

USA★TRI

C U P S E R I E S

Welcome to the USA TRI Cup Series

The USA TRI Cup Series is designed to strengthen draft-legal racing across the United States by creating a structured developmental environment for athletes at every level.

The Series:

- Creates a bridge between developmental and elite racing
- Provides additional draft-legal racing opportunities
- Supports athlete retention
- Provides a pathway toward World Triathlon competition
- Supports Olympic development initiatives
- Creates a unified ranking system across disciplines

Why the Series Matters

The series addresses historical fragmentation between:

- Youth racing
- Junior racing
- NCAA racing
- Collegiate Club racing
- Age Group racing
- Elite racing

The USA TRI Cup Series creates clear developmental benchmarks and domestic competition opportunities while improving athlete progression through the Olympic development pathway.

USA TRI Olympic Pathway

The Cup Series serves as the central bridge in the American draft-legal system.

Development Pathway

Youth Development Series -> Junior Development Series -> NCAA Triathlon / Collegiate Club -> USA TRI Cup Series -> World Triathlon Continental Cups -> World Triathlon World Cups -> World Triathlon Championship Series -> Olympic Games

Competition Tiers

USA TRI Community Cup

Purpose: Introduction to draft-legal racing

- Super Sprint
- Ages 13+
- Co-ed competition allowed
- Participation-focused

USA TRI Open Cup

Purpose: Skill development

- Sprint Distance (or super sprint)
- Ages 16+
- Co-ed competition allowed
- Intermediate and advanced athletes

USA TRI Premium Cup

Purpose: Performance racing

- Sprint Distance
- Advanced athletes
- Highest domestic competition tier
- Enhanced ranking opportunities

2027 Race Calendar

Event	2027 Date	Location	Status
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Alpha Win Sarasota Triathlon	Jan. 10	Sarasota, FL	Confirmed (Alpha Win Racing)
Tritonman	Feb. 13	San Diego, CA	Confirmed (USA Triathlon)
Treeathlon	March 7	Stanford/San Mateo, CA	Tentative (Stanford Treeathlon)
Clermont Draft Legal Challenge	March 6–7	Clermont, FL	Confirmed (Clermont Draft Legal Triathlon)
East Coast Triathlon Festival	May 1–2	Glen Allen/Richmond, VA	Confirmed (The Live Red Foundation)
Supertri Austin	May 31	Austin, TX	Confirmed (supertri)
Triangle Sprint	June 5	New Hill/Cary, NC	Confirmed (Triangle Sprint)
Jenny Lee Tri Cup	TBD	Beaver Falls, PA	Not yet published
Flatland Cup Triathlon	TBD	West Des Moines, IA	Not yet published
USA Triathlon Draft-Legal National Championships	Aug. 6	Des Moines, IA	Confirmed (USA Triathlon)
Southern Hills Tri	TBD	Hot Springs, SD	Not yet published

Beaver County Tri Cup	TBD	Beaver Falls, PA	Not yet published
Bearathlon	TBD	Berkeley, CA	Not yet published

*Premium Cup Event

Eligibility & Participation

Community Cup

- Age 13+

USA TRI Open Cup

- Age 16+

Premium Cup

- Age 16+
- Ranking-based priority entry

International athletes are welcome to participate in all tiers of racing.

Registration & Field Limits

Premium Cup entry priority:

1. World Triathlon Ranking
2. USA TRI Domestic Ranking
3. Registration timestamp

All other Cup events use registration timestamp for order of entry.

Field limits are generally 90 athletes.

Domestic Rankings

Athletes earn domestic ranking points throughout the season.

Key Principles:

- Best two scoring performances count.
- Rankings determine CAT classification.
- Rankings influence priority entry into higher level Draft-Legal events.
- Rankings support athlete progression through the pathway.

CAT System

Based on the CAT model provided by USA Triathlon.

Amateur Categories

Category	Points
CAT 5	0-4
CAT 4	5-10
CAT 3	11-20
CAT 2	21-30
CAT 1	31-40

Elite Categories

Category	Qualification
Elite	Top 5 Continental Cup (Non-Pro)
Funded Elite	Bridge & Mallow Qualifier
Professional	World Cup Top 10
World Tour Pro	Senior National Team Qualifier
World Medalist	WTCS Podium

USA Triathlon Age Group National Championships

- There will be two waves with 90 spots per wave. Wave 1 will be a Premium Cup Wave, and athletes will have to qualify for this wave with a World Triathlon Ranking and/or Domestic Ranking. Any athletes who have not participated in a USA TRI Cup race will automatically be placed in wave 2. The top 18 athletes in each AG (results ranked by overall time) will qualify for WT AG worlds slots.

International Participation

International athletes are welcome to race throughout the series and contribute to overall competition quality. The only race international athletes will not be allowed is the USA Triathlon Age Group National Championships

Rules & Equipment

All events are conducted under USA Triathlon competition rules.

Equipment requirements:

- Traditional road bikes only
- No aerobars
- Draft-legal racing format
- USAT rules apply, not World Triathlon Rules

Frequently Asked Questions

What is draft-legal racing?

Draft-legal racing allows athletes to ride in groups and draft legally on the bike segment.

What bike do I need?

A traditional road bike.

Can I use aerobars?

No.

How do rankings work?

Athletes accumulate domestic ranking points from approved events. Their top two scores determine their ranking and CAT.

How does CAT progression work?

Your best two results over a rolling 12month period determine your CAT classification.

What is a Premium Cup?

The highest domestic race tier within the series.

Can international athletes participate?

Yes.

How do I reach international competition?

Progress through Community Cup, Open Cup, Premium Cup and/or Youth Series, Junior Series, NCAA, Collegiate Club, accumulate enough domestic ranking points to earn a start at a World Triathlon Continental Cup race.

Appendix A

Domestic Ranking Points Matrix

Finish Position	World Triathlon Continental Cup / Continental Championships	USA Tri Cup National Championships	Women's Collegiate National Championships (NCAA)	World Triathlon Junior Continental Championships	USAT Junior Nationals	USA Tri Premium Cup	World Triathlon Junior Cup	Collegiate Club National Championship	USAT Junior Development Series Race	USA Tri Cup	Youth Development Series Race	USA Tri Community Cup
1	Elite License	20	20	16	16	15	14	13	12	10	5	3
2	Elite License	19	19	15	15	14	13	12	11	9	4	2
3	Elite License	18	18	14	14	13	12	11	10	8	3	1
4	Elite License	17	17	13	13	12	11	10	9	7	2	
5	Elite License	16	16	12	12	11	10	9	8	6	2	
6	20	15	15	11	11	10	9	8	7	5	2	
7	19	14	14	10	10	9	8	7	6	5	1	
8	18	13	13	9	9	8	7	6	5	5	1	
9	17	12	12	9	9	8	7	6	5	4		
10	16	11	11	9	9	8	7	6	5	4		
11	15	11	11	8	8	7	6	5	4	4		
12	14	11	11	8	8	7	6	5	4	3		
13	13	10	10	8	8	7	6	5	4	3		
14	12	10	10	7	7	6	5	4	3	3		
15	11	10	10	7	7	6	5	4	3	2		
16	11	9	9	7	7	6	5	4	3	2		
17	11	9	9	6	6	5	4	3	2	2		
18	10	9	9	6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
19	10	8	8	6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
20	10	8	8	5	5	4	3	2	1	1		
21	9	8	8	5	5	4	3	2	1			
22	9	7	7	5	5	4	3	2	1			
23	9	7	7	4	4	3	2	1	1			
24	8	7	7	4	4	3	2	1	1			
25	8	6	6	4	4	3	2	1	1			
26	8	6	6	3	3	2	1	1	1			
27	7	6	6	3	3	2	1	1	1			
28	7	5	5	3	3	2	1	1	1			
29	7	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	1			
30	6	5	5	2	2	1	1	1	1			
31	6	4	4	2	2							
32	6	4	4	1	1							
33	5	4	4	1	1							
34	5	3	3	1	1							
35	5	3	3	1	1							
36	4	3	3									
37	4	2	2									
38	4	2	2									
39	3	2	2									
40	3	1	1									
41	3	1	1									
42	2	1	1									
43	2	1	1									
44	2	1	1									
45	1	1	1									
46	1											
47	1											
48	1											
49	1											
50	1											

Appendix B

CAT System

Amateur CATs	5	4	3	2	1
Qualification Points	0 to 4	5 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40
Elite CATs	Elite	Funded Elite	Professional	World Tour Pro	World Medalist
Qualification	Top 5 at a Conti Cup (NOT PROFESSIONALS)	Bridge and Mallow Qualifiers (NOT PROFESSIONALS)	World Cup top 10	Senior National team Qualifiers	Podium at WTCS

Appendix C

USA TRI Cup Series Olympic Pathway (This graphic does not include Jr Series, NCAA, or Collegiate Club, but those are all integral parts of the US Olympic Pathway)

