



2020 PATCO JUNIOR PAN-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA revised 3/14/2020

1. Introduction

This 2020 PATCO Junior Pan-American Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the athletes who will represent the United States at the 2020 PATCO Junior Pan-American Championship (the “PATCO Championship”) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on June 20-21, 2020 (the “Team”). These selection criteria aim to provide emerging athletes, ages 16 to 19 (as of December 31, 2020), the opportunity to continue their athletic development at the highest levels of international triathlon competition.

Per PATCO Championship eligibility guidelines (see www.competitions.com), USA Triathlon (“USAT”) may nominate four (4) men and four (4) women to compete in the 2020 PATCO Championship. The International Triathlon Union (“ITU”) awards entry spots based on its quota system.

The first priority of the Team at the PATCO Championship is to earn a full quota for USA at the Junior World Championships.

USAT will make selections to the Junior/U23 Mixed Relay event in accordance with the USAT Mixed Relay Series Event Selection Criteria.

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.competitions.com), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon.
- b. Athlete must be an annual member in good standing of USA Triathlon.
- c. Age 16 to 19 as of December 31, 2020.

3. Selection Events

- a. 2020 Richmond USAT Junior Elite Cup, Richmond, Virginia, May 3, 2020

4. Selection Procedure

- a. Per ITU entry criteria, USAT may nominate up to four (4) athletes per gender for the PATCO Championship. If ITU awards additional entries beyond four (4), such additional spots will be filled by Discretionary Selection. USAT will submit nominations for the PATCO Championship to ITU no later than 35 days prior (the “Nomination Deadline”).
- b. Automatic Selection: The first four (4) USA eligible athletes to finish at the Richmond USAT Junior Elite Cup will earn automatic selection to the Team, provided they finish in the Top 6 overall and within 5% of the winner’s time.
- c. Discretionary Selection: USAT will fill all spots not earned by achieving Automatic Selection per the Discretionary Selection process described below.
- d. Cancellation or Modification: In the event of cancellation of any portion of the 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. If the event is rescheduled, the Automatic Selection criteria set forth above will apply provided the event takes place prior to May 18, 2020, otherwise the spots will be filled at USAT’s discretion.

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 at the Selection Event. It spots on the Team remain open after the Selection Event, then USAT may select athletes who, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, can win a medal despite not performing to the standard at the Selection Event(s), or having missed the Selection Event, or who can contribute to winning a medal through specific team tactics at the PATCO 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 ITU per the discretionary criteria outlined below. Athletes must fully understand and agree to their individual strategic roles within the Team before being selected by discretion.
- 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 2019 and 2020 Junior Elite and Elite ITU draft-legal events; and/or,
 - ii. Present and former USAT Junior Elite Ranking, PATCO or ITU rankings (if any); and/or,
 - iii. Performance measures and assessments at the Selection Committee's sole discretion.
- d. The Selection Committee will be comprised of two (2) members of the High Performance 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 an 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, USAT rules, Safe Sport or team travel policies. 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 after all spots have been claimed and nominated to ITU, such vacancy shall be filled by discretionary selection. The replacement athlete must meet all applicable eligibility requirements. In the event that no athlete meets all of these criteria, or 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 Wavier or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
- ii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the PATCO Championship, unless waived by the USAT High Performance General Manager.
- iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for PATCO Championship, if so requested. In which case, accommodations will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.
- iv. Junior 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.
- v. 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: juniors@usatriathlon.org. Please retain a copy for your own records.

9. Team Athlete Benefits

Athletes selected for the PATCO Junior Championship Team will receive the following benefits:

- a. USA Triathlon will cover the PATCO Championship race registration fee. Additional reimbursement will be per the USAT Junior Performance Plan.
- b. USA Triathlon will provide a team uniform. Sponsor logos are permitted uniform, but must comply with ITU specifications and are the responsibility of the athlete.
- c. USAT will provide team leadership and coaching support for the Team.

10. 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 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.

- a. **1st offense:** \$250 fine
- b. **2nd offense:** \$500 fine
- c. **3rd offense:** \$1000 fine and ineligible for any ITU event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

11. International Disclaimer

- a. These Selection Criteria are based on 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.