



## 2025 USAT WORLD TRIATHLON PARA CHAMPIONSHIPS & WORLD TRIATHLON PARA SERIES EVENT 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 Championships (“WCH”) and World Triathlon Para Series (“WPS”). It is derived from the current World Triathlon Para Events Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT to comply with any material changes made by World Triathlon promptly. Changes made to this document may require review and confirmation by the Athletes’ Advisory Council (AAC). USAT will notify athletes of changes to the selection criteria.

World Triathlon determines the qualification criteria for WCH and WPS events. The first start list posted by World Triathlon is provisional and reflects the number of quota positions earned by each National Federation (the “**World Triathlon Provisional Start List**”). Being named to the World Triathlon Provisional Start List does not guarantee that an athlete has been selected by USAT for the event. (see the Athlete Selection Process below). Selections to these events are made by World Triathlon from entries submitted by USAT. All USA Elite Paratriathlon athletes interested in WCH and/or WPS nominations are advised to read World Triathlon WCH and WPS Criteria posted at [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org).

WCH and WPS events are intended for the highest caliber athletes currently competing at the most competitive level of international standard distance (Sprint, Olympic and Super Sprint) draft-legal paratriathlon. Athletes who have not yet reached this level are expected to begin by racing at World Triathlon Continental Para Cups and progress to World Triathlon Para Cups, to gain both experience and ranking points to demonstrate readiness for WCH and WPS event competition. There is a limited ability to fast track athletes to WCH and/or WPS competition via World Triathlon Para invitations and National Federation (“NF”) substitutions.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:paraentries@usatriathlon.org) and retain a copy for their own records.

**Athlete Eligibility.** The eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to a WCH and/or WPS Event are listed below. 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 under applicable World Triathlon rules;

- Must hold a current USA Triathlon Elite Paratriathlon License through the date of the event;
- Must abide by all USAT, United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), SafeSport, World Triathlon, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;
- Must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4 and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- Complete SafeSport Training every year;
- Must have a World Triathlon Review “R”, Confirmed “C”, Provisional “PCS” classification prior to the USAT deadline
- 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 on [www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org)
- Must sign the USAT Nomination Procedure Agreement.

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

1. An athlete must nominate for a WCH and/or WPS event by written notice to USAT via email ([paraentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto:paraentries@usatriathlon.org)) by the USAT Nomination Deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff, in-person communication, or phone calls).
2. An athlete must have a current performance resume on file with USAT, sent to [paraentries@usatriathlon.org](mailto: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 5 p.m. MT the Wednesday before the World Triathlon Nomination Deadline. USAT may continue to enter athletes into the World Triathlon system after the USAT Nomination 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 that event. All nomination requests submitted after the USAT Nomination Deadline will generally be considered by World Triathlon in the order they were received. Please note that after the World Triathlon Nomination 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 2024 events are listed on the [USAT event qualification document webpage](#).  
*Note: In the event that 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](mailto: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. *Placeholder 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 WCH and/or WPS event will be made by World Triathlon in accordance with the World Triathlon Para 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 World Triathlon Provisional Start List for a WCH and/or WPS event, one athlete per gender may be replaced per the World Triathlon substitution procedure. USAT is not obligated to exercise a substitution. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, quickly rising up the pipeline, or capable of contributing to a medal performance can be placed on the team 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 included on the World Triathlon Provisional Start List as a placeholder.
- To replace an athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness, or extenuating circumstances.
- To enhance USA 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 World Triathlon 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;.
- 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.Schnitzspahn@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 Legal ([legal@usatriathlon.org](mailto: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](mailto:ombudsman@usathlete.org)

Website: [usathlete.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:paraentries@usatriathlon.org)) their request to be removed from the WCH and/or WPS 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 the World Triathlon for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at [www.triathlon.org](http://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 12 p.m. 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](mailto:paraentries@usatriathlon.org). The International Competition Panel (ICP) will be formed to review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> offense:</b>	\$250 fine
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> offense:</b>	\$500 fine
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> offense:</b>	\$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 qualification criteria. The USAT deadline for all events will be 5pm EST 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 Worl Triathlon website ([www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org)), and all deadlines will be posted on the [USAT event qualification document webpage](#).