CCNC Ranking or Allocation process for Olympic Race (each gender)

CCNC Wave 1 Ranking Process (slots 1-75) Olympic (each gender)

Step #1

Previous CCNC Top 90 – Athletes who placed 1-90 in the Olympic Distance race at the previous National Championship and are returning to the Olympic Distance race in current National Championships are allocated automatically into seeded wave #1, slots 1-70*

Percentile Performance Curve Ranking Model - time based

USAT Pace Setter Ranking Model – time based

Step #2

Using the two ranking models above, athletes are ranked from the 2 best performances, from in-season races, which can include the conference championships for the **current season**. The ranking will also include their result from **previous national championships** if available. Each model generates an independent athlete ranking, which are then integrated to generate a complete ranking - Step #3.

The ranking process uses pre-selected USAT and conference sanctioned collegiate club races (see Appendix A for a complete list) that include collegiate club athletes races or waves only, or races or waves where collegiate club athletes and age group athletes may race together.

Step #3

Unified Rankings – The outputs of the two independent models in step 2, are statistically integrated to create one unified ranked list.

Step #4

***Special Request Slots – 5 Special Request slots are open to athletes with special circumstances to fill in the remaining 5 slots available in wave 1 – athletes in this pool, are ranked according to the special request criteria and then back filled into wave #1.**

Step #5

Complete list of 75 allocated athletes for Wave 1 – Male and Female -

CCNC Wave 2 Ranking Process (slots 76-150) Olympic (each gender)

Follow the same steps, 1-5 as above, but for wave 2 slots, 76-150

Complete list of 75 allocated athletes for Wave 2 – Male and Female

CCNC Wave 1 and 2 Olympic Distance
Ranking Methodology & 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.

Guiding Pillars

- **Fairness / Accuracy** – Use of multiple objectives and validated statistical ranking models to generate fair and precise rankings.
- **Competition** –Improved homogenous top tier athlete groupings, from upgraded ranking process, to promote healthy competition.
- **Bike Drafting Mitigation** – Mindful groupings to manage drafting, supporting a fair and honest competition
- **Simplicity** – Inputs designed to be realistic to obtain and quickly verifiable.
- **Safety** – athletes should race in an environment appropriate to their abilities to enhance safety.

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 ->	5:51-6:30	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.**

Appendix A: Race Calendar and the Ranking process - CCNC Ranking Race Selection and Tier Structure

Criterion for races selected to the Collegiate Club race calendar:

- **USAT sanctioned** and the **results are submitted to USAT in a timely manner** to be part of the ranking process.
- Each race was designated by their respective CC Representative as a **conference-sanctioned event** in which athletes could participate during the season. Check with your CC rep for any discrepancies. The list includes conference sanctioned events where collegiate club athletes may race with age group athletes in the same race and/or wave.
- **Sufficient pacesetters or anchors** to allow the ranking process to produce fair and accurate results.
- Race **NOT included** are: duathlons, and indoor races.

Disclaimer – The race calendar is subject to change based on the timely submission of race results by Race Directors (RDs) and/or timing companies. Race results used in the ranking process are provided directly by the Race Director or the event's timing company. If results are not provided, or are not provided in a timely manner, those results cannot be incorporated into the ranking process. Although delays or failures to provide results are uncommon, they may occasionally occur. If a scheduled race cannot be included in the rankings for this reason, or for not meeting any of the criterion above, or is changed from a triathlon to a duathlon or indoor race, a notice will be distributed through the appropriate Conference Representatives (CC Reps).

The race schedule below, which include links to every race website, is very complete and represents nearly all of the **collegiate club racing opportunities** available to athletes across all 10 conferences. Additional conference races can be added to this calendar but Chad Cunningham, USAT and Coach John Hansen, UC Davis, must be notified in advance of the race(s) being contested.

The large number of races is only possible if **all collegiate club athletes** complete the **Athlete Identifier Form** as mentioned above. 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. **Without this form 30%+ of the races on this list could not be used in the ranking process, since these races do not identify collegiate club athletes independently, so it is critical all athletes complete this form.**

Moreover, all designated conference races can contribute to the ranking process. However, events may differ in the amount and reliability of ranking information they provide, depending on factors such as field size, depth of competition, number of pacesetters, and consistency of results. The ranking models are designed to account for these differences through the data, rather than requiring each event to be assigned a fixed tier (higher vs lower) level in advance. Athletes and coaches should therefore view **all designated races as meaningful opportunities to establish performance,** while recognizing that larger and deeper events may provide stronger ranking evidence.

Lastly, each athlete will need to compete and finish in **two conference races from the list below** and/or, the **previous CCNC and one conference race from the list below,** to receive a strong athlete ranking. However, athletes are **highly** encouraged to compete in their conference championship race as one of the conference races listed below, which will provide stronger ranking evidence. If an athlete does not finish any conference races listed **below their ranking will be nonexistent** so if they wish to be considered for a seeded wave, they should complete the Special Request process and form noted above.

Race List for 2026-27 season rankings for CCNC 2027

Conference	Event name	Event name (Conference Championship Race)	Event name	Event name	Event name	Event name	Event name	Event name
Florida (FCTC)	Previous CCNC (March or April)	MiamiMan - Olympic race (November)	Riverfront Tri @ Cocoa - Sprint race (November)	Bill Bone Tropical - Sprint race (October)	Manatee Man - Sprint race (September)	Captiva Island - Sprint Race (September)		
MACTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Pleasants Landing - Olympic race (October)	Giant Acorn - Olympic race (September)	Lake Davidson - Sprint race (September)	Patriots Triathlon - Sprint Race (September)	Watermans Triathlon - Olympic race (September)	Sandling Beach Triathlon - Olympic race (October)	Battle at Buckhorn Sprint Triathlon (September)
MCTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Bevoman - Olympic race (March)	Pumpkinman – Olympic race (October)	Castle Creek - Sprint race (October)	OktoberFest - Sprint race (September)	Falcon Tri - super sprint series (September)		
MECTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Boilerman - Olympic race (October)	Tri The Illini - Sprint race (September)	Ann Arbor - Olympic race (July)	Tri Louisville - Olympic race	Chicago Triathlon - Olympic race (August)	Zoom Redhawk - Sprint race (September)	
MWCTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Maple Grove - Olympic race (August)	Pleasant Prairie - Olympic (June)	St. Louis - Sprint (June)	Muscatine - Sprint (August)	Cornhusker State Games - Sprint (July)		
NECTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Westchester - Olympic race (September)	Lake George - Olympic race (September)	Buzzards Bay - Sprint race (September)	Cranberry - Sprint race (August)	Hyannis 2 - Sprint race (September)		
NWCTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Best in the West - Olympic race (June)						
SECTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Tugaloo - Olympic race (September)	Winchester Lakeside – Olympic or Sprint (September)	Tri the Mountains - Sprint (September)				
SMWSTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	Bevoman - Olympic race (March)	Tri Aggieland - Sprint race (April)	Rose City - Sprint race (September)	Old College - Sprint race (August)	Latitude-Fall Tri - Sprint or Olympic race (October)		
WCCTC	Previous CCNC (March or April)	March Triathlon Series - Olympic race (March)	Stanford Treeathlon - Sprint classic race (March)	UCSD Tritonman - Sprint classic race (February)	UCSB Kendra's Race - Sprint race (November)	Cal Berkeley Bearathlon - Sprint classic race (October)	UCLA IronBruin - Sprint race (October)	UC Davis Andie's Aggieathlon - Sprint race (October)

An athlete will **NOT** be considered for a seeded wave under the following two scenarios and will have to go through the Special Request process, Google form (male and female), if they would like to be considered for a seeded wave:

- Finishes **no races or just 1 of the races listed below**
- **Does not** complete the **Athlete Identifier Form** – must be completed to participate in the Special Request process.

Reminder: **In order to participate in any national championships, all collegiate club athletes have to compete in at least one collegiate club race during the current season - which may be races not listed above. Check with your Conference rep and the USAT Club web site for any additional races that meet his criteria in your conference. Athletes who do not meet these criteria but wish to compete at the current CCNC must contact Chad Cunningham at USAT.**