



## 2022 WORLD TRIATHLON U23 CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

### 1. Introduction

This 2022 World Triathlon U23 Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the “Under 23” athletes (ages 18 to 23 as of December 31, 2022) that will represent the United States in the World Triathlon U23 Championship (the “Team”) in **Abu Dhabi, UAE** on or about late **November 2022** (the “World Championship”).

According to the World Triathlon U23 Championship qualification criteria (available at [www.triathlon.org](http://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, 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*, “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*, Section 8.6, allows for one (1) substitution per gender at the U23 World Championship.

### 4. Selection events

- a. **Selection Event #1:** 2022 Americas Triathlon Cup St. George, scheduled for **Sept 23-25, 2022**.

### 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: (selected in priority order below)
  - i. One (1) spot may be awarded at **Selection Event #1**. The first eligible USAT U23 athlete at Selection Event #1 will automatically qualify for the Team, provided he/she finishes in the Top 8 among all participants.
  - ii. Any spot not filled at Selection Event #1, will be filled it via World Triathlon Ranking process outlined below.
- c. Automatic Selection via World Triathlon Ranking:
  - i. Up to 3 (spots) may be filled via World Ranking. The highest ranked and eligible U23 athletes will be selected, in rank order, up to the maximum quota allowed by World Triathlon (3 + 3). If 1 athlete was selected via Selection Event #1 above, there will be one fewer spots available for this World Ranking Selection.
  - ii. In order to be eligible to earn Automatic Selection via World Triathlon Ranking, an athlete must earn at least 400 World Triathlon Ranking Points between March 12 and September 26, 2022.
  - iii. The intent is to permit all athletes to earn their spot on the Team via Performance results and World Triathlon Ranking as identified above. If this methodology fails to fill the Team to the maximum expected quota allocation, or selected athletes are not able to utilize their spot, all additional spots may be filled via Discretion as outlined in Section 6 below.
- d. Start List & Entry expectations: While USAT is responsible for selecting the Team via the published criteria, it is important to note that earning a spot for the Team does not guarantee being on the final World Triathlon U23 Championship Start List. USAT aims to enter athletes in order of selection published above, but based on World Triathlon Entry Criteria, USAT has no control over how many quota spots USA will earn toward the final Start List.
- e. 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
- f. The typical maximum size for the Team is three (3) male athletes and three (3) female athletes (the "Quota") or 3 + 3, though if cases that other nations do not utilize their

quota the absolute maximum quota is 5 + 5. 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.

- g. **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 assuming quota is available after Automatic Selection process in Section 5 above. The International Competition Panel 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 International Competition Panel's discretion.
- c. The USAT International Competition Panel will be responsible for discretionary selection, and will be comprised of two (2) members of the High Performance 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 World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) in order to participate in certain World Triathlon officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in this championship.**
- v. 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. 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](mailto:elite@usatriathlon.org). Please retain a copy for your own records.
- vi. Athlete must be eligible to enter and compete in the country at which the event is held. This includes, but is not limited to having an acceptable visa, passport and meeting all country health evidentiary requirements.

## 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.
- c. USAT will inform nominated athletes their expected costs involved with this 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 [wtries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:wtries@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. **1<sup>st</sup> offense:** \$250 fine
- ii. **2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** \$500 fine
- iii. **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

*Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager ([hpgm@usatriathlon.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

Website: [usathlete.org](http://usathlete.org)