



2022 World Triathlon Cup Event Selection Criteria

Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon (“**USAT**”) will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to the World Triathlon to compete in World Triathlon Cup (“**WTC**”) events. It is derived from the current World Triathlon Cup Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT to comply with any material changes made by the 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 WTC 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 WTC nomination are advised to read the WTC Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

WTC events are the tier of international standard distance (Sprint, Olympic and Super Sprint) draft-legal races just below the level of the World Triathlon Championship Series (“**WTCS**”) and provide an important stepping stone between World Triathlon Continental Cups and WTCS events. WTC events allow athletes who have demonstrated performance potential to gain race experience and ranking points. Athletes who have not yet reached this level are expected to begin by racing in World Triathlon Continental Cups to demonstrate their readiness for WTC level competition. There is a limited ability to fast track outstanding developing athletes to WTC 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. 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. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found [here](#). This tutorial 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 and retain a copy for their own records.

Athlete Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to a WTC 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 USAT Elite License;



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- Must abide by all USAT, 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 comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USAT;
- 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 WC event by written notice to USAT via wtenries@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 2022 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 World Triathlon 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 the 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 the 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).

Athlete Selection Process

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 National Federation (NF) quotas (i.e. the number of spots a given NF has been allotted) based on WTC 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 World Triathlon substitution procedure, after the World Triathlon Provisional Start List for a WTC event has been posted, **two athletes per gender may be replaced**. USAT 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. (Please note that athletes who are not on the World Triathlon start list after the World Triathlon Substitution Deadline may become eligible to compete in the event, as



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determined by the 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 Elite Triathlon Guiding Principles.
- 2.2. Substitutions will be exercised as follows:
 - 2.2.1. Discretionary Nominations will be identified by the Elite Triathlon International Competition Panel, using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:
 - 2.2.1.1. Athletes who have achieved top 8 WTCS results or podium results in WTC events 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 WTCS and top 8 in WTC 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.

Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager (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 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



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Website: usathlete.org

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 (wtentries@usatriathlon.org) their request to be removed from the WTC 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 World Triathlon for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at 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 34 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 with relevant supporting documentation to wtentries@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.

1st offense:	\$250 fine
2nd offense:	\$500 fine
3rd 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. All event dates can be found under the "Events" section on the World Triathlon website (www.triathlon.org), and all deadlines will be posted on the [USAT event qualification document webpage](#).