



## **Election Policy**

*Updated June 2021*

Broad and robust participation in elections is important to the long-term success of USA Triathlon. USA Triathlon's annual members are the foundation of this membership-based organization and their voices are vital in helping shape the future of the sport. A vocal, engaged and voting membership ensures the best interests of multisport athletes across the country are being heard and heeded at the national level. To that end, USA Triathlon will facilitate comprehensive communication regarding call for nominations for candidates and election dates. It is intended that USA Triathlon elections shall be as free from unfair influence and manipulation as is reasonably possible. Elections shall be by written ballot or electronic means.

### **I. GENERALLY**

Independent Outside Organization. The Chief Executive Officer will retain an independent outside organization which will be responsible for collecting the ballots, counting the votes, and certifying the election results.

Voting Members. To be eligible to vote in an election, an individual shall be a citizen of the United States, at least eighteen (18) years old and a member of USA Triathlon thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election in order to be eligible to vote in an election.

Candidates. General Director and Athlete Director candidates shall be members of USA Triathlon in good standing at the time of nomination. In addition, candidates should be citizens of the United States, eighteen (18) years of age or older and meet the qualifications contained in Section 6.4 of the USA Triathlon Bylaws. These qualifications include, but are not limited to (i) having the highest personal and professional integrity (ii) demonstrated exceptional ability and judgment and (iii) effectiveness, in conjunction with the other Directors, in collectively serving the long-term interests of USA Triathlon.

Candidates for Athlete Director positions must either meet the definition of "Elite 10 Year

Athlete” or “Elite 10 + Year Athlete” contained in Section 6.8 of the USA Triathlon Bylaws.

## II. COMPOSITION

Athlete Directors. Four Directors on the Board of Directors will be Athlete Directors. USA Triathlon’s representative to the United States Olympic and Paralympic (USOPC) Athletes’ Advisory Council will be one of the Athlete Directors. At least three of the Athlete Directors will be Elite 10 Year Athletes as defined by Section 6.8(a) of the USA Triathlon Bylaws. One of the Athlete Directors may be a 10+ Year Athlete as defined in Section 6.8(b) of the USA Triathlon Bylaws.

At least one Athlete Director's most recent elite competition shall have been contested in each of the following: (i) as a female; (ii) as a male; (iii) in an Olympic competition as defined in the USA Triathlon Bylaws Section 6.8 or (iv) in a Paralympic competition as defined in the same.

General Directors. Four General Directors will be elected by a vote of the General Members. Qualified members may express their interest in running for a General Director position by responding to USA Triathlon’s call for nominations. The Board shall determine ideal candidate skill sets and criteria and will send to the Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC) prior to the election. The NGC will review all candidates who responded to the call for nominations to vet and will recommend a final slate of candidates for member vote. The NGC will nominate a minimum of two and up to three candidates for each General Director seat to be on the ballot unless fewer than this number of candidates expressed interest in running for election. The NGC must consider diversity of background and geography when preparing the slate.

## III. ELECTION TIMELINE

Calendar. In the first quarter of every calendar year, the Chief Executive Officer or their designee will set the election calendar for that year.

Call for Nominations. USA Triathlon will make a call for nominations for General Directors and/or Athlete Directors annually. Nominations will be open for at least one month. Once USA Triathlon receives nominations, it will forward to the Nominating and Governance Committee for review and vetting per Section II.

Ballots. Ballots will be made available to the membership for at least one month, during which time, candidate information will be posted on USA Triathlon’s website.

1. Election results will be announced within two weeks after the ballot deadline

2. The deadline to protest an election will end not more than two weeks after election results are announced
3. Election results will be certified within one month of the election protest deadline
4. Election time frames may be extended at the discretion of the Nominating and Governance Committee if there are fewer than two qualified candidates for any position

#### IV. ATHLETE DIRECTOR ELECTION PROTOCOL

Election Cycle. Two Athlete Directors will be elected in odd years (to begin serving in the following even year). One Athlete Director will be elected in even years (to begin serving in the following odd year). In Summer Olympic years, an additional Athlete Director will be elected to serve as the USA Triathlon representative to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council and will simultaneously serve as an Athlete Director on the USA Triathlon Board of Directors.

Athlete Director Roll Down. For the Athlete Director's election, candidates will be elected by receiving the most votes so long as all requirements in Section II are met. However, if the requirements in Section II are not satisfied by the current Athlete Directors, the following will apply:

##### Two Open Positions

When two positions are up for election, provided that the criteria can be satisfied, the candidate with the highest number of votes will fill the first open position. The second candidate with the highest number of votes who satisfies the remaining missing criteria will be the winner of the second open position.

If the criteria cannot be satisfied, the person with the highest number of votes who meets one of the missing criteria shall be elected and the Athletes Advisory Council shall appoint another Athlete Director to satisfy the remaining missing criteria.

##### One Open Position

In years where one position is open for election, the candidate with the highest number of votes who satisfies the missing criteria is the winner. If the criteria cannot be satisfied, the Athletes Advisory Council shall appoint an Athlete Director to satisfy the missing criteria.

#### V. CANDIDATE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidate nomination petitions must include the following:

1. The name, address, contact number, e-mail address and annual membership number of the nominee
2. A written description of the nominee and their platform; the description shall not

exceed 500 words

3. A photo of the nominee and
4. The nominee's resume

If the submission does not include the foregoing, the submission may be rejected by USA Triathlon.