



2021 WORLD TRIATHLON U23 CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated 2.20.2021

1. Introduction

This 2021 World Triathlon U23 Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the “Under 23” athletes (ages 18 to 23 as of December 31, 2021) that will represent the United States in the World Triathlon U23 Championship (the “Team”) in Edmonton, Canada, on or about August 22, 2021 (the “World Championship”).

According to the World Triathlon U23 Championship qualification criteria (available at www.triathlon.org), USA Triathlon (“USAT”) may nominate up to three (3) men and three (3) women to compete in the U23 division of this World Championship event. However, only the top 3 ranked federations earn three (3) spots automatically; lower ranked federations earn two (2) spots. The federation ranking is determined by the ranking of U23s within the World Triathlon Rankings.

If there is a U23 Mixed Relay event in 2021, selection will be in accordance with the most current 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 hold a current USA Triathlon Elite License;
- c. Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), SafeSport, World Triathlon, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;
- d. Must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- e. Current with SafeSport Training by completing the SafeSport tutorial and updating the tutorial as required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport;

3. World Triathlon Championship Series & Finals Qualification Criteria

- a. These criteria align with the nomination parameters set forth by World Triathlon for the World Triathlon Championship Final. Per *World Triathlon Championships Series and Finals Qualification Criteria*, dated 12/10/2017, “Athletes will gain a start position based on the points accumulated in the World Triathlon Ranking, according to the procedures in Competition Rules Appendix E.” Furthermore, *World Triathlon General Qualification Rules and Procedures*, dated 12/10/2017, Section 8, allows for one (1) substitution per gender at the U23 World Championship.

4. Selection events

- a. **Selection Event #1:** USA Triathlon U23 National Championship (Sprint distance), part of the 2021 Americas Triathlon Cup Long Beach, **July 18, 2021**. (up to 1 spot), if this event happens on or before July 18, 2021.

5. Athlete Selection Process

- a. USAT will nominate eligible athletes to the start list no later than 33 days prior to the event. Nominations will follow the order of the posted World Triathlon Rankings. World Triathlon creates the provisional start list based on the World Triathlon Rankings approximately 32 days prior to the event. Athletes named to the start list by World Triathlon are subject to substitution, unless they meet the automatic selection standard in 4.b.
- b. **Automatic Selection:** Up to one (1) position may be awarded at **Selection Event #1**. The first (1st) eligible USAT U23 athlete at Selection Event #1 will automatically qualify for the Team, provided he/she finishes in 5th place or better overall among all participants. If the spot is not filled at Selection Event #1, USAT will fill it via the Discretionary Selection process.
- c. **Substitution:** Per World Triathlon policy, after the provisional start list is published, one (1) athlete per gender may be replaced by substitution. USAT is not obligated to exercise substitution. The purpose of USAT's protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, rapidly rising through the rankings, or capable of contributing to a medal performance may be placed on the team to enhance medal opportunities.
 - i. This substitution process will only be used in the following cases:
 1. To replace an athlete included on the start list as a placeholder;
 2. To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness or extenuating circumstance; or,
 3. To fill the quota spot earned for the National Federation by an athlete who has not met the Automatic Selection standards listed above.
 - ii. Substitutions will be exercised in the following priority order:
 1. Discretionary nomination per Section 5 below.
 2. Remaining USA athletes based on World Ranking
- d. The maximum size for the Team is three (3) male athletes and three (3) female athletes (the "Quota"). In the event that the National Federation quota exceeds three (3) male and (3) female athletes, nomination will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
- e. **Cancellation or Modification:** In the event of cancellation of any portion of the Automatic Selection event (swim, bike or run), spots will be filled at USAT's discretion. If the distance of any leg of the event or the entire event is shortened by more than 50%, the spots will be filled at USAT's discretion.

6. Discretionary Selection

- a. **Discretionary Process:** Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The Discretionary Selection Committee 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 World Triathlon draft-legal events.
 - ii. Performance and results in USAT sanctioned draft-legal events.
 - iii. World Triathlon Ranking.

- iv. Performance measures at the Discretionary Selection Committee's discretion.
- c. The Discretionary Selection Committee will be comprised of two (2) members of the USAT High Performance Department staff and one (1) elite athlete representative.

7. Removal from the Team

- a. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USAT 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 USAT HPGM.
 - ii. Injury or illness as certified by a 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. 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 USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

8. Replacements to the Team

- a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by Discretionary Selection, provided a replacement is allowed by World Triathlon. In the event that there is no athlete that meets all of these criteria, or World Triathlon does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

9. 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. Sign and 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 an Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) up to six (6) weeks prior to the date of the World Championship through the date of the World Championship.
 - iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for the World Championship. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.
 - iv. **All athletes must comply with ITU Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) in order to participate in certain ITU officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in this championship.**
 - i. 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: <https://www.teamusa.org/usa-triathlon/usat-for-me/athlete-resources/safesport-and-usat> Certification needs to be updated annually. Once you have completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to: elite@usatriathlon.org. Please retain a copy for your own records.

10. Team Support

- a. USAT will provide staff and/or experienced contractors to serve as Team Leaders for this event.
- b. USAT will look for opportunities to decrease the total cost of the trip to World Championships for those attending, by subsidizing lodging, transport, and/or competition fees when possible, but will not be offering full funding in 2021.
- c. USAT will inform nominated athletes their expected costs involved with this World Championship competition trip upon selection.

11. Withdrawal Penalties

- a. *Withdrawal deadlines:* 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, then 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 ituentries@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.
 - i. **1st offense:** \$250 fine
 - ii. **2nd offense:** \$500 fine
 - iii. **3rd offense:** \$1000 fine and ineligible for any World Triathlon event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

12. International Disclaimer

These Selection Criteria are based upon 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.