

Basics

Job Title Associate Footwear Designer
Reports To Running Footwear Designer
FLSA Status Exempt
Direct Reports No

About Mizuno

Mizuno USA's roots stem from its parent company, Mizuno Corporation. Mizuno Corporation was established in Osaka, Japan in 1906 by Rihachi Mizuno. Today, Mizuno USA is located in Peachtree Corners, GA and continues to manufacture and distribute high quality golf, baseball, softball, running, track & field, and volleyball equipment, apparel, and footwear.

Since our founding, we have taken special pride and pleasure in being able to participate in the exciting world of sports and providing sports equipment of the highest quality. Each and every one of us is guided by the ideal of true sportsmanship. That was true over 100 years ago and is still true today. It is evident in our corporate philosophy which, simply stated, is "Contributing to society through the advancement of sporting goods and the promotion of sports."

Are you a competitor driven by overcoming extraordinary challenges? Are you motivated by being a critical team member? Do you aspire to join a brand that makes a difference in the communities we serve? Mizuno USA is seeking top performers like you carry on the legacy of one of the world's most iconic sporting goods brands.

Every Mizuno USA teammate is a champion of our Mission and commitment to one another and athletes everywhere as they strive for ultimate achievement at every level of competition.

Let us know if you're game-ready!

Summary

Working in collaboration with the global footwear design team, the Associate Footwear Designer assists the Footwear Designer in the process of creating running footwear designs that apply the global footwear design direction to local market needs. They will further the evolution of Mizuno footwear designs as leading-edge, high-performance products in appearance, fit, and function.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The Associate Footwear Designer will perform specific tasks like the following:

- Under the direction of the Mizuno Japan Product Research, Design & Development Division, work in cooperation with Mizuno's Global Team to translate briefs, designs, and concepts into functional products that advance fit, feel, and function with aesthetic appeal to target consumers.

- Learn the Mizuno Way of product design, development, and manufacturing from senior members of the Global Footwear Team and associated staff.
- Create innovative designs for Mizuno Footwear that are consistent with the company's performance orientation and product marketing strategy.
- Transform hand drawn concept renderings into digital drawings, adding design details and factory specifications.
- Conduct continuous market and design research to better understand cultures, biomechanical requirements, related product needs, purchasing habits, preferences, and market trends.
- Continuously monitor and assess competitive models to ensure Mizuno establishes key points of differentiations, using cutting edge technology, materials, color, and aesthetics.
- Develop attractive, product-specific color options for use in seasonal product lines.
- Proactively participate in the execution of all product details, including construction, color, form, style, fit, performance, and cost/value requirements.
- Travel to and participate in Mizuno's Global Footwear Team meetings, National Sales meetings, and periodic Dealer Conferences, to communicate creative strategies, product concepts, and consumer insights.
- Interface with industry material manufacturers, communicating consumer needs in an effort to drive development of new and innovative footwear materials.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Industrial or Product Design, Fashion, Art, or related field
- Knowledge of innovative product design and development, and related processes
- Knowledge of color, textures, human factors, and form as they relate to product design
- Extensive knowledge and familiarity with performance materials, fabrics, and plastics
- Thorough, contemporary knowledge of art and design with a clear understanding of visual design concepts, including color mixing, color compatibility, and color placement
- Experience with competitive running or other sports is a definite plus
- Hand rendering skills are a must
- Proficiency in Freehand and/or Illustrator and Photoshop, with an ability to visualize in three dimensions
- Ability to communicate and work harmoniously within a team environment

Physical Demands/Essential Functions

- Prolonged periods sitting at a desk and working on a computer in an open office environment.
- Must be able to lift up to 15 pounds at times.

Whenever possible, Mizuno USA, Inc. strives to promote from within if the skills and necessary qualifications meet the requirements for the position. Internal and external candidates will be considered for the position and the best candidate will be hired.

Mizuno USA, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer: All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and will not be discriminated against based on their race, gender, disability, veteran status or other protected classification.

EOE M/F/D/V

Visit <https://www.careers-mizunousa.com/jobs> to apply, or send your resume and cover letter to mizunocareers@mizunousa.com and include the Job Title in the Subject line.