



2025 USAT WORLD TRIATHLON PARA CUPS, AMERICAS TRIATHLON PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS & PARA CONTI CUPS SELECTION CRITERIA

Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon (“USAT”) will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to World Triathlon to compete in World Triathlon Para Cups (“WPC”), Americas Triathlon Para Championships (“CCH”), and World Triathlon Para Conti Cups (“PCC”). It is derived from the current World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT within seven (7) business days to comply with any material changes by World Triathlon to the World Triathlon Para Event Qualification Criteria. Any changes made by USAT may require approval from the Board of Directors. While USAT will make changes within seven days, the approval process may take longer.

World Triathlon determines the qualification criteria for World Triathlon WPC, CCH, and PCC events. Selections to these events are made by World Triathlon from entries submitted by USAT. All USA athletes interested in WPC, CCH, and/or PCC entry are advised to read the World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Pre Participation Exam (PPE). An athlete who wishes to compete in Junior, U23, Elite and Elite Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events is required to undergo a Pre Participation Exam (“PPE”) by their personal health care provider. The details of this are outlined in Rule 2.4 and Appendix Q of the [World Triathlon Competition Rules](#). The PPE includes completion of the World Triathlon-provided Medical Questionnaire reviewed by the athlete's doctor, a physical examination, and a 12-lead resting electrocardiogram (“ECG”) with results reviewed by the athlete's doctor.

Once an athlete has completed the screening and the questionnaire, the athlete should email **only** the signed completed PPE certification form to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. Athletes should retain their original completed, dated, signed questionnaire and PPE certification for their own records. Click [here](#) for more information on this screening and the PPE documents.

SafeSport. An athlete who wishes to compete in Junior, U23, Elite, and Elite Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events is required to complete SafeSport training every year. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found [here](#).

After the training has been completed, the athlete must email the completed .pdf certificate to: paraentries@usatriathlon.org and retain a copy for their own records.

Athlete Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for entry into a WPC, CCH, and/or PCC event are as follows. An athlete must meet these requirements on or before the date of their nomination, and remain in compliance throughout the completion of the applicable World Triathlon event:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States;
- Must hold a current USAT Annual Membership license through the date of the event;
- Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, World Triathlon, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;

- Must have a Review “R”, Confirmed “C” International Classification status, a provisional classification or will have the opportunity to be Internationally Classified by World Triathlon at the event;
- Must have submitted the World Triathlon PI or VI Medical Diagnosis Form and any additional classification paperwork according to the World Triathlon Classification Policies and Procedures found at www.triathlon.org
- Must sign the USA Triathlon Nomination Procedure Agreement.
- Must comply with the USAT Code of Conduct.
- Must submit the annual World Triathlon Pre Participation Evaluation (PPE)
- Must complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport Tutorial

Athlete Nomination Process

All athletes must follow the nomination process set forth by USAT. No exceptions will be made.

1. Athletes must request entry to a WPC, CCH, and PCC event by written notice to USAT via paraentries@usatriathlon.org by the USAT entry deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff, in person communication, or phone calls)
2. Athletes must have a current performance resume on file with USAT, sent to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. This performance resume is meant to include relevant performance results and verifiable training data from the prior 12 months.
3. **Nomination Deadlines. “USAT Nomination Deadlines”** are defined as the date by which athletes must nominate or withdraw themselves from an event. The USAT Nomination Deadline is 5pm MT the Wednesday before the World Triathlon Nomination Deadline. USAT will continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon system after the deadline has passed but failure to meet the USAT Nomination Deadline means that an athlete is not guaranteed entry into the World Triathlon system for the event. All nomination requests submitted after the deadline will be handled in the order of which they were received. Please note that after the World Triathlon deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry to the World Triathlon online system. The waitlist is subject to World Triathlon’s policies and procedures. Entry deadlines for 2025 events are listed under the [USAT event qualification document webpage](#).

Note: In the event that the World Triathlon does not post a start list by the Tuesday deadline, USAT will continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon system with no penalty to the athlete.

4. When possible, the Monday prior to the USAT deadline, an email reminder about event entries will be sent to the Para Bulletin Email distribution which athletes can sign up for by emailing paratriathlon@usatriathlon.org. Athletes are encouraged to not wait for this email to nominate for a race.
5. **Placeholder.** USAT reserves the right to enter additional athletes as place holders to maximize the number of US quota places available.. *Place holder is defined as an athlete who has not requested a start to an event by the published USAT deadline.*

Athlete Selection Process

6. Selection to the WPC, CCH, and/or PCC event will be made by World Triathlon in accordance with the World Triathlon Paratriathlon Event Qualification Criteria and start lists are expected to be posted the first Tuesday before 30 days before the event, unless indicated differently in the specific qualification criteria.
7. **Substitutions.** Once World Triathlon has created the start list for a WPC, CCH, and PCC event, one athlete per gender may be replaced per the World Triathlon substitution procedure. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, quickly rising up the pipeline, or capable of achieving a medal performance can be entered to enhance medal opportunities. Should USAT use a substitution, they will notify the placeholder and the substitute prior to the substitution via email. This substitution process may be used in the following cases (Please note that athletes who are not on the World Triathlon Provisional Start List after the World Triathlon Substitution Deadline may become eligible to compete in the event, as determined by World Triathlon under the applicable World Triathlon policies related to withdrawals and wait lists.):
 - To replace an athlete who has been placed on the start list as a place holder;

- To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury or illness;
- To enhance U.S.A. medal opportunities at the event;
- To include an athlete who can increase the slot allocation for USA during the Paralympic qualification period.

Any discretionary nominations will be confirmed by the International Competition Panel (IPC) using, without limitation, the following criteria, in no particular order:

- Athletes who have a podium result in WPC, WCH, or WPS events in the previous 18 months before the USAT Nomination Deadline for the event, and are not ranked high enough to earn a spot on the World Triathlon Provisional Start List, will be considered for discretionary nomination.
- The recent head-to-head World Triathlon Para results of the potential substituting athlete versus the potential “substitutee,” taking into account factors such as field strength, course profile, and conditions, within the previous 18 months;
- Athletes who have achieved a podium performance at the same venue/location in previous years will be considered for discretionary nomination.
- Whether a particular athlete is returning from injury, pregnancy, quickly rising through the pipeline, and/or capable of contributing to a medal performance at the event;
- Other performance results of athletes (in the past 18 months) may be considered as part of discretion if they reach the threshold of podium result in World Triathlon WPC, WCH, or WPS events;
- Athletes who USAT determines could have the best capacity to increase the slot allocation for the USA during the Paralympic Qualification period will be considered for discretionary nomination.

This priority of substitutions will be exercised in the following order:

1. Discretionary nominations as stated above.
2. Remaining USA athletes based on World Triathlon Ranking.

Athletes will be notified of their status as a substitution/substitutee no later than 72 hours after the posting of the World Triathlon start list.

8. In exceptional circumstances USAT shall have the ability to remove athletes from the start list and/or waitlist at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the event’s elite athlete briefing.

Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager ([Scott Schnitzspahn, scott.s@usatriathlon.org](mailto:scott.s@usatriathlon.org)). 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) 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

9. **Priority of Nominations.** Nomination priority to World Triathlon will be in accordance with international Paratriathlon rankings managed by World Triathlon.

10. **World Triathlon Invitations:** All athletes remaining on the waitlist are eligible for a World Triathlon invitation. The US quota and the sport class maximum quota will not be in consideration in World Triathlon’s awarding of invitations. The World Triathlon invitation panel will decide based on its own discretion. For more about the World Triathlon invitations refer to the World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Fines and Penalties

USAT will enforce the nomination and withdrawal policies outlined in this document. If an athlete fails to adhere to these rules they may be penalized according to the fine schedule below. To avoid penalties, athletes must communicate via email (paraentries@usatriathlon.org) their request to be removed from the event nomination list no later than the USAT Withdrawal deadline (i.e., 12:00 p.m. MT Thursday after the start list is produced),... Additional penalties may be incurred from World Triathlon for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at www.triathlon.org. Offenses to this USAT policy expire two years after the scheduled event date at which point they no longer factor in penalty aggregation.

If a withdrawal is requested after 12pm MT the Thursday after the start list is produced , USAT has the discretion to impose the penalties outlined below. In exceptional circumstances (e.g., a new and verified medical impairment or verified extenuating circumstance) penalties may be waived. For this to occur, an athlete must submit a written explanation of their situation with relevant supporting documentation to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. The International Competition Panel (ICP) will review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.

1st offense:	\$250 fine
2nd offense:	\$500 fine
3rd offense:	\$1000 fine & ineligible for any World Triathlon event starts for 3 months from race date

World Triathlon and USAT Entry Deadlines

World Triathlon is expected to post start lists the first Tuesday before 30 days before the event, unless indicated differently in the specific qualification criteria. The USAT deadline for all events will be 3pm MT the Wednesday prior to the World Triathlon deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above. All events can be found under the “Events” section of the World Triathlon website (www.triathlon.org), and all deadlines will be posted on the [USAT event qualification document webpage](#).