



2026 Paratriathlon Elite Membership License Qualification Criteria

Updated: 5/27/2026

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY

You MUST present proof of your USAT membership at all USAT-sanctioned events. If your elite para license is misplaced, you may print a card from the USAT website.

Key Information about Paratriathlon Elite Licenses

- Paratriathlon elite status is available to qualified, highly competitive, and experienced paratriathletes.
- Beginning in 2026, paratriathlon elite eligibility will be issued on a rolling basis and will be valid for two (2) years from the date of approval.
- Athletes have one (1) year from the date of meeting any elite qualification criteria below to apply for an elite license.
- Elite paratriathletes must maintain an active annual USA Triathlon membership. To continue competing as an elite beyond their current eligibility period, athletes must extend their eligibility by meeting one of the criteria listed below. Submitting an eligible qualifying result during an active eligibility period extends the athlete's elite eligibility by one additional two-year period, beginning the day after the current eligibility period expires. Multiple qualifying results within one eligibility period do not stack additional eligibility periods.

Example: Athlete X is approved for a first-time paratriathlon elite license on March 1, 2026. Their eligibility remains active through February 28, 2028. If the athlete submits an eligible qualifying result during that active eligibility period, their eligibility is extended through February 28, 2030.

- Athletes who hold a paratriathlon elite license will earn USAT paratriathlon rankings points throughout the year; however, before the rankings are finalized, the elite paratriathletes will be removed. Elite paratriathletes may view their World Triathlon Rankings on www.triathlon.org.
- Athletes must submit proper documentation to the USA Triathlon National Office along with the appropriate license application. You must provide proof that you have qualified for the paratriathlon elite membership by providing a link to the specific race result that qualifies when completing the application.
- Once the application and paperwork has been submitted, it is the athlete's responsibility to contact USAT at membership@usatriathlon.org for proof of elite status. This could take up to fourteen (14) days.

Qualification for a Paratriathlon Elite License

Athletes who wish to race in the World Triathlon Para Championships or World Triathlon Para Series Events must hold a current paratriathlon elite license.



Qualification criteria:

- (1) Have a current USAT annual membership
- (2) Have a 'C' or 'R' international class OR a national class of 'NN', 'NR', or 'NC'
- (3) meet at least one (1) of the five criteria listed below

Criteria A: U.S. Paratriathlon Nationals Qualifier Series: Finish within 5% of the category winner's time in the approved sport class at any of the U.S. Paratriathlon Nationals Qualifier Series events.

Criteria B: Paratriathlon National Championships: Finish within 8% of the medal event winner's time in approved sport class at the U.S. Paratriathlon National Championships

Criteria C: World Triathlon Paratriathlon World Cup Event/PATCO Championships: Finish within 8% of the medal event winner's time in approved sport class at an World Triathlon Para World Cup or PATCO Championships.

Criteria D: World Triathlon Paratriathlon Series/ World Triathlon Para Championships: Finish within 8% of the medal event winner's time in approved sport class at the World Triathlon Para Series Event or the World Triathlon Para Championships.

Criteria E: Special Consideration: Special consideration for exceptions to all elite membership rules may be granted by a committee of at least three (1) USAT staff member from the High Performance and/or Membership departments, and at least one (2) members of the AAC, who will consider exceptions for athletes who meet one of the following criteria:

- Applying athlete has been on a U.S. Para Swimming, U.S. Para Cycling, or U.S. Para Track and Field Paralympic or Para Pan Am Games Team or National Elite Team (recognized by that NGB)
- The applying athlete has finished within 3% of the current World Triathlon Para Champion's medal event time in an approved sport class at a USAT-sanctioned sprint distance triathlon event with the exact distances of a 750m swim, 20k bike, and 5k run. To view the current World Triathlon Champion times, visit <http://www.triathlon.org>.