

USA Triathlon High Performance

2020 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures – Guiding Principles - Version 3.0

Updated 3.23.2021



The following are the guiding principles that the USA Triathlon (“USAT”) Olympic Games Selection Procedures Committee (the “Committee”) has established in response to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. World Triathlon has announced its intent to restart the Olympic Qualification period on May 1, 2021, and is in the process of updating the Olympic Games “Qualification System” which will finalize details including the end of the Olympic Qualification period which is expected to be “no later than June 21”, 2021.

While the published and amended 2020 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures (the “Procedures”) were published with this possibility in mind and they may require further amendments. The Committee is sharing these updated Guiding Principles to keep athletes apprised of our intentions when changes are announced.

The Committee has:

- Affirmed its intent to adhere to the original method of selection as closely as possible.
- Affirmed that Automatic Selection Event # 1 (2019 Tokyo ITU World Olympic Qualification individual event) was conducted, the results stand, and athletes who earned Automatic Selection from that event will maintain their selection standing.
- Affirmed that Automatic Selection Event # 2 (2020 Yokohama ITU World Triathlon Series individual event), will no longer be considered valid as “Automatic Selection Event # 2”. (*communicated to National Team athletes and coaches via email on 3.27.2020*)
- **Affirmed the intent to utilize 2021 World Triathlon Championships Series Yokohama set for May 15, 2021 as Automatic Selection Event #2 in alignment with previous guiding principles and captured in the amended procedures. If this event gets canceled, postponed, or is otherwise not possible to be used or held within expectations as per section 1.3.a.4, then there will not be an Automatic Selection Event #2.**
- Affirmed that if no additional World Triathlon events occur (that would normally be included as additional Discretionary Evaluation or Automatic Selection Events) and USAT is required to nominate an Olympic Team, the Procedures are sufficient to be able to nominate athletes to the Team in time for the expected **final** nomination date.
- Affirmed that when the World Triathlon season resumes, on or after September 4, 2020, in keeping with the original Procedures, all World Triathlon draft-legal or similar format events (section 1.2.1) may be considered as discretionary evaluation events until the nomination date. (Games Discretionary Events Addendum posted [here](#))
- **Affirmed to establish a “Date of Nomination” which represents the final opportunity for Team nomination but acknowledges the USAT Games Athlete Selection Committee (“GASC”) may nominate athletes “on or before” that date.**
- **Affirmed that the final Date of Nomination is now expected to be up to four weeks later than the original date of May 22 in 2020, which may impact priorities related to Discretionary Nomination for athletes preparing for success in the individual Games event, and related to health and wellness impacted by travel and racing during a pandemic.**
- **Affirmed that after completion of Automatic Selection Event #2, if slots are still available (based on existing World Triathlon Olympic Games “Qualification System” rules defining number of slots expected per gender at the end of the Olympic Qualification Period), the GASC may, but is not required to, nominate up to 2 athletes per gender (achieving a maximum of 3 women & 2 men total nominated on or before May 20, 2021). This discretionary nomination must be made according to published discretionary criteria 2.2.1 which reflects an athlete’s “capacity to achieve a podium performance in the individual event at the Olympic Games.”**
- **Affirmed that any remaining slots (after Automatic #1, #2, and any early Discretionary Nomination) will be issued via a final nomination to the Games which will occur after the end of the Olympic Qualification period (as established in the World Triathlon “Qualification System”), which is when USAT will receive its official Games quota allocation.**
- Feel free to provide feedback by **March 28, 2021** to USAT High Performance via hpgm@usatriathlon.org, or to USAT Selection Procedures Committee athlete representatives via elite@usatriathlon.org.

Links to pertinent documents:

[USAT Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures](#) & [ITU 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games Qualification Criteria](#)