



2025 JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN GAMES USAT TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

UPDATED 1.31.2024

1. Introduction

This 2025 Junior Pan American Games Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the “Under 21” athletes (ages 18 to 21 as of December 31, 2025) that will represent the United States in the Junior Pan American Games (the “Team”) in Asuncion, Paraguay from August 9th to August 23rd, 2025.

According to the Junior Pan American Games qualification criteria, USA Triathlon (“USAT”) may nominate up to two (2) men and two (2) women to compete in the U21 division of this Junior Pan American Games event. Quota places obtained are for the country not for the athlete, and the same athlete cannot qualify for more than one spot per country. All countries that have 2 men and 2 women will be allowed to participate in the Mixed Relay events. To compete in the mixed relays it is mandatory that all 4 athletes (2 men and 2 women) participate in the individual event.

With the importance of the mixed relay event as a World Championship and Olympic medal event, and the current limited number of opportunities, this games environment provides athletes a key opportunity to display race tactics and abilities to High Performance staff.

2. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

- a. Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States under the applicable World Triathlon rules;
- b. Athletes must be under 21 (born between 2004 and 2007), athletes may be up to 21 years old by December 31st, 2025;
- b. Must hold a current USA Triathlon Elite License;
- c. Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”), SafeSport, World Triathlon, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;
- e. Must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- f. Current with SafeSport Training by completing the SafeSport tutorial and updating the tutorial as required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport;
- g. Must complete all USOPC long-list registration requirements on-time. Those not completing the process completely by the deadline may be considered ineligible.

3. Athlete Selection Process

- a. USAT will enter eligible, interested, and available athletes to the long list starting **January 13th, 2025** and expects the closing date to on or around **April 5, 2025**. Initial athlete invitations from USAT for athletes to enter the long list process will follow the order of the posted World Triathlon Rankings of the age eligible USAT Elite athletes. Additional interested and eligible athletes (who meet all of Section 2. above) may express interest being entered for consideration by emailing elite@usatriathlon.org a minimum of 48 hours before the expected closing date.

- b. This event is **not eligible for Automatic Selection** since it is available to multiple age group of athletes that don't always compete against one another (Junior & U23).
- c. Discretionary Selection: All spots allocated to USA Triathlon will be filled via Discretionary Selection per section 4 below.
- d. Substitution: Per World Triathlon policy, after the provisional start list for the Junior Pan American Games is published, one (1) athlete per gender may be replaced by substitution. USAT is not obligated to exercise substitution. The purpose of USAT's protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, rapidly rising through the rankings, or capable of contributing to a medal performance may be placed on the team to enhance medal opportunities.
 - i. This substitution process will only be used in the following cases:
 - 1. To replace an athlete included on the start list as a placeholder;
 - 2. To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness or extenuating circumstance; or,
 - 3. To fill the quota spot earned for the National Federation by an athlete who has not met the Automatic Selection standards listed above.
 - ii. Substitutions will be exercised in the following priority order:
 - 1. Discretionary nomination per Section 4 below.
 - 2. Remaining USA athletes based on World Ranking
- e. The maximum size for the Team will be two (2) male athletes and two (2) female athletes (the "Quota"). In the event that the National Federation quota exceeds (2) male and (2) female athletes, nomination will be at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

4. Discretionary Selection

- a. 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 per the discretionary criteria outlined below.
- b. 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. World Triathlon World Ranking of age eligible athletes as of June 9, 2025;
 - II. Performance in World Triathlon sanctioned triathlon events, USAT Junior Elite Series, and USAT National Championship and other USAT and World Triathlon sanctioned Elite competitions;
 - III. The head-to-head results of the eligible athletes taking into account factors such as field strength, course profile, and conditions.
 - IV. Performance history in mixed relay and super sprint events that might suggest athlete may contribute to a winning Mixed Relay performance for USA;
 - V. Whether a particular athlete is returning from injury or illness, quickly rising through the pipeline, and/or capable of contributing to a medal performance at the event;

5. 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 USAT:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USAT High Performance General Manager.

- ii. Injury or illness as certified by a USAT-approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a USAT-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. 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.
- iv. Violation of other eligibility requirements since the nomination dates outlined in Section 2 above.

6. Replacements to the Team

- a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by Discretionary Selection, provided a replacement is allowed by World Triathlon, PATCO and the Race organizer. In the event that there are no athletes that meet all of the criteria, or replacement is not permitted, the vacancy shall not be filled.

7. Additional Requirements for Selection

- a. All athletes selected to the Team will be required to comply with all applicable rules and requirements of World Triathlon, PATCO, 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 World Triathlon Waiver or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
 - ii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than an Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) up to six (6) weeks prior to the date of the Junior Pan American Games through the date of the Junior Pan American Games.
 - iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for the Junior Pan American Games. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.
 - iv. **All athletes must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) in order to participate in certain World Triathlon officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in the Junior Pan American Games.**
 - i. Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, Elite, and Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events are required to complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport tutorial as well as any follow up refresher courses. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found [here](#). This tutorial or refresher course needs to be completed annually.

8. Athlete Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be comprised of one (1) member of the USAT High Performance staff (who does not serve in the capacity as a personal coach to any athlete in consideration), and two (2) AAC members.

9. Date of Nomination

The Nomination of Athletes form, including replacements, will be announced to all athletes and submitted to the USOPC on or before **June 16, 2025**.

10. Team Support

- a. USAT will provide staff and/or experienced contractors to serve as Team Leaders for this event.
- b. USAT will look for opportunities to decrease the total cost of the trip to the Junior Pan American Games those attending, by subsidizing lodging, transport, and/or competition fees when possible, but will not be offering full funding for this event in 2025 unless covered by the USOPC.
- c. USAT will inform nominated athletes their expected costs involved with this Junior Pan American Games competition trip upon selections.

11. International Disclaimer

These Selection Criteria are based upon the latest information available to USAT, and on World Triathlon and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in World Triathlon 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.

12. Athlete Ombuds

The Team USA Athlete Ombuds serves as a safe, independent, confidential place for Team USA Athletes to seek advice about any sport-related rule, policy, or process; how to navigate raising or responding to concerns; or access legal and mental health resources.

Team USA Athletes may contact the Athlete Ombuds:

Phone: (719) 866-5000

Email: ombudsman@usathlete.org

Website: usathlete.org

13. The NGB Grievance Procedures can be found here: <https://www.usatriathlon.org/about/governance>.

Section 9 of the USOPC Bylaws provides a process for an athlete to file a complaint with the USOPC against an NGB alleging that they have been denied, or threatened to be denied, with the opportunity to participate in a Protected Competition, as defined in the USOPC bylaws. Additional information on how to file a complaint can be found here: <https://www.usopc.org/governance/dispute-resolution>

14. Development, Approval & Certification of Selection Procedures:

The following committee of individuals developed these selection procedures:

- Alec Hewett – Sr. Manager of Olympic Programs
- Scott Schnitzspahn – High Performance General Manager
- Dylan Sorensen - Athlete Advisory Council