



2022 Toyota USA Elite Paratriathlon National Team Program

GUIDING PRINCIPLES, OVERVIEW, & CRITERIA

Program Guiding Principles & Overview

USA Triathlon (USAT) High Performance (HP) Departments is responsible for supporting athletes who have the vision, goals and capable of winning Olympic & Paralympic Games medals, while identifying, supporting & developing future Games medalists. To help achieve this objective USAT has developed and supports Elite Triathlon and Elite Paratriathlon National Team Programs. The Elite Paratriathlon Team Program (the “Program”) and any financial support associated is designed specifically to assist athletes in their pathway to achieving podium performances at the Paralympic Games. The three-tiered Program provides performance-based support to athletes in the form of administrative assistance, performance advisement and allocation of equipment and financial resources. The Program is comprised of athletes with proven performance capability and is designed with three ascending tiers to support athletes as they advance towards their goal of achieving podium performances at the Paralympic Games. Athletes are expected to advance levels during their time in the Program with improving international performances reflective of their ability to execute Paralympic podium performances.

In addition to the qualification criteria specific to each tier outlined on Page 3, athletes must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible for the Program:

- Eligible to represent USA Triathlon in World Triathlon competition, including but not limited to:
 - National Federation (NF) affiliation
 - Current USA Triathlon elite license holder in good standing
 - Current with World Triathlon Pre-Participation Evaluation (PPE) requirements
- Current with Safe Sport training & Background checks
- Be internationally classified according to the World Triathlon Masterlist
- Be 2024 Paralympic Games eligible
- Commitment to the sprint distance triathlon (to be evaluated by USA Triathlon; all endurance events over 60 minutes in length must be approved in advance by the Director of the Paralympic program)
- Creation and submission of an annual performance plan
- Signed Elite Paratriathlon National Team Program Athlete Agreement for the term

The preferred race 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 a metric in any Tier, the VI athlete will need to declare the “preferred race guide” – The race guide who will be their primary race guide at all World Triathlon events. If at any time, the VI athlete wishes to have a different preferred race guide, an email must be sent to the Director of Paralympic Program detailing the decision. If a PTVI athlete is removed from the team, at any time, the preferred race guide will also be removed. From here forward whenever “athlete” is used below, this includes the preferred race guide.

Results achieved on or after January 1, 2022 are eligible to be used as automatic qualification criteria outlined on Page 3. It is the responsibility of each athlete to inform USAT High Performance when they have achieved a result which would earn a change in program status. Criteria objectively achieved during 2022 by program athletes guarantees selection to that tier for the 2023 season. Athletes not currently in the Program may be named in advance of the next term once all eligibility criteria is confirmed and processed, and will retain selection for the 2023 season as well, assuming they remain eligible, in good standing, and have a signed 2023 National Team Program Athlete Agreement. Existing Program athletes who have achieved objective criteria may advance to a higher Tier starting on the first of the next month.

Any financial support outlined in this document represents expected funding levels based on the three tiers of the Program, though additional funding and support opportunities may become available to Program athletes and will be communicated accordingly. The descriptions below summarize the purpose of each funding mechanism available. After a review of the Annual Performance Plan (APP), a customized support plan will be developed for each athlete depending on resources available. Adjustments to the approved APP must be approved prior to incurring reimbursable expenses.

- USAT stipend: supports basic living and training expenses
- Travel reimbursement: supports travel to compete in developmentally appropriate World Triathlon events
- Coaching stipend: compensates USA Triathlon Certified Coaches working with National Team Program athletes
- USOPC benefits: Elite Athlete Health Insurance & Operation Gold funding will be distributed per the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) criteria

Performance Progress

Athletes who qualify for Tier 1 (A Team), or Tier 2 (B Team) will be supported at those levels indefinitely through the term of the Program regardless of Program history and term. Athletes who have been part of the National Team Program for 2 years or more (consecutively or not) and who only qualify for Tier 3 (C Team) will not be automatically eligible for the Program. Requests for special consideration will be subject to discretionary review (as described above) which will review performance results, and data analytics, with an objective of demonstrating continued progress towards Paralympic medal capacity in the next Games before being eligible for the Program.

Tier 3 (C Team) is the entry level of the National Team Program and is designed to capture developing athletes on their way to attain higher levels of National Team status en route to achieving their Paralympic Games medal objectives. Therefore, returning National Team Program athletes are not expected to remain on Tier 3 for more than 2 years and athletes who have been on Tier 1 & 2 will not be permitted to drop to Tier 3 without special consideration. Athletes who are not confirmed for repeat National Team Program support, may be eligible for other High Performance support resources at the discretion of USAT.

Discretionary Consideration

USA Triathlon may use discretion to select athletes who have not met the objective criteria for the Program for several reasons. These include, but are not limited to, injury or illness, the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (e.g. earthquakes, cancellation of other World Triathlon events, epidemics, riots), and other unanticipated failure of objective criteria to select an athlete likely to achieve competition results consistent with the program Tiers.

Discretionary nominations, if any, may be based on a variety of factors, including consideration of competition results outside of the selection period and data analytics, to ensure that USA Triathlon is investing in the most qualified athletes with the greatest potential of winning Paralympic Games medals. Discretionary nominations for the Program, along with Tier level and term length, will be determined by a panel of two USA Triathlon High Performance Staff (who do not serve in the capacity as a personal coach to program athletes) and one USAT elite athlete representative.

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

Website: usathlete.org

Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI)

The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) allocates EAHI slots to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on a basis of objective performance. This program provides an affordable insurance option to athletes. This benefit is provided through the USOPC and in 2022 will be made available to USA Triathlon National Team Program athletes at the Tier 1 (A Team) and Tier 2 (B Team) levels. Athletes must remain in good standing to receive EAHI benefits for the duration of their National Team Program term. Athletes who choose to break their agreement or no longer remain committed to the sprint distance triathlon format will be removed immediately. Athletes who are removed through the program (by choice or contract expiration) may have the option to remain on the insurance program at their own cost for up to one year.

Projected 2022 Support Levels: *(subject to change at the start of each selection period depending on USAT & USOPC funding)*

NTP Level	DAS (Direct Athlete Support) stipend	Travel Reimbursement	Coaching Stipend	USOPC Insurance
Tier 1	\$5,000/quarter	TBD based on APP	\$1,800/quarter	Eligible for EAHI
Tier 2	\$3,750/quarter	TBD based on APP	\$1,200/quarter	Eligible for EAHI
Tier 3	\$2,250/quarter	TBD based on APP	\$600/quarter	Eligible for EAHI

U.S. Paralympic National Team Program qualification criteria: January 1 – December 31, 2022 (Selection Period).

Tier 1 (A Team)

Athletes may achieve a Tier 1 status through any **one** of the following criteria:

- Gold medal at the World Triathlon Para Championships – provided the medal event had a minimum of four starters

Athletes may achieve Tier 1 status through any **two** of the following criteria:

- Gold medal at a World Triathlon Para Series event – provided the medal event had a minimum of four starters

Tier 2 (B Team)

Athletes may achieve Tier 2 status through any **one** of the following criteria:

- Silver medal at the World Triathlon Para Championships – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners result in the medal event and the top 50% of the starting field

Athletes achieve Tier 2 status through any **two** of the following criteria:

- Podium finish at the World Triathlon Para Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the medal event and the top 50% of the starting field
- Podium finish at any World Triathlon Para Series event – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners result in the medal event and the top 50% of the starting field

Gold medal at the Americas Triathlon Para Championships – provided the medal event had a minimum of four starters

Tier 3 (C Team)

Athletes may achieve Tier 3 status through any **one** of the following criteria:

- 4th place finish (or better) at the World Triathlon Para Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the medal event and have a minimum of six starters

Athletes may achieve Tier 3 status through any **three** of the following criteria:

- Podium finish at any World Triathlon Para Series event – provided the finish was within 3% of the winners result in the medal event and the top 50% of the starting field
- 5th place finish (or better) at the World Triathlon Para Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the medal event and the top 50% of the starting field
- Podium finish at the Americas Triathlon Para Championships – provided the finish was within 2% of the winners result in the medal event and there was a minimum of four starters
- Gold medal at a World Triathlon Para World Cup event – provided the medal event had a minimum of four starters