

Overview of the U.S. Women's National Under-19 Team (U-19)
(from the U.S. National Team Policy Manual)

The Under-19 team represents an opportunity for young women to get exposure to international competition at the National Team level through preparation for competition at the IFWLA World Championships. The young women who are selected for the U-19 squad have distinguished themselves on and off the lacrosse field; demonstrated top-level skills, leadership, and sportsmanship being foremost among them. Players that indicate that they intend to stand for selection for the U-19 team and are not be currently enrolled in any college, are invited to attend the open-tryouts.

The U.S. Under-19 team is assembled for competition in the quadrennial IFWLA World Championships, and members on the team must not have played at the collegiate level before competing in the World Championships. It is the highest level of competition for a player before she matriculates at a college and gives her an early glance at the National Teams program. The Under-19 team program is also designed to introduce the athlete to members of the senior teams, providing an opportunity for mentorship and development. Members of the Under-19 team have often continued on to distinguished careers at the collegiate level. The members of the U-19 team are the ambassadors of the sport for the U.S. both domestically and internationally and are dedicated to its growth and development at all levels.

The U-19 World Championship Team is selected from the members of the U-19 Squad and it represents the pinnacle of international and domestic competition and playing experience for junior women's lacrosse players and coaches in the United States. The World Championship team is assembled for competition in the quadrennial IFWLA World Championships, where they play the best teams in the world, with the goal of earning the designation of World Champion.

Selection Process for the U-19 Team

U-19 Selection Committee

The U-19 Selection Committee (U-19SC) is charged with the selection of the U.S. U-19 Team. The committee is made up of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 13 members are required to participate in selections during the US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament (typically over Memorial Day Weekend) and at the U.S. Trials weekend (typically, the first weekend of August).

Selection of Committee Composition

In the early spring (March-April), the NTC Chair solicits nominations from the NTC, as well as from high school coaches for the position of Team Selection Committee Chair and for members to serve on the U-19SC. The NTC will vote on the positions and the Women's Division Board of Governor's will approve the recommendations for this committee. The U-19 assistant coaches are a part of the open tryouts, and then they are part of their own selection process for the World Championship team.

U-19 Team Selection Committee Members should include members from the following pool:

- (1) U19 Head Coach (Chair)
- (1-2) U19 Assistant Coach/es
- (6) High School Regional Coaches (from different regions of country)-applied to be selectors – application on line at USL web site –final selection by U19 staff
- (1-2) Members of the Elite or Developmental Coaching staff
- (1-2) Members or former members of the US National Teams Program (preferably players who are coaches) – by invitation of the U19 staff

**1 selector must be a goalie coach*

Present at Tryouts: U19 Manager, Trainer and any assistant coaches not currently serving on selection committee

Purpose of the Selection Criteria

The U.S. Women's National Team Selection Criteria benefits the National Team Candidates as it ensures that all Candidates are given an equal opportunity to compete for a position on the National Team. The Selection Criteria adheres to the USOC Guidelines for Athlete Selection Procedures by using objective criteria for selecting the National Team. The Selection Criteria is written by the National Teams Selection Committee, reviewed by the National Teams Committee and approved by the Women's Division Board of Governor's.

Tryout Procedure for U-19 Team

A player wishing to stand for selection to the U.S. U-19 Team must be 18 years of age or under (in high school) by December 31st of the year prior to the U-19 World Championship. It is acceptable if the player graduates from high school before the Championship. A player may not tryout for the U-19 team if they are enrolled in college in the spring prior to the Championship.

The commitment for the U.S. U-19 World Championship Team is a two year term beginning with the regional tryouts for the US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament in the spring and concluding with full participation in the National Tournament in the year following the World Championship (May 26-27, 2008).

Tryouts and Practices

All regional and chapter selectors will be required to comply with all National Teams Committee U-19 selection guidelines and fill out and return the standardized selection forms created by the National Teams Committee.

Regional Tryouts- Round 1

Any player wishing to stand for U-19 Team must first be selected by their US Lacrosse chapter (if a chapter is a pre-requisite for regional tryouts) and then the region to their US Lacrosse National Tournament Regional Team and participate (compete fully) in the US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament representing that region.

At registration for the National Tournament regional tryout, players wishing to tryout for the U-19 team must identify themselves and present the U-19 tryout application form

and U-19 tryout fee to the regional selection chair, which is separate from National Tournament Tryout Fee. It is the responsibility of the selection chair to send this tryout fee with all applications to US Lacrosse immediately following regional tryouts.

National Tryouts - Round 2

Round 2 will be held August 7-9 and conducted by the US Lacrosse National Teams Committee. All candidates still in the selection process are invited to tryout and must fill out and return applications as well as appropriate paperwork to US Lacrosse by July 15th. Expenses for this tryout are the responsibility of the players trying out. The players named to the U-19 Training Squad will be selected at the end of the tryouts and posted at the site. The 24 person squad and their parents will meet with the coaches following the posting of the list.

Final National Tryout – Round 3 - Championship Team Selection

US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament. The U-19 Training Squad will play as a team at the US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament. Friday will be a mandatory practice date. The final cut to 18 will be made at the conclusion of that tournament and players will be notified by letter.

Training and Competition for U-19 Team

- (1) U-19 Training Camp (5 days) - Last week of July, 2007
- (2) Practices (2 days long each) – Weekends in October 2006 and February 2007
- (3) US Lacrosse Women's Division National Tournament (3 days) – Memorial Day Weekend.

Exact sites and dates to be determined for these events. All members of the U19 Training Squad are expected to attend and participate in the October and February practices, as well as the National Tournament in the year following the World Championship. The 2007 IFWLA U-19 World Championships take place on August 2-12, 2007, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada - (10 Days)

There may also be training Dates following the IFWLA World Championships that U19 Training Squad will be expected to attend.