



2019 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Introduction

This 2019 U23 ITU World Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the “Under 23” athletes (ages 18 to 23 as of December 31, 2019) that will represent the United States in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) U23 World Championship (the “Team”) in Lausanne, Switzerland, on or about August 29 through September 1, 2019 (the “World Championship”).

According to the ITU U23 World Championship qualification criteria (available at www.triathlon.org), USA Triathlon may nominate up to three (3) men and three (3) women to compete in the U23 division of the 2019 ITU Triathlon 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 ITU World Rankings.

2. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

- a. Athlete must be eligible under all applicable rules of ITU (www.triathlon.org), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon.
- b. Athlete must be a current annual member in good standing of USA Triathlon.

3. ITU Grand Final Qualification Criteria

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

4. Athlete Selection Process

- a. USAT will nominate eligible athletes to the start list no later than 35 days prior to the event. Nominations will follow the order of the posted ITU World Rankings. ITU creates the provisional start list based on the ITU World Rankings approximately 32 days prior to the event. Athletes named to the start list by ITU are subject to substitution, unless they meet the automatic selection standard in 4.b.
- b. Automatic Selection: In order to earn Automatic Selection to the Team, an athlete must earn at least 500 ITU World Ranking Points between January 1 and July 22,

2019 (equivalent to scoring two continental cup wins). Athletes named to the start list by ITU in order of their ITU World Ranking are not subject to substitution if they have earned at least 500 ITU World Ranking Points during this period.

- c. **Substitution:** Per ITU policy, after the provisional start list for the Grand Final is published, one (1) athlete per gender may be replaced by substitution. USA Triathlon 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 ITU 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 and funding will be at the discretion of the High Performance General Manager.

5. Discretionary Selection

- a. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: By meeting the automatic selection standards, athletes will have demonstrated their ability as the best USA athletes in this category. If the maximum number of USA athletes have not met the standards, then USA Triathlon may select athletes who, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, can win a medal despite not performing to the standard at the Selection Events or who can contribute to winning a medal through specific team tactics at the World Championship.
- b. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The Selection Committee will prioritize athletes for nomination to the ITU per the discretionary criteria outlined below. Athletes must fully understand and agree to their individual strategic roles within the team before being nominated to the Team by discretionary selection. Athletes will be notified of their nomination on or before that date.
- c. 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. Finish place in ITU draft-legal events.

- ii. ITU World Ranking.
- iii. Performance measures at the Selection Committee's discretion.
- d. The Selection Committee will be comprised of two (2) members of the High Performance Department staff and one (1) member of the Athlete Advisory Council.

6. Removal from the Team

- a. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Triathlon 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 USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager.
 - 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.

7. 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 the ITU. In the event that there is no athlete that meets all of these criteria, or the ITU does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

8. Additional Requirements for Selection

- a. All athletes selected to the Team will be required to comply with all applicable rules and requirements of ITU, 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 ITU 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. **U23 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>. This tutorial needs to be completed once every two years. Once you have completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to: elite@usatriathlon.org. Please retain a copy for your own records.

9. Team Athlete Benefits

- a. USA Triathlon will cover the reasonable and necessary costs of an athlete’s participation at the World Championship based on the table below. USAT will pay the entry fee for all team members who earned automatic or discretionary selection per the criteria above. Self-nominated athletes may be required to reimburse USAT for their entry fee. USAT reserves the right to account for mechanical or medical difficulties that directly impact an athlete’s finish position in determining reimbursement of reasonable and necessary expenses.
- b. Self-funded and/or self-nominated athletes are eligible for reimbursement according to the table below based on their finish position. Reasonable and necessary reimbursable amounts will be determined based on the average cost for Junior/U23 team athletes whose travel and/or accommodations were booked by USAT staff or pre-approved.
- c. USAT will provide a race uniform for athletes who have not yet been provided one during the course of the 2019 season.

Finish Position	Total % Reimbursable (Travel/Accommodations)
1-14	100%
15-25	75%
26-30	50%
30+	25%

10. Preparation Training Camp

All athletes selected to the Team may be required to attend a Preparation Training Camp (the “Camp”) at a date and location to be determined. Transportation, lodging, meals, and training venues will be provided at no cost to the athlete by USAT. Written announcement of the pre-Worlds camp will be posted on the USAT website (www.usatriathlon.org) 60 days before the commencement of the camp.

11. Withdrawal Penalties

- a. *Withdrawal deadlines:* the ITU withdrawal deadline is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program; **the USA Triathlon 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 USA Triathlon 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), USA Triathlon 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 20% 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 ITU 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 ITU and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ITU 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.