



# 2021 World Triathlon Championship Series Event Selection Criteria

## Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon (“**USAT**”) will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to World Triathlon to compete in World Triathlon Championship Series (“**WTS**”) events. It is derived from the current World Triathlon WTS Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USA Triathlon to comply with any material changes made by World Triathlon promptly. Changes will be reviewed and confirmed by the Athlete Advisory Council (AAC), and USAT will notify athletes of changes to these selection criteria.

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

World Triathlon WTS events are intended for the highest caliber athletes currently competing at the most competitive level of international standard distance (Sprint, Olympic and Super Sprint) draft-legal triathlon. Athletes who have not yet reached this level are expected to begin by racing at World Triathlon Continental Cups and progress to World Triathlon Cups, to gain both experience and ranking points to demonstrate readiness for WTS event competition. There is a limited ability to fast track athletes to WTS competition via World Triathlon invitations and National Federation (“**NF**”) substitutions.

## Pre Participation Exam (PPE)

Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite and Elite 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 a 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.

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 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 [here](#). This tutorial or refresher course needs to be completed once every year.

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 a World Triathlon WTS 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 World Triathlon event:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States under the applicable World Triathlon rules;
- Must hold a current USA Triathlon Elite License;



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- Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, 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;
- Must sign the USA Triathlon Nomination Procedure Agreement;
- Must comply with World Triathlon 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 USA Triathlon.

1. Athletes nominate for a WTS event by written notice to USAT 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: Nomination deadlines for 2021 events are linked on page four (4) of this document. “**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 World Triathlon Nomination Deadline (generally 34 days before the first competition day of an event). The “**World Triathlon Nomination Deadline**” is normally 32 days prior to the applicable event, although the exact time of the ITU Nomination Deadline, evidenced by the World Triathlon’s posting of the World Triathlon Provisional Start List, may vary. USAT may continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon 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 World Triathlon system for that event. All nomination requests submitted after the USAT Nomination Deadline will generally be considered by World Triathlon in the order in which they were received. Please note that after the World Triathlon Nomination Deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry into the World Triathlon online system. The wait list is subject to World Triathlon’s policies and procedures.
3. Withdrawal deadlines: The World Triathlon substitution and withdrawal deadline (“**World Triathlon Substitution Deadline**”) is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. The USAT Withdrawal Deadline is the same as the World Triathlon 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 USAT will accept a later withdrawal, including, but not limited to, verified illness or injury after the USAT Withdrawal Deadline.
4. Placeholder: USAT reserves the right to enter an athlete who does not intend to compete in a World Triathlon event on the same weekend for the purpose of serving as a placeholder (i.e. with the intent that USAT will substitute a different athlete for the named athlete prior to the World Triathlon Substitution Deadline 30 days prior to the event).

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1. The provisional start list is expected to be posted by World Triathlon 32 days prior to the event, however, the publication time and date may vary, and is in World Triathlon’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 World Triathlon WTS Qualification Criteria. Being named to the World Triathlon Provisional Start List does not guarantee that an athlete has been selected by USAT for the event.
2. Substitutions: Per the World Triathlon substitution procedure, after the World Triathlon Provisional Start List for a WTS event has been posted, **one athlete per gender may be replaced**. USA Triathlon is not obligated to exercise a substitution. Athletes on the World Triathlon Provisional Start List may have someone substituted for him/her in accordance with the procedures below. Substitutions may be appealed in accordance with Section 3.3, below. (Please note that athletes who are not on the World Triathlon start list after the World



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Triathlon Substitution Deadline may become eligible to compete in the event, as determined by World Triathlon under the applicable World Triathlon policies related to withdrawals and wait lists.)

- 2.1. This substitution process will be used in the following cases in accordance with the procedures in 2.2, below.
  - 2.1.1. To replace an athlete included on the World Triathlon 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 USAT High Performance strategic performance and development initiatives at the event in alignment with published Guiding Principles.
- 2.2. Substitutions will be exercised as follows:
  - 2.2.1. Discretionary Nominations will be identified by a panel of three USAT High Performance Staff (who do not serve in the capacity as a personal coach to program athletes) and one elite athlete rep, using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:
    - 2.2.1.1. Athletes who have achieved podium results in any WTS event 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.
    - 2.2.1.2. The recent head-to-head 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;
    - 2.2.1.3. Athletes who have achieved a top 8 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, pregnancy, 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 18 months) may be considered as part of discretion if they reach the threshold of top 15 in WTS and top 8 in WC 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. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. earthquakes, cancellation of other World Triathlon events, epidemics, riots) USA Triathlon 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.

*To appeal any determination made by USA Triathlon, please refer to the USA Triathlon [Athlete Appeals Process](#)*

## 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 ([ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org)) their request to be removed from the WTS Event nomination list no later than the USAT Deadline, i.e. 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. Additional penalties may be incurred from the World Triathlon for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org). Penalties under 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 less than 30 days of the event, USAT 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



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with relevant supporting documentation to [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org). A discretionary panel, with at least 20% athlete representation, will review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.

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

## World Triathlon and USAT Nomination Deadlines

World Triathlon is expected to post the World Triathlon 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 World Triathlon Nomination Deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above.

\*Deadline dates are documented based on World Triathlon rules and event date. Any deadline known date changes will be communicated via the Elite Beat.

All World Triathlon WTS event dates, location and event information can be found [here](#).

WTS Event	Event Date	World Triathlon Nomination	USAT Nomination Deadline (midnight MT)
Chengdu, CHN	May 1-2	March 30	March 28
Yokohama, JPN	May 15	April 13	April 11
Leeds, GBR	June 5-6	May 4	May 2
Montreal, CAN	June 24-27	May 25	May 23
Championship Finals: Edmonton, CAN	August 17-22	July 13	July 11
Sprint & Relay Championship Finals: Bermuda	October 15-17	September 14	September 12