



# 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games USA Triathlon Selection Event Nomination Criteria

Amended 1/29/2019

## Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon (“**USAT**”) will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to the International Triathlon Union (“**ITU**”) to compete in events USAT has declared as Automatic Selection Events for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. This document is derived from the current ITU Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT to comply with any material changes made by the ITU promptly. Changes will not be considered official until approved by the Board of Directors. USAT will notify athletes of changes to these selection criteria.

ITU determines the qualification criteria for ITU events. The first start list posted by ITU is provisional and reflects the number of quota positions earned by each National Federation (the “**ITU Provisional Start List**”). Being named in the ITU 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 are advised to read the ITU Qualification Criteria posted at [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org).

## Pre Participation Exam (PPE)

Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite and Elite Paratriathlon categories at ITU 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 ITU Competition Rules. The PPE includes completion of an ITU-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. Upon satisfactory completion of the PPE, the athlete will send the **physician signed** certification form to certify to [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org). The athlete **does not** send his/her medical documentation to USAT.

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](mailto: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 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 [www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org). This tutorial needs to be completed once every two years.

After the tutorial has been completed successfully, athletes are instructed to email the completed .pdf certificate to: [elite@usatriathlon.org](mailto: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 an ITU 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 ITU event:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States under the applicable ITU rules;
- Must hold a current USAT Elite License;
- Must abide by all USAT, United States Olympic Committee, ITU, SafeSport, 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 ITU Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USAT;



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- 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 USAT.

1. The Thursday prior to the USA Triathlon Deadline (defined below), an email reminder about Selection Event entries will be sent to athletes who have requested to be on the High Performance listserv and those who have nominated to a [World Cup \(WC\)](#) or [World Triathlon Series \(WTS\)](#) event in the current year.
2. Athletes must nominate for a Selection Event by written notice to USAT via [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org) by the USA Triathlon Deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff and in person communication).
3. Deadlines: Nomination deadlines for 2019 events are listed on page four (4) of this document (deadline for the 2020 event will be announced in January 2020). “**USA Triathlon 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 ITU Nomination Deadline (generally 34 days before the first competition day of an event). The “**ITU Nomination Deadline**” is normally 32 days prior to the applicable event, although the exact time of the ITU Nomination Deadline, evidenced by the ITU’s posting of the ITU Provisional Start List, may vary. USAT may continue to enter athletes into the ITU system after the USA Triathlon Deadline has passed, but failure to meet the USA Triathlon Deadline means that an athlete is not guaranteed entry into the ITU system for that event. All nomination requests submitted after the USA Triathlon Deadline will generally be considered by the ITU in the order in which they were received. Please note that after the ITU Nomination Deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry into the ITU online system. The wait list is subject to the ITU’s policies and procedures.
4. Withdrawal deadlines: The ITU substitution and withdrawal deadline (“**ITU Substitution Deadline**”) is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. The USAT withdrawal deadline is the USA Triathlon Deadline, i.e. 34 days prior to the first competition day in the event program. If an athlete fails to withdraw from an event by the USA Triathlon 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 USA Triathlon Deadline.
5. Placeholder: USAT reserves the right to enter an athlete who does not intend to compete in an ITU 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 ITU Substitution Deadline 30 days prior to the event).

## Athlete Selection Process

1. The provisional start list is expected to be posted by the ITU 32 days prior to the event, however, the publication time and date may vary, and is in the ITU’s sole control. This list is not final and only represents initial NF quotas (i.e. the number of spots a given NF has been allotted) based on ITU Qualification Criteria. Being named in the ITU Provisional Start List does not guarantee that an athlete has been selected by USAT for the event. Instead, USAT will notify athletes promptly after the ITU Provisional Start List is released as to their status (e.g., whether they are selected to race, a substitute, or whether they have been placed on the waitlist, except that placeholders who did not nominate for an event will not be notified).
2. There will be no Automatic Selection for the Tokyo 2020 Selection Events. Athletes will gain a start position based on the points accumulated in the ITU World Ranking by the ITU Nomination Deadline, according to the procedures in the ITU Competition Rules Appendix E.
  - 2.1. At the 2019 Tokyo ITU World Olympic Qualification Event, JPN, USAT will have a maximum quota of five (5) athletes per gender. National Federation Quotas may be increased by a maximum of additional four (4) quota places if at any moment of the process the number of athletes in the start list is lower than 65.



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- 2.2. At the 2020 ITU World Triathlon Yokohama, JPN, USAT will have a maximum quota of five (5) athletes per gender. National Federation Quotas may be increased by a maximum of additional four (4) quota places if at any moment of the process the number of athletes in the start list is lower than 55.
3. Per the ITU substitution policy, after the ITU Provisional Start List has been posted, **one athlete per gender may be replaced**. USAT is not obligated to exercise a substitution. Athletes on the ITU Provisional Start List may have someone substituted for him/her in accordance with the procedures below, before the ITU Substitution Deadline. Substitutions may be appealed in accordance with Section 3.3, below. (Please note that athletes who are not on the ITU start list after the ITU Substitution Deadline may become eligible to compete in the event, as determined by the ITU under the applicable ITU policies related to withdrawals and wait lists, but this is in the ITU's sole control.)
  - 3.1. This substitution process will be used in the following cases in accordance with the procedures in 3.2, below.
    - 3.1.1. To replace an athlete included on the ITU Provisional Start List as a placeholder.
    - 3.1.2. To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness or extenuating circumstances.
    - 3.1.3. To otherwise substitute an athlete in order to enhance medal opportunities ~~or the overall success of USA at the event.~~
  - 3.2. Substitutions will be exercised as follows:
    - 3.2.1. Discretionary Nominations will be identified by a panel of three USAT High Performance Staff members, ~~(who do not serve in the capacity as a personal coach to any USAT program athletes) and one athlete rep,~~ using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:
      - ~~3.2.1.1.~~ Athletes who have achieved podium results in any WTS, Test Event, or Grand Final event beginning March 1, 2019 up to the nomination deadline for the event, and are not ranked within the top 5 USA athletes per gender, will be considered for discretionary nomination.
      - ~~3.2.1.1-3.2.1.2.~~ The ~~recent~~ head-to-head WTS & WC results of the potential substituting athlete versus ~~the recent results of~~ the potential "substitutee," taking into account factors such as field strength, course profile, and conditions, beginning March 1, 2019;
      - ~~3.2.1.2.~~ The performance of the potential substituting athlete versus the potential substitutee in events that both individuals raced;
      - ~~3.2.1.3.~~ The course and whether it may suit one athlete better than another, including, but not limited to, the course distance and profile, expected climatic conditions, and each athletes' results in events of a similar distance and/or course profile;
      - ~~3.2.1.4-3.2.1.3.~~ Whether a particular athlete is returning from injury, quickly rising through the pipeline, ~~and~~/or capable of contributing to a medal performance ~~or USAT success more generally at the event;~~
      - ~~3.2.1.5-3.2.1.4.~~ Any other reasonable criteria that would suggest that one athlete is likely to be more successful than another.
    - 3.3. Athletes will be notified of their status as a substitution/substitutee within 72 hours of the closing of the Nomination deadline for the event promptly after the ITU Provisional Start List is released which will permit a number of days for appeal before the ITU Provisional Start List is released. Athletes to be substituted (whose names will appear on the ITU Provisional Start List, but who will be substituted; excluding placeholders who never nominated for the event) shall have 12 hours from notification to submit a challenge to the substitution, in writing, to USAT via email at [ituentries@usatriathlon.com](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.com), with a copy to the High Performance General Manager ([HPGM@usatriathlon.org](mailto:HPGM@usatriathlon.org)) and the athlete who is to substitute. The substituted athlete and USAT shall have 12 hours from receipt of a challenge to respond in writing. Challenges and responses are expected to be respectful and



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professional. A hearing panel of three individuals, including one or two individuals from outside the USAT High Performance Program and at least one athlete who does not compete in the same discipline (but who may be involved in the High Performance Program), shall issue a written decision within 12 hours of the substitute athlete’s and USAT’s response (or failure to respond). Such decision shall be final and binding. **In the event that this procedure would result in a decision less than two hours before the ITU Substitution Deadline, this appeal process shall not be available, and USAT’s initial decision is final.**

## 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 ([ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:ituentries@usatriathlon.org)) their request to be removed from the Selection 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 the ITU for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at [www.triathlon.org](http://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 circumstances) 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 [ituentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto: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.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense:** \$250 fine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense:** \$500 fine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense:** \$1000 fine and ineligible for any ITU event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

## ITU and USA Triathlon Nomination Deadlines

ITU is expected to post the ITU Provisional Start List 32 days prior to the event. The USA Triathlon Deadline for all events will be **midnight MT** the Sunday prior to the ITU Nomination Deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above.

\*Deadline dates are documented based on the ITU rules and event date. Any deadline date changes will be communicated via the Elite Beat.

Selection Event	Event Date	ITU Nomination Deadline	USA Triathlon Deadline (midnight MT)
2019 Tokyo ITU World Olympic Qualification Event, JPN	August 15-16	July 14, 2019	July 7, 2019
2020 ITU World Triathlon Yokohama, JPN	TBD (May 9-10?)	TBD	TBD