2022 USAT World Triathlon Para Cups, Americas Triathlon Para Championships & Para Conti Cups Selection Criteria

Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon ("**USAT**") will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to World Triathlon to compete in World Triathlon Para Cups ("**WPC**"), Americas Triathlon Para Championships ("**CCH**"), and World Triathlon Para Conti Cups ("**PCC**"). It is derived from the current World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT within seven (7) business days to comply with any material changes by World Triathlon to the World Triathlon Para Event Qualification Criteria. Any changes made by USAT may require approval from the Board of Directors. While USAT will make changes within seven days, the approval process may take longer.

World Triathlon determines the qualification criteria for World Triathlon WPC, CCH, and PCC events. Selections to these events are made by World Triathlon from entries submitted by USAT. All USA athletes interested in WPC, CCH, and/or PCC entry are advised to read the World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Athlete Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for entry into a WPC, CCH, and/or PCC event are as follows:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States;
- Must hold a current USAT Paratriathlete Annual Membership license through the date of the event;
- Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, World Triathlon, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;
- Must have a Review "R", Confirmed "C" International Classification status or will have the opportunity to be Internationally Classified by World Triathlon at the event;
- Must have submitted the World Triathlon PI or VI Medical Diagnosis Form and any additional classification paperwork according to the World Triathlon Classification Policies and Procedures found at www.triathlon.org
- Must sign the USA Triathlon Nomination Procedure Agreement.
- Must sign the USAT Code of Conduct.
- Must submit the annual World Triathlon Pre Participation Evaluation (PPE) to World Triathlon
- Must complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport Tutorial

Athlete Nomination Process

All athletes must follow the nomination process set forth by USAT. No exceptions will be made.

1. Athletes must request entry to a WPC, CCH, and PCC event by written notice to USAT via paraentries@usatriathlon.org by the USAT entry deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff, in person communication, or phone calls)
2. Athletes must have a current performance resume on file with USAT, sent to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. This performance resume is meant to include relevant performance results and verifiable training data from the prior 12 months.

3. **Deadlines.** USAT deadlines are 5 pm EST the Wednesday before the World Triathlon deadline. USAT will continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon system after the deadline has passed. All nomination requests submitted after the deadline will be handled in the order of which they were received. Please note that after the World Triathlon deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry to the World Triathlon online system. Entry deadlines for 2022 events are listed on page four (4) of this document and the USAT website www.usaparatriathlon.org.
   Note: In the event that the World Triathlon does not post a start list by the 32 day deadline, USAT will continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon system with no penalty to the athlete.
4. When possible, the Monday prior to the USAT deadline, an email reminder about event entries will be sent to athletes who are on the paratriathlon listserv and those who have requested a World Triathlon entry in the current year. Athletes are encouraged to not wait for this email to nominate for a race.
5. USAT may enter additional athletes as place holders in order to maximize the number of US quota places available. *Place holder is defined as an athlete who has not requested a start to an event by the published USAT deadline.*
6. Selection to the WPC, CCH, and/or PCC event will be made by World Triathlon in accordance with the World Triathlon Paratriathlon Event Qualification Criteria and start lists are expected to be posted 32 days prior to the event.
7. **Substitutions**. Once World Triathlon has created the start list for a PWC, CCH, and PCC event, one athlete per gender may be replaced per the World Triathlon substitution procedure. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, quickly rising up the pipeline, or capable of achieving a medal performance can be entered to enhance medal opportunities. Should USAT use a substitution, they will notify the placeholder and the substitute prior to the substitution via email. This substitution process may be used in the following cases:
   - An athlete who has been placed on the start list as a place holder;
   - An athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury or illness;
   - In order to enhance U.S.A. medal opportunities at the event;
   - An athlete who can increase the slot allocation for USA during the Paralympic qualification period.

   Any discretionary nominations will be confirmed by the International Competition Panel (IPC) using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:

   - Athletes who have a podium result in WPC, WCH, or WPS events in the previous 18 months before the USAT Nomination Deadline for the event, and are not ranked high enough to earn a spot on the World Triathlon Provisional Start List, will be considered for discretionary nomination.
   - The recent head-to-head World Triathlon Para results of the potential substituting athlete versus the potential "substitutee," taking into account factors such as field strength, course profile, and conditions, within the previous 18 months;
   - Athletes who have achieved a podium performance at the same venue/location in previous years will be considered for discretionary nomination.
   - Whether a particular athlete is returning from injury, pregnancy, quickly rising through the pipeline, and/or capable of contributing to a medal performance at the event;
   - Other performance results of athletes (in the past 18 months) may be considered as part of discretion if they reach the threshold of podium result in World Triathlon WPC, WCH, or WPS events;
   - Athletes who USAT determines could have the best capacity to increase the slot allocation for the USA during the Paralympic Qualification period will be considered for discretionary nomination.

   This priority of substitutions will be exercised in the following order:
   1. Discretionary nominations as stated above.
   2. Remaining USA athletes based on World Triathlon Ranking.

Athletes will be notified of their status as a substitution/substitutee within 48 hours after the closing of the USAT Nomination Deadline for the event. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. earthquakes, cancellation of other World Triathlon events, epidemics, riots) USAT shall have the ability to remove athletes from the start list and/or waitlist at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the event's elite athlete briefing.

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

8. **Priority of Nominations.** Nomination priority to World Triathlon will be in accordance with international Paratriathlon rankings managed by World Triathlon.

9. **World Triathlon Invitations:** All athletes remaining on the waitlist are eligible for a World Triathlon invitation. The US quota and the sport class maximum quota will not be in consideration in World Triathlon's awarding of invitations. The World Triathlon invitation panel will decide based on its own discretion. For more about the World Triathlon invitations refer to the World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

PPE: Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite and Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events are required to undergo a Pre-Participation Exam (PPE) by their personal health care provider. The details of this are outlined in Rule 2.4 and Appendix Q of the World Triathlon Competition Rules. The PPE includes completion of the World Triathlon -provided Medical Questionnaire reviewed by the athlete's doctor, an examination, and a 12 lead resting electrocardiogram (ECG) with results reviewed by the athlete's doctor. Upon satisfactory completion of the PPE, the athlete will send the **physician signed** certification form to certify to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. The athlete **does not** send his/her medical documentation to USAT.

Please retain your original completed, dated, and signed questionnaire and PPE certification for your own records. Please click here for more information this screening and the PPE documents.

Safe Sport: 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 www.usatriathlon.org. This tutorial or refresher course needs to be completed once every year.

Once you have completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to: paraentries@usatriathlon.org. Please retain a copy for your own records.

Fines and Penalties

USAT will enforce the nomination and withdrawal policies outlined in this document. If an athlete fails to adhere to these rules they may be penalized according to the fine schedule below. To avoid penalties, athletes must communicate via email (*paraentries@usatriathlon.org*) their request to be removed from the event nomination list no later than 31 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. Additional penalties may be incurred from World Triathlon for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at

www.triathlon.org. Offenses to this USAT policy expire two years after the scheduled event date at which point they no longer factor in penalty aggregation.

If a withdrawal is requested within 31 days of the event, USAT has the discretion to 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 paraentries@usatriathlon.org. A discretionary panel with at least 33.3% athlete representation will review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.

1st offense:	$250 fine
2nd offense:	$500 fine
3rd offense:	$1000 fine & ineligible for any World Triathlon event starts for 3 months from race date

World Triathlon and USAT Entry Deadlines

World Triathlon is expected to post start lists 32 days prior to the event. The USAT deadline for all events will be 5pm EST the Wednesday prior to the World Triathlon deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above. All deadlines will be posted on the USAT event qualification document webpage.