



# 2020 ITU Continental Cup Event Selection Criteria

## Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon (“**USAT**”) will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to the International Triathlon Union (“**ITU**”) to compete in ITU Continental Cup (“**CC**”) events. It is derived from the current ITU CC Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USA Triathlon to comply with any material changes made by the ITU promptly. Changes will not be considered official until approved by the Board of Directors. USA Triathlon will notify athletes of changes to these selection criteria.

ITU determines the qualification criteria for ITU CC events. The first start list posted by ITU is provisional and reflects the number of quota positions earned by each National Federation (the “**ITU Provisional Start List**”). Being named in the ITU Provisional Start List does not guarantee that an athlete has been selected by USA Triathlon for the event. See the Athlete Selection Process below. All USA athletes interested in CC nomination are advised to read the ITU CC Qualification Criteria posted at [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org).

ITU CC events are the first tier of international standard distance (Sprint and Olympic) draft-legal triathlon where ITU ranking points are awarded. They are an important stepping-stone for developing athletes to gain race experience, learn to win races, and gain ranking points to progress to World Cup (“**WC**”) and World Triathlon Series (“**WTS**”) events.

## Pre Participation Exam (PPE)

Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite and Elite Paratriathlon categories at ITU 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 ITU Competition Rules. The PPE includes completion of an ITU-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.

Once athletes have completed the screening and the questionnaire, athletes are instructed to email only the signed completed PPE certification form to [elite@usatriathlon.org](mailto:elite@usatriathlon.org). Athletes should retain their original completed, dated and signed questionnaire and PPE certification for their own records. Click here for more information on this screening and the PPE documents.

## SafeSport Training

Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite, and Paratriathlon categories at ITU events are required to complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport tutorial. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found at [www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org). This tutorial needs to be completed once every two years.

After the tutorial has been completed successfully, athletes are instructed to email the completed .pdf certificate to: [elite@usatriathlon.org](mailto:elite@usatriathlon.org) and retain a copy for their own records.

## Athlete Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to an ITU CC Event are as follows. An athlete must meet these requirements on or before the date of his or her nomination, and remain in compliance throughout the completion of the applicable ITU event:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States under the applicable ITU rules;
- Must hold a current USA Triathlon Elite License;
- Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, SafeSport, ITU, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;



## 2020 ITU Continental Cup Event Selection Criteria

- Must sign the USA Triathlon Nomination Procedure Agreement;
- Must comply with ITU Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- Current with SafeSport Training by completing the SafeSport tutorial and updating the tutorial as required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

### Athlete Nomination Process

All athletes must follow the nomination process set forth by USAT.

1. Athletes must nominate for a CC event by written notice to USA Triathlon via [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org) by the USAT Nomination Deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff and in person communication).
2. Deadlines: “**USAT Nomination Deadlines**” are defined as the date by which athletes must nominate themselves for an event (or withdraw, as discussed below), and are midnight MT the Sunday before the ITU Nomination Deadline (generally 34 days before the first competition day of an event). The “**ITU Nomination Deadline**” is normally 32 days prior to the applicable event, although the exact time of the ITU Nomination Deadline, evidenced by the ITU’s posting of the ITU Provisional Start List, may vary. USA Triathlon may continue to enter athletes into the ITU system after the USAT Nomination Deadline has passed, but failure to meet the USAT Nomination Deadline means that an athlete is not guaranteed entry into the ITU system for that event. All nomination requests submitted after the USAT Nomination Deadline will generally be considered by the ITU in the order in which they were received. Please note that after the ITU Nomination Deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry into the ITU online system. The wait list is subject to the ITU’s policies and procedures.
3. Withdrawal deadlines: The ITU substitution and withdrawal deadline (“**ITU Substitution Deadline**”) is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. The USAT Withdrawal Deadline is the same as the ITU Substitution Deadline, which is 30 days prior to the event. If an athlete fails to withdraw from an event by the USAT Withdrawal Deadline, a penalty will ordinarily apply, except in extenuating circumstances where USA Triathlon will accept a later withdrawal, including, but not limited to, verified illness or injury after the USAT Withdrawal Deadline.
4. Placeholder: USA Triathlon reserves the right to enter an athlete who does not intend to compete in an ITU event on the same weekend for the purpose of serving as a placeholder (i.e. with the intent that USA Triathlon will substitute a different athlete for the named athlete prior to the ITU Substitution Deadline 30 days prior to the event).

### Athlete Selection Process

1. The provisional start list is expected to be posted by the ITU 32 days prior to the event, however, the publication time and date may vary, and is in the ITU’s sole control. This list is not final and only represents initial NF quotas (i.e. the number of spots a given NF has been allotted) based on ITU CC Qualification Criteria. Being named in the ITU Provisional Start List does not guarantee that an athlete has been selected by USA Triathlon for the event.
2. Substitutions: Per the ITU substitution procedure, after the ITU Provisional Start List for a CC event has been posted, **three athletes per gender may be replaced**. USA Triathlon is not obligated to exercise a substitution. Athletes on the ITU Provisional Start List may have someone substituted for him/her in accordance with the procedures below, before the ITU Substitution Deadline. Substitutions may be appealed in accordance with Section 3.3, below. (Please note that athletes who are not on the ITU start list after the ITU Substitution Deadline may become eligible to compete in the event, as determined by the ITU under the applicable ITU policies related to withdrawals and wait lists, but this is in the ITU’s sole control.)
  - 2.1. This substitution process will be used in the following cases in accordance with the procedures in 2.2, below.



## 2020 ITU Continental Cup Event Selection Criteria

- 2.1.1. To replace an athlete included on the ITU Provisional Start List as a placeholder.
- 2.1.2. To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness or extenuating circumstance.
- 2.1.3. To otherwise substitute an athlete in order to enhance medal opportunities at the event.
- 2.2. Substitutions will be exercised as follows:
  - 2.2.1. Discretionary Nominations will be identified by a panel of three USA Triathlon High Performance Staff (who do not serve in the capacity as a personal coach to program athletes) and one athlete rep, using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:
    - 2.2.1.1. Athletes who have achieved top 20 WTS results, top 15 results in WC events or top 5 results in CC events in the previous 12 months before the USAT Nomination Deadline for the event, and are not ranked high enough to earn a spot on the ITU Provisional Start List, will be considered for discretionary nomination.
    - 2.2.1.2. The recent head-to-head WTS, WC and CC 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 12 months;
    - 2.2.1.3. Athletes who have achieved a top 5 performance at the same venue/location in previous years will be considered for discretionary nomination.
    - 2.2.1.4. Whether a particular athlete is returning from injury, quickly rising through the pipeline, and/or capable of contributing to a medal performance at the event;
    - 2.2.1.5. Other performance results of athletes (in the past 6 months) may be considered as part of discretion if they reach the threshold of top 20 in WTS, top 15 in WC competitions and top 5 in CC competitions.
- 2.3. 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, which will permit time for appeal before the ITU Substitution Deadline. Athletes to be substituted (whose names will appear on the ITU Provisional Start List, but who will be substituted; excluding placeholders who never nominated for the event) shall have 12 hours from notification to submit a challenge to the substitution, in writing, to USA Triathlon via email at [ituentries@usatriathlon.com](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.com), with a copy to the High Performance General Manager ([HPGM@usatriathlon.org](mailto:HPGM@usatriathlon.org)). USAT will convene a panel of four individuals, including the USAT Chief Executive Officer, Chief Sport Development Officer, High Performance General Manager, and one athlete representative, who shall issue a written decision within 12 hours. If any of these individuals are not available, replacement panelists will come from individuals of similar qualifications. Such decision shall be final and binding. **In the event that this procedure would result in a decision less than two hours before the ITU Substitution Deadline, this appeal process shall not be available, and USA Triathlon’s initial decision is final.**

### Fines and Penalties

USA Triathlon 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 ([ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org)) their request to be removed from the CC Event nomination list no later than the USA Triathlon Deadline, i.e. 34 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. Additional penalties may be incurred from the ITU for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize



## 2020 ITU Continental Cup Event Selection Criteria

themselves with the criteria outlined at [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org). Penalties under this USA Triathlon 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 less than 34 days of the event, USA Triathlon will impose the penalties outlined below. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., a new and verified illness or injury or other verified extenuating circumstance) penalties may be waived. For this to occur, an athlete must submit a written explanation of his or her situation with relevant supporting documentation to [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org). A discretionary panel, with at least 20% athlete representation, will be formed to review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> offense:</b>	\$250 fine
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> offense:</b>	\$500 fine
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> offense:</b>	\$1000 fine and ineligible for any ITU event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

### ITU and USAT Nomination Deadlines

ITU is expected to post the ITU Provisional Start List 32 days prior to the event. The USAT Nomination Deadline for all events will be **midnight MT** the Sunday prior to the ITU Nomination Deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above. All event dates can be found under the “Events” section on the ITU website ([www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org)).