



## 2019 USA PARATRIATHLON NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

### Program Overview

The goal of the USA Paratriathlon National Team Program is to have consistent podium performances on the international stage at the highest competitive level. It is a three-tiered system which provides administrative, performance, and financial support to assist athletes in achieving optimal results for themselves and the Team at the Paralympic Games and ITU World Championships. The National Team is composed of those athletes with proven performance capability at the most competitive international level and is not intended to serve as a development pathway.

Athletes who have qualified for one of the three National Team Program Levels will be eligible to receive funding and benefits from USA Triathlon (USAT) and possibly the United States Olympic Committee (USOC.) Each athlete will be evaluated upon qualifying for the team and a funding model appropriate for their needs and performance capability will be determined by USAT. Each athlete will receive a contract specific to his/her funding, training needs and competition schedule. Contracts will also outline expectations and goals for an athlete to retain their National Team status.

As of January 1, 2019, the preferred guide for the PTVI athletes on the National Team will receive equal benefits of the athlete they guide. This is including but not limited to Direct Athlete Support Training Stipend, Coaching Stipend, and Travel Reimbursement. Once a PTVI athlete achieves the metrics set below, the VI athlete will need to declare the “preferred guide” - the guide they foresee guiding them to Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. At which point, a contract and funding agreement will be set up with the VI athlete guide. If at any time, the VI athlete wishes to have a different preferred guide, an email must be sent to the Director of Paralympic Program. If a PTVI athlete is removed from the team, at any time, the PTVI guide will also be removed. From here forward whenever “athlete” is used below, this includes the PTVI athlete guide.

Results achieved on or after January 1, 2018 are eligible to be used as automatic qualification criteria outlined below and will be valid for a rolling 12-month period. An athlete’s position on the National Team (regardless of Level) may be extended for a period of up to one year at the discretion of the High Performance Department.

The figures outlined in this document represent minimum funding levels based on objective performance measures met. Other funding and support opportunities may be available to National Team Program athletes throughout the competition year including but not limited to USAT-supported camps and the USAT Elite Athlete Incentive Plan which is available to all paratriathletes and published on the USAT website.

USAT and USOC benefits are not guaranteed and funding may not be equally distributed among all athletes.

To receive any or all benefits available through this Program, an athlete must be a current USAT Elite paratriathlete license holder, be internationally classified according to the ITU Masterlist, be 2020 Paralympic Games eligible and be currently training and competing in sprint distance triathlons exclusively with an objective to qualify for and medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games. Commitment to sprint distance triathlons and potential to be medal capable for the Paralympic Games will be evaluated by USAT as athletes qualify for a Level within the Team. Each athlete must provide a competition



plan to the Director of Paralympic Program at the beginning of the calendar year which will be reviewed and approved by USAT. Any non-sprint race (e.g., Olympic, Half-Iron, Full-Iron, etc) or endurance event exceeding one hour (e.g, marathon) must be pre-approved. Athletes will be subject to removal from the Team if the approved plan is not adhered to. Changes to any plans must be communicated to and approved by the Director of Paralympic Program in advance. Athletes also must be internationally classified by ITU for the 2019 season.

## **Funding**

*\*\*Note: These descriptions are intended to outline the details of each stipend/reimbursement option. All athletes will be required to submit an annual training and competition plan which outlines their financial needs. Upon review and approval of the plan, a budget for each athlete will be developed. Participation in USAT-funded and organized camps will help determine each athlete's budget. Any variation outside of the pre-approved plan will need to be submitted to USAT and have any additional costs approved.*

*USAT Stipend:* This stipend is intended to offset costs needed by the athlete to train and compete effectively.

*Travel Reimbursement:* This funding is intended to support athletes' travel domestically and internationally to ITU events. These amounts represent the maximum level of reimbursement approved for an event. Travel reimbursements in addition to this may be available based on athlete performances at a given event.

*Coaching Stipend:* For coaches to be eligible for this stipend, they must be a current USAT certified coach who are developing paratriathletes and facilitating an in-person training environment. An in-person training environment means the coach has face-to-face contact and training sessions with the athlete at least once a month. If an athlete is operating under a remote coaching scenario (i.e. sees the athlete face-to-face less than once per month), USAT will review the situation and decide if this is a good fit for the athlete and what the appropriate stipend amount should be.

*USOC Benefits:* Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) will be allocated per objective criteria found on page 8.

## **International Disclaimer**

These criteria are based on International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Pan American Triathlon Confederation (PATCO), as applicable, and/or International Triathlon Union (ITU) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the criteria caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PATCO, as applicable, and/or ITU rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Triathlon.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, the criteria may be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to USAT.



**For sport classes PTWC Men and Women, PTS2 Women, PTS4 Men, PTS5 Men and Women, and PTVI Men and Women ONLY**

**National 'A' Team**

*Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National A Team Level status through achieving any **one** result from the criteria listed below.

- World Champion at the ITU Paratriathlon Elite World Championships – provided the competition category had a minimum of four (4) athletes start in the sport class
- Gold or Silver medal at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish is within 3% of the winner in the sport class
- Top three (3) world-wide ranked athlete(s) in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year. – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes

Athletes can achieve National A Team Level status through achieving any **two** results from the criteria listed below.

- Gold medal at a World Paratriathlon Series Race – provided the competition category had a minimum of four athletes start in the sport class.

*Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve National A Team Level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

<b>NTP Level</b>	<b>Direct Athlete Support Training Stipend</b>	<b>Travel Reimbursement</b>	<b>Coaching Stipend</b>	<b>USOC Benefit</b>
National A Team	\$3,000/qtr*	TBD based on approved competition calendar and need	\$900/qtr**	Eligible for EAHI***

\*This stipend is the minimum support for the NTP A team member. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

\*\* This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.

\*\*\* Eligibility is determined through criteria developed by USAT and approved by the USOC. Criteria can be found on page 8.



### **National 'B' Team**

#### *Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Silver Medal at the ITU Paratriathlon Elite World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and have a minimum of five competitor's start in the sport class
- Top four (4) at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners result in the sport class – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes
- Top six (6) world-wide ranked athlete(s) in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year. – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **two** results from the below criteria points.

- Gold Medal at the CAMTRI Paratriathlon Championships – provided there were a minimum of four competitors start in the sport class
- Podium finish at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Podium finish at any ITU Paratriathlon World Series Event – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners results in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **three** results from the below criteria points.

- Podium finish at the CAMTRI Paratriathlon Championships – provided the finish was within 2% of the winners result in the sport class and there was a minimum of four competitors in the sport class.
- Gold Medal at any ITU Paratriathlon World Cup – provided a minimum of four competitors start in the sport class
- Podium finish at any ITU Paratriathlon World Series Event – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners results in the sport class and the top 50% of starting field in the sport class
- Podium finish at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class



### *Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve National B Team level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

<b>NTP Level</b>	<b>Training Stipend</b>	<b>Travel Reimbursement</b>	<b>Coaching Stipend</b>	<b>USOC Benefit</b>
National B Team	\$2,100/qtr*	TBD based on approved competition calendar and need	\$600/qtr**	Eligible for EAHI***

\* This stipend is the minimum support for the B Team. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

\*\* This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.

\*\*\* Eligibility is determined through criteria developed by USAT and approved by the USOC. Criteria can be found on page 8.

### *Emerging Team*

#### *Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National Emerging Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Top nine (9) world-wide ranked athlete(s) in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes
- Top five (5) at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish was within 2% of the winners result in the sport class

Athletes can achieve National Emerging Team Level status through any **three** results from the below criteria points.

- Podium finish at the CAMTRI Paratriathlon Championships – provided the finish was within 2% of the winners result in the sport class and there was a minimum of four competitors in the sport class.
- Podium finish in an ITU Paratriathlon World Cup - provided the finish was within 2% of the winners result in the sport class and there was a minimum of four competitors in the sport class.
- Podium finish at any ITU Paratriathlon World Series Event – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners results in the sport class and a minimum of four competitors start in the sport class
- Podium finish at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class



*Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve emerging team status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP Level	Training Stipend	Coaching Stipend	Travel Reimbursement
Emerging	\$900/qtr*	\$300/qtr**	TBD based on approved competition calendar and need

\*This stipend is the recommended support for the emerging team level. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

\*\* This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.

**For sport classes PTS2 Men, PTS3 Men and Women, and PTS4 Women Only**

**National 'A' Team**

*Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National A Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Top three (3) world-wide ranked athlete(s), in either the PTS5 Female or PTS4 Male sport class, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year. – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes
- Gold or Silver medal in the combined Paralympic ranking at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish was within 3% of the winner’s time in the combined Paralympic ranking order

*Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve National A Team Level status are eligible for the same funding and benefits as outlined above for the National A Team Level.



## ***National 'B' Team***

### *Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Top six (6) world-wide ranked athlete(s), in either the PTS5 Female or PTS4 Male sport class, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year. – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes
- Top four (4) finish in the combined Paralympic ranking at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish was within 3% of the winner's time in the combined Paralympic ranking order – athlete must be top two (2) U.S. athletes

### *Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve National B Team Level status are eligible for the same funding and benefits as outlined above for the National B Team Level.

## ***Emerging Team***

### *Qualification Criteria*

Athletes can achieve National Emerging Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Top nine (9) world-wide ranked athlete(s), in either the PTS5 Female or PTS4 Male sport class, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2019 calendar year. – athlete must be top two (2) of U.S. athletes
- Top five (5) finish in the combined Paralympic ranking at the Tokyo Paratriathlon World Cup (test event) – provided the finish was within 2% of the winners results in the combined Paralympic ranking

### *Funding and Benefits*

Athletes who achieve National Emerging Team Level status are eligible for the same funding and benefits as outlined above for the National Emerging Team Level.



### **ELITE ATHLETE HEALTH INSURANCE (EAHI)**

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) allocates EAHI slots to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on an annual basis. This program provides an affordable insurance option for athletes. This benefit is provided through the USOC and is dependent on the criteria outlined below. The number of slots may change at the discretion of the USOC. There are currently six (6) EAHI slots available for the USA Triathlon Paralympic Program athletes who are classified as 2020 Paralympic Games eligible.

EAHI qualification will be evaluated twice during the 2019 calendar year. Athletes must remain in good standing to receive EAHI benefits for the full six (6) month period. Athletes who choose to break their contract or no longer remain committed to the sprint-distance triathlon format will be removed from receiving this benefit effective at the next evaluation period.

January 1, 2019– June 30, 2019. Within each Level, athletes will receive EAHI in the priority order of which they qualified for the National Team. If two or more athletes qualify in the same manner, the first priority lies with the athlete who has the highest placing on the ITU Points List as of December 1, 2018. If a further tie breaker is needed, the second priority order lies with the athlete who has the shortest gap between their finishing time and their sport class winner's time at the 2018 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships. The main objective of this evaluation period will be to ensure that athletes who are receiving EAHI are 2020 Paralympic Games eligible and capable of winning a medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

- 2019 National A Team
- 2019 National B Team

**July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019** Within each Level, athletes will receive EAHI in the priority order of which they qualified for the National Team. If two or more athletes qualify in the same manner, the priority lies with the athlete who has the highest placing on the ITU Points List as of June 5, 2019. If a further tie breaker is needed, the second priority order lies with the athlete who has the shortest gap between their finishing time and their sport class winner's time at the 2019 CAMTRI Paratriathlon Championships. The main objective of this evaluation period will be to ensure that athletes who are receiving EAHI are 2020 Paralympic Games eligible and capable of winning a medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games.

- 2019 National A Team
- 2019 National B Team

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