



2022 AMERICAS TRIATHLON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated 5.24.2022

1. Introduction

This 2022 Americas Triathlon Junior Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the athletes who will represent the United States at the 2022 Americas Triathlon Junior Championship (the “Americas Triathlon Championship”) in **Montevideo, Uruguay, October 29-30, 2022** (the “Team”). These selection criteria aim to provide emerging athletes, ages 16 to 19 (as of December 31, 2022), the opportunity to continue their athletic development at the highest levels of international triathlon competition.

Per Americas Triathlon Championship eligibility guidelines (see www.triathlon.org), USA Triathlon (“USAT”) may typically nominate four (4) men and four (4) women to compete in the 2022 Americas Triathlon Junior Championship. World Triathlon typically awards entry spots based on its quota system.

The first priority of the USAT Team at the Americas Triathlon Junior Championship is to earn a full quota for USA for the next World Triathlon Junior Championships.

USAT will make selections to any associated Mixed Relay event in accordance with the USAT Mixed Relay Event Selection Criteria.

2. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the team:

- a. Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States under the applicable World Triathlon rules;
- b. Must be a USA Triathlon member in good standing;
- c. Athlete must be eligible under all applicable rules of World Triathlon (www.triathlon.org), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon.
- d. Age 16 to 19 as of December 31, 2022.

3. Discretionary Selection Events

- a. All USAT sanctioned Junior Development races, World Triathlon events, and America Triathlon (PATCO) sanctioned events in the 2020, 2021, 2022 seasons.

4. Selection Procedure

- a. Expected Quota: Per World Triathlon entry criteria, USAT may nominate up to four (4) athletes per gender for the Americas Triathlon Championship. If additional entries are awarded beyond four (4), such additional spots will be filled by Discretionary Selection. USAT will submit nominations for the Americas Triathlon Championship to World Triathlon no later than 35 days prior (the “Nomination Deadline”).
- b. Selection Process:
 1. The top USA athlete finishing in the top 15 of the World Triathlon Junior Championships individual event (Montreal, Canada) will be selected. (1 male & 1 female)
 2. The top USA athlete, not already selected, at the Zone3 Junior Triathlon Draft-Legal National Championships 18/19 age category will be selected. (1 male & 1 female)
 3. The top USA athlete, not already selected, at the Zone3 Junior Triathlon Draft-Legal National Championships 16/17 age category will be selected. (1 male & 1 female)
 4. The top ranked athlete, not already selected, on the combined (16-19 age category) USAT Junior Development Series Ranking List after the final USA Triathlon Junior Development Series event (and in advance of Zone3 Junior Triathlon Draft-Legal National Championships) will be selected. (1 male & 1 female)

5. If spots are available after steps 1-4 above, discretionary selection will be utilized until the team of 4 junior women and 4 junior men have been selected and is complete.
6. If selected athletes are unable or unwilling to accept their earned selection, the available spot(s) will go to discretionary selection.
7. The International Competition Panel (ICP) will utilize its full discretion to establish a list of additional athletes (beyond the Team of 4 + 4), in priority order, who will have access to the wait list in case USA may earn additional quota for the Americas Triathlon Junior Championships events.

*An athlete's two best Series scores will count toward their individual total score/ranking on the combined USAT Junior Development Series Ranking List. Any ties for the top 10 positions in the Series overall rankings will be broken by single best result in a Series event; and by head-to-head finishes in Series events. If there are no head-to-head finishes to compare, and/or if further tie break is required, USA Triathlon High Performance staff will review race performances, actual race times at events, and take into account other factors at their full discretion (race incidents, crashes, number of race starts opportunities, etc) to establish the final tie break. Ties at each Series events will be broken by the times provided by the timer in the official results or by photographic evidence, if available.

- c. Discretionary Selection: USAT will fill all spots not earned by the Selection Process in 4.b per the Discretionary Selection process described below.
- d. Cancellation, Postponement, or Modification: In the event of cancellation of Zone3 Junior Triathlon Draft-Legal National Championships, the USAT Junior Development rankings may be adjusted by USAT High Performance staff. If two or more USAT Junior Development Race Series events are canceled and/or National Championships are unable to be completed spots may be filled at the sole discretion of the ICP.

5. Discretionary Selection

- a. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The International Competition Panel will prioritize athletes for nomination per the discretionary criteria outlined below.
- b. Discretionary criteria: The following criteria shall be used for assessing athletes for discretionary selection. The criteria are listed in no particular order and are not inclusive of all possible factors warranting consideration:
 - i. Performance and results in 2020, 2021, and 2022 Junior Development Race Series and Elite World Triathlon draft-legal events;
 - ii. Current and former USAT Junior Development Ranking, Americas Triathlon or World Triathlon rankings (if any);
 - iii. Performance measures, assessments, and consideration of any exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the ICP.
- c. The International Competition Panel will be comprised of two (2) members of the USAT High Performance Staff and one (1) Elite Triathlon Athlete Representative and the most current details are posted at: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-triathlon/elite/elite-athlete-qualification>.

6. Removal from the Team

- a. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Triathlon may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Triathlon:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Triathlon Development Coordinator at juniors@usatriathlon.org

- ii. Injury or illness as certified by an USA Triathlon-approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a USA Triathlon-approved physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- iii. Violation of the USA Triathlon Code of Conduct, USAT rules, Safe Sport or team travel policies. An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Triathlon Bylaws Article XV or the USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

7. Replacements to the Team

- a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant after all spots have been claimed and nominated to World Triathlon, such vacancy shall be filled by discretionary selection. The replacement athlete must meet all applicable eligibility requirements. In the event that no athlete meets all of these criteria, or World Triathlon does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

8. Additional Requirements for Selection

- a. All athletes selected to the Team will be required to comply with all applicable rules and requirements of World Triathlon, WADA, USADA, and USAT, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Abide by the USAT's Code of Conduct, team travel policies, any USAT or World Triathlon Waiver or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
 - ii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the Americas Triathlon Junior Championship, unless waived by the USAT High Performance Development Coordinator.
 - iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for Americas Triathlon Junior Championship, if so requested. In which case, accommodations will be coordinated by the USAT High Performance staff.
 - i. **All athletes must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) in order to participate in certain World Triathlon officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in this championship.**
 - iv. Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite, and Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events are required to complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport tutorial as well as any follow up refresher courses. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found at: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-triathlon/usat-for-me/athlete-resources/safesport-and-usat>. Certification needs to be updated annually. Once completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to: juniors@usatriathlon.org and retain a copy for your records.
 - v. Athlete must be eligible to enter and compete in the country at which the event is held. This includes, but is not limited to having an acceptable visa, passport and meeting all country health evidentiary requirements.

9. Team Support

- a. USAT will cover the race registration fee.
- b. USAT will provide staff and/or experienced contractors to serve as Team Leaders for this event.
- c. USAT will look for opportunities to decrease the total cost of the trip to Americas Triathlon Junior Championships for those attending, by subsidizing lodging and transport when possible.
- d. USAT will inform nominated athletes their expected costs involved with this competition trip upon selection.

10. Withdrawal Penalties

- a. *Withdrawal deadlines:* the World Triathlon withdrawal deadline is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program; **the USAT withdrawal deadline is 31 days prior to the first competition day in the event program (this is the day after the start list is produced)**. If an athlete fails to remove himself or herself from an event by the USAT withdrawal deadline a penalty will apply.
- b. *Penalties:* If a withdrawal is requested within 31 days of the event (the day after the start list is produced), USAT will impose the penalties outlined below. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., a new and verified medical impairment or verified extenuating circumstance) penalties may be waived. For this to occur, an athlete must submit a written explanation of their situation with relevant supporting documentation to wentries@usatriathlon.org & juniors@usatriathlon.org. A discretionary panel, with at least 33% athlete representation, will be formed to review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.
 - a. **1st offense:** \$250 fine
 - b. **2nd offense:** \$500 fine
 - c. **3rd offense:** \$1000 fine and ineligible for any World Triathlon event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

11. International Disclaimer

- a. These Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to USAT, and on World Triathlon and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in World Triathlon or USAT rules and regulations, or other unforeseen circumstances, will be distributed to the affected athletes promptly, and USAT reserves the right to revise these Selection criteria in such event.

Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager (hpgm@usatriathlon.org or 719-744-2842). In addition, athletes are encouraged to contact the Athlete Ombuds Office as a resource for confidential, independent advice and assistance with resolving disputes (contact information below). After the previous steps have occurred, athletes may contact USA Triathlon Senior Counsel (legal@usatriathlon.org or 720-800-6622) to administer an executive review to ensure published criteria and process was followed.

Athletes have the right to file a grievance and have a hearing per the [USAT Grievance and Disciplinary Policy](#). Athletes also have the right to report any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and will not be retaliated against for raising concerns or asking questions of USA Triathlon or the Athlete Ombuds Office. For more information, please see [USA Triathlon's Whistleblower Policy](#).

Athlete Ombuds - The Office of the Athlete Ombuds offers independent, confidential advice to elite athletes regarding their rights and responsibilities in the Olympic and Paralympic Movement, and assists athletes with a broad range of questions, disputes, complaints and concerns.

Phone: 719-866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: usathlete.org