



2026 AMERICAS TRIATHLON JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated 10.2.2025

1. Introduction

This 2026 Americas Triathlon Junior Championship Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) determines the athletes who will represent the United States at the 2025 Americas Triathlon Junior Championship (the “Continental Championship”) in **[2026 Date and Location TBA] , 2026** (the “Team”). These selection criteria aim to provide emerging athletes, ages 16 to 19 (as of December 31, 2026), the opportunity to continue their athletic development at the highest levels of international triathlon competition.

Per World Triathlon Championship eligibility guidelines (see www.triathlon.org), USA Triathlon (“USAT”) may nominate up to four (4) men and four (4) women to compete in the Continental Championship. World Triathlon awards entry spots based on its quota system.

The priority of the USAT Team at the Continental Championship is to earn a full quota for the USA for the next World Triathlon Junior Championships.

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. Must abide by all USAT, 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;
- C. Must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- D. Current with SafeSport Training by completing the SafeSport tutorial and updating the tutorial as required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport;
- E. Must comply with World Triathlon anti-doping education requirements;
- F. Athlete must be eligible to enter and compete in the country in which the event is held. This includes, but is not limited to having an acceptable visa, passport and meeting all country health evidentiary requirements; and,
- G. Age 16 to 19 as of December 31, 2026.

3. Discretionary Selection Events

- A. All USAT-sanctioned Junior National (draft-legal) races, World Triathlon events, and America Triathlon (PATCO) sanctioned events in the 2025 and 2026 seasons.

4. Selection Procedure

- A. Expected Quota: Per World Triathlon entry criteria, USAT may nominate up to four (4) athletes per gender for the Continental Championship. If additional entries are awarded beyond four (4), such additional spots will be filled by Discretionary Selection. USAT will submit nominations for the Continental Championship to World Triathlon no later than 35 days prior (the “Nomination Deadline”).
- B. Selection Process:
 1. **Step 1**: The first three (3) USA finishers at the 2025 World Triathlon Junior World Championships (Wollongong, Australia) will be selected (3 male & 3 female), provided they finished among the top 15 overall.
 2. **Step 2**: The fourth (4th) spot and any remaining spots after Step 1 above will be selected by order of finish at the 2025 USAT Junior Nationals (West Chester, Ohio), provided they are among the top 3 finishers overall, and then by Discretionary Selection until the team of four (4) junior women and four (4) junior men has been selected.
- C. Discretionary Selection: USAT will fill all spots not allocated by the Selection Process in 4.b per the Discretionary Selection process described below. Any spots not filled by Discretionary Selection will be filled in accordance with the 2026 USAT World Triathlon Junior Cup Criteria.

5. Discretionary Selection

- A. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The USAT Elite International Competition Panel (“ICP”) 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. Performance and results in 2025 and 2026 USAT Junior National Series (draft-legal), World Triathlon Junior Cups, and Elite World Triathlon draft-legal events;
 - II. Current and former USAT Junior Draft-Legal Rankings, Americas Triathlon or World Triathlon rankings (if any);
 - III. Performance measures, assessments, and consideration of any exceptional circumstances at the sole discretion of the ICP.
- C. The ICP will be comprised of one (1) member of the USAT High Performance Staff, and two (2) Elite Triathlon Athlete Representative.

6. 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 USA Triathlon:
 - I. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Triathlon Junior & U23 Program Contractor at juniors@usatriathlon.org

- II. Injury or illness as certified by an USA Triathlon-approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by a USA Triathlon-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, USAT rules, Safe Sport or team travel policies. 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 USOPC's Bylaws, Section 9.

7. Replacements to the Team

- A. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant after all spots have been claimed and nominated to World Triathlon, such vacancy shall be filled by discretionary selection. The replacement athlete must meet all applicable eligibility requirements. In the event that no athlete meets all of these criteria, or World Triathlon does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

8. 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, WADA, USADA, and USAT, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - I. Abide by the USAT's Code of Conduct, team travel policies, any USAT or World Triathlon Wavier or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
 - II. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the Americas Triathlon Junior Championship, unless waived by the USAT High Performance Development Coordinator.
 - III. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for Americas Triathlon Junior Championship, if so requested. In which case, accommodations will be coordinated by the USAT High Performance staff.
 - All athletes must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) to participate in certain World Triathlon officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in this championship.
 - 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 at: [Safe Sport](#) Certification needs to be updated annually. Once completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to juniors@usatriathlon.org and retain a copy for your records.
 - Athletes must be eligible to enter and compete in the country in which the event is held. This includes, but is not limited to having an acceptable visa, passport and meeting all country health evidentiary requirements.

9. 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 Continental Championships for those attending, by subsidizing and/or reimbursing the cost of race registration fees, lodging and transport if possible.
- C. USAT will inform nominated athletes of their expected costs involved with this competition trip upon selection.

10. Withdrawal Penalties

- A. *Withdrawal deadlines:* the World Triathlon withdrawal deadline is 30 days prior to the first competition day in the event program; ***the USAT withdrawal deadline is 31 days prior to the first competition day in the event program (this is the day after the start list is produced).*** If an athlete fails to remove himself or herself from an event by the USAT withdrawal deadline a penalty will apply.
- B. *Penalties:* If a withdrawal is requested within 31 days of the event (the day after the start list is produced), USAT will 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 wtentries@usatriathlon.org & juniors@usatriathlon.org. A discretionary panel, with at least 33% athlete representation, will be formed to review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.
 - a. **1st offense:** \$250 fine
 - b. **2nd offense:** \$500 fine
 - c. **3rd offense:** \$1000 fine and ineligible for any World Triathlon event starts for 3 months from the corresponding event date

11. International Disclaimer

- A. These Selection Criteria are based on 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.

Concerns or questions related to discretionary decisions should be communicated to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager (hpqm@usatriathlon.org or 719-744-2842). 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 or 720-800-6622) 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