CCNC Wave 1 and 2 Olympic Distance
Ranking Process

This document defines the procedure for assigning the Olympic wave 1 and wave 2 athletes into two appropriately competitive waves. It is designed to be **transparent, repeatable, and data-driven** while remaining practical to implement within operational timelines.

Methodology and Order of Operations - Men and women evaluated independently.
Step 1 - CCNC top 90 finish places
Step 2 – Three Independent Ranking model analysis*
Step 3 – Integrate the three Independent Ranking models
Step 4 - Special Request Process
Steps 1-4 - determine athlete allocation to seeded waves

Step 1 – Previous CCNC Overall Place (Automatic Qualification) – Wave 1 only (top 75 allocation slots)
Reference: Any returning athletes who placed **Top 90** at the previous CCNC, are automatically assigned to the wave 1.
Expected fill: ~45–55 positions.

Historical stability - 85% of returning Top-90 athletes finish in the next year's Top-75 and approximately 45–55 Wave 1 positions are expected to be filled automatically.

Step 2 – Two Independent Ranking models
Reference: Two ranking models independently evaluate every eligible athlete for the purpose of filling open slots in seeded wave 1 and wave 2 in Step #3. See below for a general overview of each model:

- **Percentile model** - designed to compare athlete performances (finish times) across different pre-selected races for the season (See appendix A for a complete list), by converting race results onto a common collegiate club performance scale or results curve.
- **USAT PaceSetter model** - this ranking model will be given priority to validate rankings using pace-setters to determine a unique par time for each race. Rank scores are calculated by comparing each athlete's race time with the estimated time of a best athlete, represented by the par time.

Step 3 –Complete Rankings
Reference: The USAT PaceSetter model and the Percentile-PaceSetter model are two related ways to compare athletes across different races. Both use athletes with established prior performance levels as reference points, which helps account for differences in course conditions, field strength, and the distribution of ability from one event to another. The USAT PaceSetter model expresses performance through the USAT anchor or pace setter, scoring framework, while the Percentile-PaceSetter model uses a common percentile-based performance curve and can translate results into comparable scores relative to a reference time. The rankings produced by these eligible models are then combined to generate the seasonal ranking used for the current national championship.

The unified rankings are then used to place athletes in seeded wave 1 and 2 as follows: fill remaining slots in wave 1, not accounted for from Step #1 but leave 5 open slots in each seeded wave for Special Request process in step #4. Fill all slots in wave 2 but leave 5 open slots in each seeded wave for Special Request process in step #4. (see below for details). Historical data shows 45–55 athletes will qualify for seeded wave 1 via Step 1, leaving 15-25 slots to be filled by step 3. Athlete rankings for the two seeded waves, will be verified against an athlete attendee list which is will be generated coaches, team leads, and collected by CC reps or the ranking sent to coaches, team leads for verification. If an athlete who is initially ranked is unable to compete his/her slot will be filled by the next ranked athlete and that will cascade down until all seeded slots are completely filled.

Step 4 – Special Request Process

The purpose is not to override the ranking process, but to accommodate athletes whose demonstrated ability is not fully reflected in available results and/or rankings, since they may not have had the opportunity to race and have exceptional abilities that are verifiable.

Reference: 5 reserved discretionary slots, are awarded to athletes (male and female) in both seeded wave 1, and wave 2, who did not earn a seeded slot via step #1, and/or #3 in the ranking process. The number of special request seeded slots selected under this criterion may not completely fill the 75 athlete seeded waves. In which case, the rankings will be used to fill any open seeded slots. See below for the criteria. **listed in order of significance,** that will be used in the Special Request process and are included on the Special Request forms (male and female). It is highly recommended to submit data related to as many of the criteria below:

1. **Athlete Identifier Form - All athletes must complete the athlete identifier form.** This form is used to identify all collegiate club athletes and their associated club/school. It provides critical information that is needed as part of the entire athlete ranking process. Athletes will not be able to participate in the Special Request process unless they complete this form.
2. **CCNC Multisport Performance Benchmarks (Swim, Bike and Run TTs) -** Athletes are to submit **TTs for the swim, bike and run,** outlined in the Special Request form. **The TTs will take precedence over the other performance criteria below, so these results will be reviewed first and will have much more weight than the DL race or Conference Championship race results noted below.** All TTs must be completed from August 1st until the last Conference Championship race is contested in March of any given season, in order for athletes to participate in the Special Request process.
    i) Swim – 500 yards or 400 meters
    ii) Bike – FTP* These standards are based on field results not lab results so factors such as wind, elevation, and air density are integrated into the standards, so they need to be accounted for during your analysis.
    iii) Run – 5k

    *Follow the link to an Excel Spreadsheet on Google Drive for two **alternative methods** to determine FTP (W/kg), that do not require the use of a power devise or smart trainer. The calculations in the Excel spreadsheet are quite involved, and include an online Aerodynamics Calculator, but are necessary since these calculations are normally accounted for when using a power devise. **Note: Download this Excel Spreadsheet to your computer before entering data. If you enter data directly into the spreadsheet, while in the Google Drive, the data will be visible to all who access the spreadsheet.**

    The results of these TTs will be compared against the standardized table below, which are are related specifically to expected performances based on historical data, for the seeded waves 1 and wave 2 and supplementary benchmark standards. Each discipline (swim-bike-run) is assigned a point value, 1–4, athletes must achieve the **minimum "threshold points"** (8 or 4) shown below, to be eligible for consideration in the respective seeded wave, and the points can be earned at different levels of each discipline. Examples:
    Male - 500 yd swim 5:15 (4pts), FTP 3.6 (2pts) and 5k run 16:50 (2 pts) = 8 points
    Female - 400 meter swim 5:50 (2pts), FTP 3.25 (3pts) and 5k run 21:00 (1 pts) = 6 points.

	Performance Level / Points	Swim 500 yard OR	Swim 400 M	Bike FTP (W/Kg)	Run 5k	Total Point Value	Threshold Points to be considered for a wave 1 slot	Threshold Points to be considered for a wave 2 slot
Male	Level 4 ->	at or under 5:20	at or under 4:40	3.9 and over	at or under 16:00	12		
	Level 3 ->	5:21 - 5:50	4:41-5:06	3.7 - 3.89	16:01-16:45	9		
	Level 2 ->	5:51-6:20	5:07-5:42	3.4 - 3.69	16:46-17:30	6		
	Level 1 ->	6:31-7:10	5:43-6:16	3.0 - 3.39	17:31-18:45	3	**8**	**4**

* Each "point value" (4, 3, 2, 1) is assigned to each discipline within a given row. Example: A point value of 4 is assigned to the swim, bike and run TTs, for the #4 row. A point value of 3 is assigned to the swim, bike and run TTs, for the #3 row, etc.

	Performance Level / Points	Swim 500 yard OR	Swim 400 M	Bike FTP (W/Kg)	Run 5k	Total Point Value	Threshold Points to be considered for a wave 1 slot	Threshold Points to be considered for a wave 2 slot
Female	Level 4 ->	at or under 6:00	at or under 5:15	3.4 and over	at or under 18:00	12		
	Level 3 ->	6:01-6:30	5:16-5:42	3.20 - 3.39	18:01-19:15	9		
	Level 2 ->	6:31-7:10	5:43-6:16	2.90 - 3.19	19:16-20:45	6		
	Level 1 ->	7:11-7:50	6:17-6:50	2.60 - 2.89	20:46-22:30	3	**8**	**4**

* Each "point value" (4, 3, 2, 1) is assigned to each discipline within a given row. Example: A point value of 4 is assigned to the swim, bike and run TTs, for the #4 row. A point value of 3 is assigned to the swim, bike and run TTs, for the #3 row, etc.

All TTs must be **verifiable** via **two** of the following methods:

1. Photo of Training Platforms Screen shot (Strava, TrainingPeaks, etc)
2. Photo of signed affirmation statement from Coach or team lead.
3. Photo verification - actual time from timing devise and the bike used for the TT

3. **DL race results from previous CCNC –** Complete the **DL race at the previous CCNC.** These results will be taken into consideration for a wave slot. All athletes must place inside the top 25, for a wave 1 slot consideration and top 40, for a wave 2 slot consideration, from the previous CCNC DL race. **It is highly recommended they also submit TTs for the swim, bike and run outlined in the Special Request form** and are welcome to submit **current conference championship race (Olympic race)**, if available.
4. **Conference Championship results for current season -** Under this criteria, athletes must have completed their current conference championship race (Olympic race and finish ahead of at least two athletes who placed:
   - Top 75 at the previous CCNC (Wave 1 consideration)
   - Top 150 at the previous CCNC (Wave 2 consideration)

   Athletes must provide a link to the conference race results and reference the other athlete's name(s), and place from the current conference championships and previous CCNC. **It is highly recommended they also submit TTs for the swim, bike and run outlined in the Special Request form** and are welcome to submit DL race results, if available, from the previous CCNC. All these results will be taken into consideration for a wave slot.
5. If none of this information is provided, and an athlete would still like to be considered for a wave 1 or 2 slot, they must submit verifiable data/information of the extraordinary and extenuating circumstances behind the missing information, and why they deserve a wave 1 and/or 2 slot at the current national championships, Olympic race.

Special Requests form

All Special Request form submissions will be made via a Google form document (male and female) starting inside a 60 day window of the current CCNC. Any athlete who is competing at nationals who is not already ranked inside the top 140 (not 150 since 10 slots are reserved for Special request athletes) and wishes to get considered for a wave 1 or 2 slot, can submit this from.

Reminder: It is highly recommended that all athletes submitting this form complete the TTs listed above and in the form, since those results take precedence over the other criteria. It is also highly recommended to submit data related to as many of the criteria as possible. **The deadline for submitting the Google Special Request form is at least 10 days prior to the CCNC Olympic race for the current season. Specific deadline dates will be emailed to all CC reps and coaches in February of the current season.**