



2026 FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated 10.7.2025

1. Introduction

This 2026 FISU World University Championships Team Selection Criteria (the “Criteria”) will be used to determine the athletes that will represent the United States at the 2026 International University Sports Federation (FISU) World University Championships (the “Team”) in **Nyon, Switzerland**, on or about **August 7-8, 2026** (the “World Championship”). These selection criteria are designed to provide emerging college elite athletes who meet FISU age and academic eligibility requirements the opportunity to continue their development at the highest levels of international triathlon competition.

Under FISU World University Championships (the “Championships”) eligibility guidelines the United States may enter a maximum of six (6) men and six (6) women to compete in the Championship. USAT intends to nominate and support a Team of four (4) men and four (4) women to this event. Self-nominated participants above this would be subject to all travel and participation costs. While holding a USAT Elite License is not a requirement for selection, athletes are advised that elite international draft-legal racing experience is highly determinative of success at the World Championships.

USAT will make selections to the Mixed Relay event in accordance with the USAT Mixed Relay Event Selection Criteria.

Athletes are advised that entry into the Championship does not follow the traditional World Triathlon nomination timeline and that athletes seeking selection will be required to complete eligibility forms and obtain certification from their college or university in advance of the selection deadlines.

2. Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:

- a. Athlete must be eligible under all applicable rules of FISU (www.fisu.net), World Triathlon (www.triathlon.org), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon;
- b. Athlete must be a current annual member in good standing of USA Triathlon;
- c. Athlete must be able to obtain certification from their college or university in accordance with FIS rules;
- d. Must comply with World Triathlon Competition Rule 2.4(c) and have physician signed certification form (PPE) on file with USA Triathlon;
- e. Current with SafeSport Training by completing the SafeSport tutorial and updating the tutorial as required by the U.S. Center for SafeSport; and,
- 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.

3. Selection

- a. **World Triathlon Ranking:** World Triathlon Ranking as of June 8, 2026.
- b. **2026 Points Ranking:** World Triathlon Ranking Points earned between January 1 and June 8, 2026.
- c. **USAT Junior Draft-Legal Ranking:** USAT Junior Draft-Legal Ranking as of June 8, 2026.

4. Selection Procedure

- a. The maximum team size for the Team is expected to be six (6) athletes per gender, however, USAT intends to nominate a team of four (4) men and (4) women. Should athletes self-nominate to participate in the 5th and 6th team spot, USAT will prioritize their entries based on World Ranking Points earned in 2026 as of June 8, 2026. Self-nominations must be submitted to USAT by emailing no later than June 8, 2026.
- b. **Automatic Selection:**
 - i. Quota spots 1 through 4 will be allocated according to **World Triathlon Ranking** points: The first two (2) spots will then be awarded to the athletes possessing the highest **World Triathlon Ranking** current as of July 8, 2026, which spots rolling down to the next FISU-eligible athlete by order of ranking. Next, two (2) spots will be awarded to the athlete having earned the highest total number of **World Triathlon Ranking Points** between January 1, 2024, and June 8, 2026, which spots rolling down to the next FISU-eligible athlete by order of most points earned. Finally, if any spots remain open, they will be awarded to the highest-ranked FISU-eligible athletes in the **2026 USAT Junior Draft-Legal Rankings** as of June 8, 2026, until a team of four (4) men and four (4) women has been selected.
- c. **Discretionary Selection:** USAT may fill all spots not earned by achieving Automatic Selection per the Discretionary Selection process described below up to the full quota ix (6) men and six (6) women.

5. Discretionary Selection

- a. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: By meeting the automatic selection standards, athletes will have demonstrated their ability as the best USA athletes in this category. If the maximum number of USA athletes has not met the standards for automatic selection, then USA Triathlon may select athletes who, in the opinion of the International Competition Panel ("ICP"), can win a medal despite not performing to the standard at the Selection Events, or who can contribute to winning a Mixed Relay at the Championship.
- b. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The Selection Committee shall rank athletes for nomination to FISU. USAT will submit all approved entries to FISU by its registration deadline. Athletes will be notified of their selection on or before that date.
- c. Discretionary criteria:
 - i. The following criteria shall be used for discretionary selection. The criteria are listed in no particular order:
 1. World Triathlon Points List ranking;
 2. USAT Junior Development Rankings; and/or,
 3. Performance measures at the ICP's discretion.
- d. The ICP will be responsible for discretionary selection and will be comprised of ne (1) members of the High Performance Department staff and two (2) Elite 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 an 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. 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 USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.

7. Replacements to the Team

- a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled according to the discretionary criteria above, provided that the replacement athlete meets all applicable eligibility criteria, and a replacement is allowed by FISU. In the event that no athlete meets all of the eligibility and discretion selection criteria, or FISU does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled. At the discretion of the Selection Committee, a vacant funded quota spot may be filled by an athlete who self-nominated and was selected to fill the 5th or 6th position on the team, whereby the 5th or 6th position would then be filled based on the World Triathlon Ranking Points Ranking available at the time of the replacement.

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, FISU, WADA, USADA, and USAT, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Abide by the USAT's Code of Conduct, 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 standard triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) up to six (6) weeks prior to the date of the World Championship.
 - iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for the Championship. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.
 - iv. Agree to participate in all FISU pre- and post-race events, including opening and closing ceremonies.
 - v. **Athletes must comply with ITU Competition Rule 2.4(c), requiring an electrocardiogram (ECG) and pre-participation evaluation (PPE) in order to participate in certain ITU officiated events. Satisfaction of these requirements will be a condition of nomination to participate in this championship.**
 - vi. Athletes who wish to compete in Junior, U23, FISU, Elite, and Paratriathlon categories at World Triathlon events are required to complete and pass the USAT Safe Sport tutorial. More information about how to access the tutorial can be found at [Safe Sport](#). <http://www.usatriathlon.orgsafe/> This tutorial needs to be completed annually. Once you have completed the tutorial, please email the completed .pdf certificate to: elite@usatriathlon.org. Please retain a copy for your own records

vii. 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.

9. Team Athlete Benefits (Funded Athletes only)

- a. USAT will provide staff and/or experienced contractors to serve as Team Leader(s) for this event.
- b. USAT will look for opportunities to decrease the total cost of the trip to World Championships for those attending, by subsidizing and/or reimbursing the cost of lodging, transport, and/or competition fees, if possible.
- c. USAT will inform qualified athletes of their expected costs involved with this competition trip upon selection.
- d. USAT will provide an approved team uniform for purchase at cost

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 USA Triathlon 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 USA Triathlon withdrawal deadline, then 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), USA Triathlon 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. A discretionary panel, with at least 20% athlete representation, will be formed to review the materials and determine if the situation warrants a waiver of the penalty.
 - i. **1st offense:** \$250 fine
 - ii. **2nd offense:** \$500 fine
 - iii. **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, FISU and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in World Triathlon, FISU 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). 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