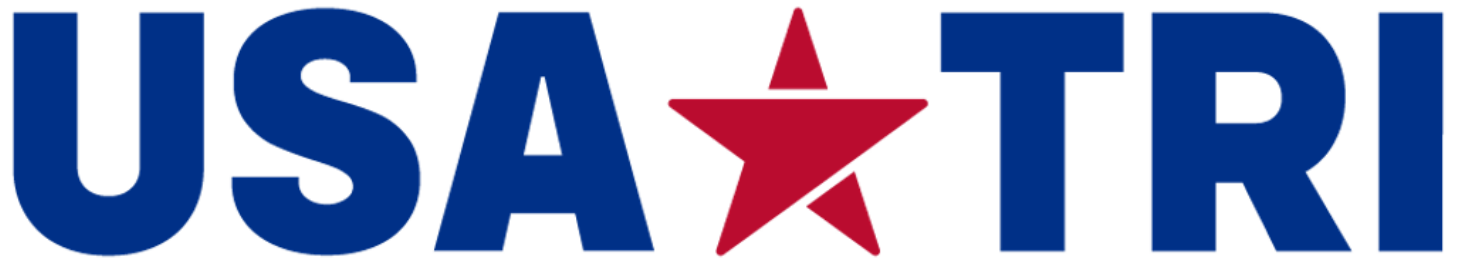


USA Triathlon High Performance

2028 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures – Guiding Principles

The following are the Guiding Principles that the USA Triathlon Olympic Games Selection Procedures Task Force (Task Force) has established in order to provide a guide to Athletes and Coaches regarding the anticipated direction of the 2028 Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures. The final version of the selection procedures is expected to be published in December 2026.

- In developing these initial Guiding Principles, the Task Force believes that:
 - Athletes should have the opportunity to earn Automatic Selection by performing in targeted events against Olympic level competition.
 - If athletes fail to fill all Team quota spots by Automatic Selection, the USA Triathlon Olympic Games Selection Panel (Selection Panel) will fill the remaining quota spots by discretion to select a medal capable athlete who failed to automatically qualify or one who can contribute to a medal winning performance in either the relay or individual events as a domestique.
 - The discretionary selection will strongly consider performances in specific events during the selection period with respect to both the Mixed Relay and Individual performances.
 - The selection process should enable athletes to fairly prepare for the Automatic Selection Events while maximizing qualified athletes' ability to perform at the Olympic Games.
- The intent is to have 3 Automatic Selection Events
 - The **first Automatic Selection Event** (Automatic Selection Event #1) will be a standard distance race that replicates the LA course within a time frame of April 2027 through August 2027.
 - The **second Automatic Selection Event** (Automatic Selection Event #2) will be the standard distance event at the Grand Final in Hamburg from September 8 – 12, 2027.
 - The **third Automatic Selection Event** (Automatic Selection Event #3), will be a standard distance race that replicates the LA course within a time frame of April 2028 through June 2028, but ideally during the Olympic qualification window that ends May 18, 2028.
- Knowing that there will be a minimum of two slots per gender available as the host country, the priority of selection to the Team will be first to allow athletes the opportunity to qualify with a full year to prepare for the Games. The second priority will be to select an athlete who is performing well close to the games in the third Automatic Selection Event. The qualifier from Event #3 may be the same person from Event #1 and the qualification spot from Event #3 does not roll down. All qualified athletes (via Automatic Selection or discretion) will be announced no later than five (5) days after the conclusion of the third Automatic Selection Event. If World Triathlon has not confirmed USA Triathlon's Team quota spots at that time, all Team athletes will be announced no later than five (5) days after World Triathlon communicates the National Federation quota spots.
- If any portion of Automatic Selection Events are cancelled, (e.g. swim cancellation or event stopped due to the weather or safety), the event will no longer serve as an Automatic Selection Event and any results earned by the participants will be considered by the Selection Panel as part of the discretionary selection process.
- If Automatic Selection Events are modified to a non-Standard distance (e.g. swim changed to 750m due to weather or safety), the event will no longer serve as an Automatic Selection Event and any results earned by the participants may be considered by the Selection Panel as part of the discretionary selection



process. Except, if Automatic Selection Event #1 is modified in length to a full-length Sprint event, within 72 hours of the event, it will still be utilized for Automatic Selection.

- Should any of the Automatic Selection Events be cancelled, there will be no backup Automatic Selection Event, unless the Olympic Games are postponed, in which case the Task Force may propose a replacement event with at least 90 days advance notice.
- Any individual events that offer Olympic Qualification Points may be considered by the Selection Panel as part of the discretionary selection process starting in the 2027 season.
- World Triathlon Mixed Relay events at the WTCS level starting in the 2026 season may be considered by the Selection Panel as part of the discretionary selection process.
- USA Triathlon expects to send a full Team of three (3) men and three (3) women to the LA Olympic Games by having three (3) athletes in both gender categories in the top thirty (30) of the World Triathlon Individual Olympic Qualification Rankings. USA Triathlon will meet with athletes and coaches to discuss the way in which they can support this priority.
- If the Selection Panel must fill Team quota spots via discretionary selection, it may take the recency of performances into account.

Please feel free to provide any feedback by July 29, 2026, to any member of the Olympic Games Selection Procedures Task Force via elite@usatriathlon.org, or to alec.hewett@usatriathlon.org.

Links to pertinent documents:

[USA Triathlon Olympic Games Selection Procedures Task Force and Timeline](#)

[World Triathlon Qualification System for the LA 2028 Olympic Games](#)

[World Triathlon Individual Olympic Qualification Ranking Criteria](#)

[World Triathlon Mixed Relay Olympic Qualification Ranking Criteria](#)

[World Triathlon Ranking Criteria](#)

[USA Triathlon Sport Integrity Policy](#)