletes must be a member of the American Canoe Association (ACA).
- Standard can be achieved during ACA selection trials and National Championships (for able bodied and/or Paracanoe); regattas on the International Canoe Federation canoe sprint calendar; and at other regattas designated by ACA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men 200m</th>
<th>VMAA Standard (min:sec)</th>
<th>Women 200m</th>
<th>VMAA Standard (min:sec)</th>
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<tr>
<td>KL3 M</td>
<td>0:54</td>
<td>KL3 W</td>
<td>1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KL2M</td>
<td>0:56</td>
<td>KL2W</td>
<td>1:14</td>
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<tr>
<td>KL1M</td>
<td>1:19</td>
<td>KL1W</td>
<td>1:22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL3 M</td>
<td>1:09</td>
<td>VL3 W</td>
<td>1:26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VL2 M</td>
<td>1:19</td>
<td>VL2 W</td>
<td>1:27</td>
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<tr>
<td>VL1</td>
<td>1:28</td>
<td>VL1W</td>
<td>1:34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VMAA Standard

- Athletes must be licensed by USA Cycling.
- Road standard can be achieved during a USA Cycling or UCI sanctioned time trial competition that is at least 15km long, on an out/back course or a looped road course (no closed–circuit track courses).
- Track standard can be achieved during a sanctioned USA Cycling or UCI event track competition.
- Military Veterans, with a disability rating, who compete as the pilot of a tandem may be eligible for the VMAA provided they achieve the VMAA standard in a USA Cycling or UCI sanctioned cycling competition (road or track) as part of a tandem.

Road Cycling Standards: Time per Kilometer (Individual Time Trial)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Men’s VMAA Standard</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Women’s VMAA Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H1</td>
<td>02:53.4</td>
<td>H1*</td>
<td>04:48.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>H2</td>
<td>02:04.9</td>
<td>H2</td>
<td>03:25.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3</td>
<td>01:49.3</td>
<td>H3</td>
<td>02:09.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H4</td>
<td>01:44.7</td>
<td>H4</td>
<td>02:10.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H5</td>
<td>01:47.3</td>
<td>H5</td>
<td>02:02.2</td>
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<td>C1</td>
<td>01:44.3</td>
<td>C1*</td>
<td>02:04.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>01:40.6</td>
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<td>01:59.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>01:33.2</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>01:52.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>01:33.64</td>
<td>C5</td>
<td>01:45.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T1</td>
<td>02:26.0</td>
<td>T1</td>
<td>02:56.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2</td>
<td>02:01.7</td>
<td>T2</td>
<td>02:18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>01:25.5</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>01:37.9</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Calculated based off men’s standards due to insufficient date
Track Cycling Standards: Time Per Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men’s Classification</th>
<th>Men’s Emerging Standard</th>
<th>Women’s Classification</th>
<th>Women’s Emerging Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1 1-Kilometer TT</td>
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<td>C1 500-Meter TT</td>
<td>00:56.13</td>
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<td>C2 1-Kilometer TT</td>
<td>01:30.90</td>
<td>C2 500-Meter TT</td>
<td>00:51.09</td>
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<td>C3 1-Kilometer TT</td>
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<td>C3 500-Meter TT</td>
<td>00:51.77</td>
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<td>C4 1-Kilometer TT</td>
<td>01:19.28</td>
<td>C4 500-Meter TT</td>
<td>00:47.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5 1-Kilometer TT</td>
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<td>C5 500-Meter TT</td>
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<td>B 1-Kilometer TT</td>
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<td>B 1-Kilometer TT</td>
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<td>C1 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>04:46.20</td>
<td>C1 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:45.11</td>
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<td>C2 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:11.19</td>
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<tr>
<td>C3 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>04:19.63</td>
<td>C3 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:07.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 4-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:31.36</td>
<td>C4 4-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>04:51.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5 4-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:01.06</td>
<td>C5 4-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>04:41.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 4-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>05:10.77</td>
<td>B 3-Kilometer Pursuit</td>
<td>04:17.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EQUESTRIAN

Contact: Laureen Johnson
lkjohnson@usef.org.

VMAA Standard

Para-equestrian Dressage Eligibility Requirements
In addition to meeting the emerging standard, athletes must:
- Be 17 years or older.
- Be a U.S. citizen/Veteran.
- Must be a current member in good standing of USEF at the time that the required scores are achieved.
- Please see the Article 8422 in the Rules of FEI Para-equestrian Dressage Events 5th Edition, of April 2017, effective 24 April 2017 to compete in Para-equestrian dressage competitions. To do so, riders shall have either a national or international Para-equestrian classification and be assigned a Grade. For more information regarding
classification, visit the FEI website at http://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/para-dressage/about. To schedule a national or international classification, contact Laureen Johnson at the USEF at 859-225-7693.

- Ride independently (without side aides).

**Required Scores:**
- A total of one score for each must be submitted as follows for the current competition year:
  - One “championship team” test score;
  - One “individual” test score;
- The minimum score of any individual or championship test submitted must be 60 percent or higher;
- Scores may be submitted from any horse/rider combination;
- Submit one score of 60 percent or better from the current competition year;
- Scores shall be achieved at the championship test of the rider’s grade level or at any test which is above the rider’s grade level. FEI Para Dressage tests may be found here http://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/p-e-dressage/tests
- All test scores (both rider and/or horse) must be achieved at USEF or FEI Para-equestrian licensed competitions. FEI PE tests must be scored by a USEF “R” rated judge or above, or an FEI PE recognized judge.

**Reporting Requirements**
Athletes are required to submit legible copies of all qualifying tests, clearly indicating the name of the judge and competition at which the scores were achieved to Laureen Johnson, USEF High Performance Director of Para-equestrian Programs.

**Para-equestrian Driving Eligibility Requirements**
In addition to meeting the military standard, athletes must:
- Be 17 years or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Must be a U.S. Veteran with a permanent, physical disability.
- Must be a current member in good standing of USEF at the time that the required scores are achieved.
- Be medically eligible in accordance with the FEI Classification Manual for Para-Equestrian Competitions, 4th Edition, 2015 Rules for FEI Para-Equestrian Driving Events to compete in Para-equestrian Driving competitions. To do so, drivers shall have either a national or international Para-equestrian classification and be assigned a grade. For more information regarding Classification, visit the FEI website at http://www.fei.org/fei/regulations/driving
- To schedule a national or international classification, contact Laureen Johnson at the USEF at 859-225-7693.
- Drive independently (without second reins).
- Must comply with all USEF and ADS (American Driving Society) requirements.
Required Scores

- A total of two scores for each must be submitted as follows for the current competition year:
  - Scores from two driven FEI or ADS dressage tests at or above the ADS preliminary level at two USEF or ADS sanctioned combined driving event must be below 65 penalty points and the entire event must have been completed successfully without elimination, retirement nor disqualification.
  - Scores for the entire event may be submitted from any horse/driver combination;
  - All test scores (both driver and/or horse) must be achieved at ADS, USEF or FEI Paranequestrian licensed competitions. FEI PE tests must be scored by a USEF “R” rated judge or above, or an FEI PE recognized judge. ADS tests must be scored by ADS “R” rated judges or above.

Reporting Requirements

Athletes are required to submit legible copies of all qualifying tests, clearly indicating the name of the judge and competition at which the scores were achieved.

GOALBALL

Contact: Mark Lucas
mlucas@usaba.org or 719-866-3224.

VMAA Standard

The athlete must:

- Be entered on a club team’s roster.
- Training with that team on a regular basis.
- Establish a training and competition plan and submit monthly and quarterly progress reports to the United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) goalball high performance manager.

- Compete with that team or as a pool player in at least two U.S. Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) regional events AND the USABA national championship tournament.
- Receiving a national or international classification assessment as a B1, B2, or B3 athlete.
Judo

Contact: Eddie Liddie
eddie.liddie@usajudo.us or 719-866-4730.

VMAA Standard

Athletes currently ranked fifth or higher in their weight class on the U.S. Para judo national ranking list and have attended or are on the confirmed attendee list for at least one U.S. Para judo regional or national camp will be considered for the allowance.

Powerlifting

Contact: Butch Schovanec
ironmindbutch@gmail.com

VMAA Standard

Events where athletes can qualify in 2019 are:

- Feb. 17th – Ashland, Virginia – Samaritan Walk Gym
- April 27th – West Grey Recreational Center, Houston, Texas
- Watch www.disabledpowerlifting.com for more sanctioned regional events as they become available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weight Class (kg)</th>
<th>VMAA Standard (kg)</th>
<th>Weight Class (kg)</th>
<th>VMAA Standard (kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEN</td>
<td></td>
<td>WOMEN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>107+</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>86+</td>
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The below standards are based on 2,000-meter indoor times:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>VMAA Standard</th>
<th>CLASSIFICATION</th>
<th>VMAA Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men PR3</td>
<td>6:55</td>
<td>Women PR3</td>
<td>7:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men PR2</td>
<td>8:15</td>
<td>Women PR2</td>
<td>9:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men PR1</td>
<td>9:20</td>
<td>Women PR1</td>
<td>11:20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VMAA Standard

- Must be a member of USA Shooting
- Must be IPC/WSPS classified
- Athletes must achieve the standard score on an electronic target at one of the following USA Shooting-approved competitions
  - USA Shooting National Championships
  - USA Shooting Selection Matches
  - Winter Air
  - Robert Mitchell Rifle
  - Pistol Spring Selection
  - Olympic Training Center Preliminary Tryouts (PTOs)
  - Shooting competition monitored by Paralympic Head Coach or designated USA Shooting Assistance Coach, and an IPC WSPS Classifier
  - Trap National Championships
  - Trap Selection Matches
  - Trap PTOs held at the Olympic Training Center
  - Trap competitions as approved by USA Shooting certifying official
- Athletes must compete at a minimum of 2 approved competitions (listed above) per year
- Athletes must continue to train each month as approved by certifying official
- Athletes must sign and adhere to USA Shooting’s Code of Conduct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Qualification Score*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MEN</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R1 10m Air Rifle</td>
<td>SH1 570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R7 50m Free Rifle 3x40</td>
<td>SH1 1066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P1 10m Air Pistol</td>
<td>SH1 519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R2 10m Air Rifle (NOW 60 SHOTS)</td>
<td>SH1 571.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R8 50m Free Rifle (NOW 3x40)</td>
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<td><strong>Mixed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>R3 10m Air Prone</td>
<td>SH1 598.1</td>
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<td>R4 10m Air Standing</td>
<td>SH2 593.3</td>
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<td>R5 10m Air Rifle Prone</td>
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<td>R6 50m Rifle Prone</td>
<td>SH1 578.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>P3 25m Sport Pistol</td>
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<tr>
<td>P4 50m Free Pistol</td>
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<tr>
<td>P5 10m Air Pistol Standard</td>
<td>SH-1 301</td>
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<tr>
<td>R9 50m Free Rifle Prone</td>
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<td>VIP Visually Impaired 10m Air Prone</td>
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<tr>
<td>VIS Visually Impaired 10m Air Standing</td>
<td>SH-VI 384</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT1 Trap Seated</td>
<td>SG-S 58</td>
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<td>PT2 Trap Standing (Lower Limb)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT3 Trap Standing (Upper Limb)</td>
<td>SG-U 62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*when scored in tenths
SITTING VOLLEYBALL

Contact: Bill Hamiter
Bill.Hamiter@usav.org or 405-974-3153.

VMAA Standard

- Eligibility
  - Athletes may attend clinics/tryouts held by national team staff or request an individual tryout at the national team training site (Edmond, Oklahoma) to be evaluated for consideration to join either the National Sitting Volleyball Team or the A2 Development Program. Once added to the National Team Training Roster or the A2 Program, athletes will be eligible for the allowance provided the following conditions are met.
  - National Team Athletes
    - There are two categories of national team athletes, resident and non-resident. Each category has specific training and reporting requirements.
  - Resident Athlete
    - To become a resident athlete, an athlete must have shown significant potential for development and be invited specifically by the respective national team head coach to begin training daily at the national team training site. Housing and education assistance may be available for resident athletes.
  - Non-Resident Athlete
    - A Non-Resident Athlete will be responsible for training in their community.
    - As an athlete progresses through his/her development, there is an expectation for the athlete to become a resident athlete for at least a one to two-year period to immerse themselves in the training of the game. History has shown the advancement of an athlete who trains as a resident athlete at the national team training site develops their abilities at an exponential rate as compared to that of a non-resident athlete.

- National Team Athlete Training Requirements

- The required training and reporting standards are listed below:
National Team Resident Athlete

On-court skill training sessions at least five days a week and conducts strength and conditioning sessions three to five times a week (13 hours total minimum)

Required to attend all national team training camps and/or competitions, and any A2 Camps as determined by the national team head coach and/or the high performance director. USA Volleyball will cover all travel expenses to/from all national team training camps and competitions. USA Volleyball will determine if the cost of travel to an A2 camp or competition will be at the expense of the athlete or the national team.

National Team Non-Resident Athlete

On-court skill training sessions at least three days (minimum of six hours total) a week and conducts strength and conditioning sessions at least two times a week (minimum of two hours total). Eight hours total of training is the minimum requirement.

Required to attend all national team training camps and competitions, and any A2 camps as determined by the national team head coach and/or the high performance director. USA Volleyball will cover all travel expenses to/from all national team training camps and competitions. USA Volleyball will determine if the cost of travel to an A2 camp or competition will be at the expense of the athlete or the national team.

Non-resident athletes will find a training partner or coach to guide and assist in the training that will be provided by national team staff. The head coach will confirm the player’s training partner or coach.

Non-resident athletes will film a portion of their on-court skill training and strength and conditioning workouts each week. The national team staff will give direction on what should be filmed. Film will be submitted to the appropriate national team staff member to be analyzed and critiqued to provide feedback to the athlete.

Non-resident athletes will maintain a log of skill workouts (drills completed, reps/time spent on drill and total time spent on workout) and strength and conditioning workouts (sets, reps, weight/time and total time spent on workout).

Non-resident athletes will use a web-based program (which is provided by the national sitting volleyball office) to log all activity on a weekly basis. Failure to report is failure to complete.

National Team Athlete Training Verification

All athletes will gain the sitting volleyball high performance director’s signature once a month to verify the completion of the above-mentioned criteria. It is the responsibility of the athlete to submit all necessary forms in a timely manner for review and signature. It is the
responsibility of the athlete to submit the approved paperwork to the VA according to their procedures and standards. Any falsification of documentation may result in the immediate dismissal of an athlete from the VMAA program, and possibly other sanctions, including team dismissal, from USA Volleyball.

A2 Development Program Athlete

New athletes who are identified and recruited to participate in USA Volleyball’s high performance sitting A2 program will be eligible for the VMAA once they have participated in at least three training camps or competitions and maintain their attendance to have not missed no more than two A2 program events of the previous five events held, on an on-going/rolling schedule.

Athletes will be expected to make their own travel arrangements to all camp or competition locations, at their own expense, and USA Volleyball will provide the necessary housing, meals, and local ground transportation to/from the local airports as needed.

USA Volleyball recognizes that VMAA funds provided may exceed the expenses of attending all or the necessary minimum to be eligible to receive the VMAA funds, and strongly encourages athletes to utilize the extra funds to facilitate skill training in their community with a local volleyball coach and to improve their strength and conditioning at a local gym.

For questions regarding the VMAA standards or to request a tryout, please send an email to sitting.volleyball@usav.org.
### Men’s Swimming VMAA Standards

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VMAA Standard

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Contact: Dani Sweigard
Dani.Sweigard@usa-taekwondo.us or 719-866-3624.

VMAA Standard

Athletes must:

Be ranked 16th place or higher in the most recent World Taekwondo Para Rankings or finish fifth place or higher at the most recent USA Taekwondo National Championships. Athlete must also be a current member of USA Taekwondo in good standing.
VMAA Standard

- Must compete in a World Para Athletics approved competition and submit a proof of performance form showing that you have met a standard below. The proof of performance form can be found at https://www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Sports/Track-and-Field/Competitions.
- All events listed are on the Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 program. Only events contested in Tokyo are eligible for VMAA funding.

Men’s Track & Field (Athletics) – VMAA Standard – 25% of A Standard

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## Women’s Track & Field (Athletics) – VMAA Standard – 25% of A Standard

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VMAAA Standard

General time standards for triathlon are difficult to use as a basis of someone’s performance ability in the developmental pipeline because course conditions (distances, weather, topography, etc.) make the race times so variable, so in 2019 there are five (5) events in which an athlete can achieve the military standard.

These are the events in which athletes can strive to achieve this standard:

- CAMTRI Paratriathlon American Championships – March 9-10 – Sarasota Fl
- ITU World Paratriathlon Series Montreal – June 28 – Montreal, Canada
- ITU Paratriathlon World Cup Magog – July 13-14 – Magog, Canada
- USA Paratriathlon National Championships – July 20 – Long Beach, CA
- ITU Elite Paratriathlon World Championships – Aug. 29 – Sept. 1 – Lausanne, Switzerland

The chart below shows the finishing time an athlete needs to complete at the events above, to achieve the emerging and national standard. For the emerging standard, this calculation is 30 percent behind the 2018 ITU World Champion finishing time, and for the national standard, it is 15 percent behind the time. If an event is shorted to a duathlon then the race is voided as a qualifier.

Additionally, an athlete who achieves a spot on the USAT National A, B, or Emerging Teams has also achieved the emerging standard. The criteria for these teams can be found at www.usaparatriathlon.org.

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<tr>
<th>Sport Class</th>
<th>2018 World Championship Finishing Time</th>
<th>National Qualifying Standard</th>
<th>VMAA Standard</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Contact: Brandon McBeain
brandonmcbeain@nwba.org or 719-266-4082 ext. 108

VMAA Standard

Athletes must attend or receive an invitation to camps, clinics and national team tryouts to allow evaluations to be conducted by NWBA High Performance Staff and recommendations made by NWBA coaches. Veteran athletes will be considered for the allowance when they meet one of the following criteria as established by the National Wheelchair Basketball Association (NWBA):

- Named to the Veteran Emerging Athlete Pool
- Named to the NWBA Development Pool
- Named to the NWBA High Performance Pool
- Named to an NWBA Junior or Senior National Team

WHEELCHAIR FENCING

Contact: Brandon Dyett
b.dyett@usafencing.org or 719-219-8357

VMAA Standard

Athletes must:

- Be a member of USA Fencing.
- Retain a coach or training partner to guide training.
- Submit a monthly training log and progress report, signed by the athlete’s coach/training partner, to the national office.
- As of the 1st of the month for which the 0918a is submitted:
  - Emerging Athletes
    - Rank in the top 50 percent of the domestic rolling point standings in at least one weapon OR place 1st – 3rd at the most recent national championships in at least one weapon (if only 1st – 3rd places are awarded at nationals, athlete must place in the top 50 percent of those competing in the event) – rounding will be made to the next lowest ranking/place (ex: top 50 percent of nine will include the fifth athlete).
National Team Athletes

- Rank in the top 50 percent of the domestic rolling point standings in at least one weapon OR place 1st – 3rd at the most recent national championships in at least one weapon (if only 1st – 3rd places are awarded at nationals, athlete must place in the top 50 percent of those competing in the event) – rounding will be made to the next lowest ranking/place (ex: top 50 percent of nine will include the fifth athlete).

Compete in the most recent world championships or the most recent Paralympic Games.

**WHEELCHAIR RUGBY**

Contact: Mandy Goff, High Performance Manager

mandyg@lakeshore.org or 205-313-7437

**VMAA Standard**

Players are invited to tryouts and national team selection through two components.

Except as provided below an athlete must be a member of one of the following teams to receive an invitation to 2019 Selection Camp:

- 2015 Parapan American Team and alternates
- 2016 Paralympic Team and alternates
- 2017 Americas Championship Team and alternates
- 2018 IWRF World Championship Team and alternates

If not a member of one of the above teams an athlete may be eligible for an invitation to the 2019 Selection Camp through the following procedures:

- Athletes outside of the above team members with a special invitation from the selection committee
- Athletes not named to either list may be accepted through the petition procedures, found at [www.lakeshore.org](http://www.lakeshore.org) and [www.usawr.org](http://www.usawr.org).
- Athletes selected to the emerging athlete pool or higher will be considered for the allowance.
- Athletes not named to either list may be accepted through the protest procedures, found at [www.lakeshore.org](http://www.lakeshore.org) and [www.usawr.org](http://www.usawr.org).
- Athletes selected to the development pool or higher will be considered for the allowance.
WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Contact: Joanne Wallen
Joanne.wallen@usta.com or 914-536-0654

VMAA Standard

Athletes must be a member of U.S. Tennis Association (USTA).

- To be eligible to play wheelchair tennis, players must meet certain criteria, as set out in Rule IV, 2 of International Tennis Federation Regulations for Wheelchair Tennis 2014. The document can be found at http://www.itftennis.com/media/166080/166080.pdf

- Wheelchair tennis athletes must be in the top 50 percent of the B Division, any of the A Division or Open Division. An annual review will occur on the anniversary date the athlete entered the program to determine future eligibility for the VMAA.
Sport Specific
VMAA Performance Standards

Winter Paralympic Sports
ALPINE SKIING

Contact: VASTipend@usoc.org

VMAA Standard

All athletes must:

• Have National (U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association - USSA) and International (WPAS – World Para Alpine Skiing) license for the current season.
  o Men: Top-45 WPAS World Ranking in a discipline.
  o Women: Top-45 WPAS World Ranking in a discipline.

BIATHLON

See Nordic Skiing

NORDIC SKIING
(Biathlon & Cross Country)

Contact: VASTipend@usoc.org

VMAA Standard

Athletes must achieve one of the following:

• Achieve a 180 (WPNS—World Para Nordic Skiing) race points (or lower) in any WPSN sanctioned race.
• Standing athletes achieve a calculated 400 points (or lower) in any USSA race.
**VMAA Standard**

Players are invited to tryouts and national team selection is based on coach’s evaluation of athletes.

Athletes selected to a development team or higher by USA Hockey will be considered for the allowance.

**SNOWBOARD**

**VMAA Standard**

Athletes must:

- Have National (USA Snowboard and Freeski Association - USASA) and International (WPSB—World Para Snowboard) license for the respective season.
  - Men and Women: Must compete and score in a minimum of two WPSB races.
  - Standing Men: Over 150 WPSB points in a discipline.
  - Standing Women: Over 150 WPSB points in a discipline.

**WHEELCHAIR CURLING**

**VMAA Standard**

- Players are invited to tryouts and national team selection based on coach’s evaluation of athletes.
- Athletes selected to the development team or higher by USA Curling will be considered for the allowance.
Sport Specific
VMAA Performance Standards

International Paralympic Committee
Recognized Sports
BOBSLED
Contact: Darrin Raupp
ddraupp@icould.com or 248-755-6086

VMAA Standard

Athletes must achieve one of the following:
- Be a member of United States Bobsled and Skeleton Federation in good standing and,
- Top five overall ranked in the past season, or
- Top-five finish in at least two competitions in the current season.

SAILING
Contact: Kate Drummey
KateDrummey@ussailing.org or 401-342-7935

VMAA Standard

Athletes must:
- Be a member of US Sailing;
- Compete internationally in one of the following categories: 2.4mR (1-Person Keelboat),
  - Hansa303 (1-Person Keelboat),
  - RS Venture Connect (2-Person Keelboat), or
  - Either of the Blind Sailing disciplines (Match or Fleet racing); and
- Participate in one or more Grade 1 or 2 international competition events (i.e., World Cup, EUROSAF, Continental, or Para Sailing World Championship) annually.

POWER SOCCER
Contact: Jim Labas
Jim.Labas@powersoccerusa.org or 260-403-0134
**SOCCER (7-a-side)**

Contact: Stuart Sharp  
sssharp@ussoccer.org.

**VMAA Standard**

Athletes are invited to training camps/nat’l team selection events based on coach’s evaluation.  
- Athlete must be Competing in 7-a-side Paralympic soccer as the U.S. does not currently provide an active 5-a-side Paralympic soccer team.  
- Athletes selected to at least three camps/events in a calendar year will be considered for the allowance.  
- Athlete must compete in the minimum number of competitions as required by USA Surfing (3) and/or USA Surfing’s regional governing organizations/member organizations.

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**SURFING**

Contact: Christiaan Bailey  
otter@usasurfing.org

**VMAA Standard**

Athlete must:  
- Be a U.S. Citizen  
- Be classified in an International Surfing Association Adaptive Surfing Classification Division. Please contact Classification@isasurf.org with any questions related to classification.  
- Be a member of USA Surfing and/or one of USA Surfing’s 5 affiliate organizations: (Western Surfing Association, the National Scholastic Surfing Association, Hawaiian Surfing Association, Eastern Surfing Association or the Texas Gulf Surfing Association.)  
- Must not be under a disciplinary review by USA Surfing or any of its affiliate organizations.  
- Compete in the minimum number of competitions as required by USA Surfing and/or USA Surfing’s affiliate organizations to qualify for the organization’s Prime Competition.  
- Athlete must rank in the Top 5 in USA Surfing or Top 3 in their affiliate organization. Athletes are ranked by classification division.  
- Athletes must adhere to the USA Surfing Athlete Code of Conduct
VA Monthly Assistance Allowance Re-Certification Process

The following is a list of the requirements each certified Veteran athlete must complete each year to be eligible for the VA monthly assistance allowance under the VMAA Program.

**Emerging Veteran Athletes**

Every emerging athlete must meet the following criteria *every 12 months* to remain on the certified VA monthly assistance allowance under the VMAA Program pay list:

1) Continue training on an ongoing basis, which includes providing applicable Paralympic or Olympic representative of the respective National Governing Body (or equivalent), with a copy of his/her personal training plan for each month, complete with training and competition plans.

2) Complete VA Form 0918a monthly.

3) Provide proof of performance of the achievement of the VMAA standard or higher for his/her respective sport and sport class every season, with a maximum allowable certification period of 12 months. Achievement of a certified performance renews the 12-month period. A sport may have more stringent reporting or qualifying periods that VA will abide by on a sport by sport basis.

**National Team Veteran Athletes**

Each National Team Veteran athlete must meet the following criteria every 12 months to remain on the certified VA monthly assistance allowance under the VMAA Program pay list:

1) Continue training on an ongoing basis; which includes providing National Paralympic or Olympic Committees, or the respective National Governing Bodies with a copy of his/her personal training plan for each month, complete with training and competition plans.

2) Complete VA Form 0918a on a quarterly basis.

3) Achieve the National Team standard for his/her respective sport and sport class at least once *every 12 months* [as defined by the sport] at a sanctioned event outlined by the sport requirements. Results of the performance must be reported by the athlete to applicable Olympic or Paralympic Sport Program Manager.

   a. If within the competitive season a national Paralympic team standard is not met, but a VMAA or higher standard is achieved, the athlete will continue to be eligible for the VA Training Allowance under the emerging athlete process (see above for details).

   b. If within the competitive season a national Olympic team standard is not met, the athlete will not continue to be eligible for the VA Training Allowance because the eligibility criteria is national Olympic team member, by law.

4) Be certified by national team coach or respective sport high performance director on a quarterly basis and achieve the VMAA standard or higher for his/her respective sport and sport class every season, with a maximum allowable certification period of 12 months.
Re-Classified Veteran Athletes

If a Veteran athlete is reclassified within their current Paralympic sport during the competition season, the athlete will have until the end of the NEXT competition season to achieve the VMMA standard or higher in the athlete’s new sport class. The athlete will remain on the VA monthly assistance allowance under the VMMA Program pay list during this time if they continue to meet the following criteria:

1) Continue training on an ongoing basis, which includes providing the applicable Paralympic sport entity with a copy of his/her personal training plan for each month, complete with training and competition plans;

2) Complete VA forms monthly.

3) Continue to actively compete in sanctioned events throughout the competition season [as defined by the sport].

Because there is only one legal classification standard for all Olympic sports, any Veteran entering into or between Olympic sports must meet that classification standard before being considered eligible for receipt the VMMA.

Veteran Athletes Changing Sports

Veteran athletes who choose to switch sports will be treated as “new athletes” and to be approved for the VA monthly assistance allowance under the VMMA Program pay list, an athlete must meet the following criteria:

1) Athlete must achieve the VMMA standard or higher for his/her respective sport and sport class at least once in each competitive season every 12 months [as defined by the sport] at a sanctioned event outlined by the sport requirements.

2) Results of the performance must be reported by the athlete to applicable Olympic or Paralympic Sport Program Manager.

3) Be confirmed to be training on an ongoing basis;

4) Be confirmed to be meet the disability classification eligibility requirement and be nationally or internationally Paralympic classified at the time of achieving the standard in the desired sport. If an athlete achieves the performance standard during a fiscal year, but verification of meeting classification is delayed during that year, the athlete may be able to be retroactively covered for the period in which the athlete met standards between initially achieving the performance standard and completion on disability classification.

5) Fill out all required VA paperwork.

For more information about the Veterans Monthly Assistance Allowance, please contact the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events at Sports4Vets@va.gov.