



2009 ELITE LICENSE INFORMATION

updated November 2008

Athletes wishing to race as an elite triathlete, duathlete, or off-road triathlete in any USAT sanctioned event must hold a USAT elite license in their respective category. Elite annual membership will be available to certain qualified, highly competitive, and experienced athletes who meet the qualifications respective to their license category as outlined below. Only athletes holding an elite license are eligible to compete in the elite wave of any USAT sanctioned event that offers a minimum prize purse of \$5,000. The term "elite" and "professional" are used interchangeably, but USAT prefers that these athletes be referred to as "elites" in order to align with ITU and USOC.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY:

- You MUST present proof of elite status at all USAT sanctioned events; therefore, you must carry your license to all events. If you lose your license, you may print a temporary card at the membership section of the USAT website.
- Unlike the amateur license, an elite license is based on a calendar year. It expires on December 31st, regardless of when the license is purchased. No exceptions will be made.
- Depending on qualification criteria met, athletes must submit proper documentation (e.g., race results, copy of elite UCI license, copy of National Federation elite license) to the National Office along with the elite license application. A printout of the actual race results must be provided with the application. A race resume, emails with race website links, or race results that have been cut and pasted are not acceptable. You need only to print out the first few pages of the results but, make sure to note the number of total finishers, the website address, and date of event at the top of the first page.
- Once an elite license expires, an athlete can choose to go back to amateur racing, but only when that card has expired.
- In addition to renewing an elite license yearly, all elite athletes must extend their eligibility to compete as an elite athlete. Elite athletes must submit ONE race result in which the athlete finished within 8% of the winner's time at an event that offered a prize purse of \$5,000 or greater. By submitting this result, the athlete then extends their eligibility expiration date for two years from December 31st of the year in which they submitted the result. *Example: Athlete X is approved for a first time elite license in March 2008 therefore they have an eligibility expiration date of December 31st, 2010. That athlete then has all of 2009 and 2010 to submit ONE race result where he/she finished within 8% of the winner's time at*

an event offering \$5,000 or more. If the race result is from 2009, their eligibility is extended until December 31st, 2011. If the race result is from 2010, their eligibility is extended until December 31st, 2012. The athlete still needs to renew his/her license each calendar year.

- Application and race results must be received at least fourteen (14) days before the FIRST event at which the athlete wishes to compete as an elite. Once an athlete has submitted paperwork, it is the athlete's responsibility to contact the USAT National Teams Manager for proof of their elite status. Athletes may not show up at elite events without proof of status.
- Athletes registered as elites/pros CAN compete in events with less than \$5,000 prize purses but:
 1. They are competing in events according to the age group rules of USAT, not pro/elite rules.
 2. They cannot accept age group awards; they can be listed in the overall finish position for the race only.
 3. They might be placed back into their age group for purposes of starting time depending on the event.

USAT RECOGNIZES FIVE CLASSIFICATIONS WITHIN ITS ELITE LICENSE STRUCTURE:

- 1. Elite Triathlete License** (covered as an elite in all categories)
- 2. Elite Duathlete License** (covered as an elite in duathlon, amateur in triathlon)
- 3. Elite Off Road License** (covered as an elite in off road events, amateur in all on road events)
- 4. Elite Foreign License**
- 5. Elite Collegiate License**
- 6. Special Considerations**

1. ELITE TRIATHLETE LICENSE:

This license is for athletes wishing to race as an elite in any USAT sanctioned event, at any distance (from sprint to ultra) and format (triathlons, duathlons, off road events, winter events, etc.). This license costs \$100 and expires December 31st of the year in which it was issued.

Qualification criteria: Any athlete who chooses to compete as an elite triathlete must meet at least one of the six (6) criteria listed below:

CRITERIA A: Finish within 8% of the winning elite time (on the same course as elites) in three USAT sanctioned events that offered an elite/pro prize purse.

CRITERIA B: Finish top-10 overall and within 8% of the winner's time at ITU Age Group World Championships.

CRITERIA C: Finish top-10 overall in the amateur field at Ironman World Championships.

CRITERIA D: Finish top-5 overall and within 8% of the winner's time at USAT Age Group National Championships.

CRITERIA E: Finish top-5 overall and within 8% of the winner's time at USAT Collegiate National Championships.

CRITERIA F: Finish top-3 overall in the amateur field at an Elite Qualifying Race. The list of Elite Qualifying Races is determined by the AAC each year and published on USAT's website. Please find this list below.

Elite Qualifying Races for 2009:

All Ironman Triathlon events on US soil (only Ironman trademark events)

All 70.3 Triathlon events on US soil

St. Anthony's Triathlon

Wildflower Long Course Triathlon

Wildflower Olympic Distance Triathlon

Columbia Triathlon

Memphis in May Triathlon

Capital of Texas Triathlon

Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon

HyVee Triathlon

Philadelphia Triathlon

LifeTime Fitness Triathlon, Minneapolis

New York City Triathlon

Boulder Peak Triathlon

5430 Boulder Long Course

Chicago Accenture Triathlon

LA Triathlon

Pacific Grove Olympic Triathlon

Toyota US Dallas Open Triathlon

2. ELITE DUATHLETE LICENSE:

This license is for athletes wishing to race as an elite in any USAT sanctioned duathlon. Athletes approved for this license remain amateur in triathlon events. This license costs \$80 and expires December 31st of the year in which it was issued.

Qualification criteria: Any athlete who chooses to compete as an elite duathlete must meet the following criteria:

Finish top-10 overall and within 10% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least two (2) USAT sanctioned duathlons having at least 200 participants that occurred within the past 12 months.

Special Consideration to the above criteria will be considered by a three person committee made up of two elite duathletes (approved by the Athlete Advisory Council) and one member of the AAC. Exceptions will be considered if the applying athlete meets at least one of the below criteria:

CRITERIA A: Finish top-4 overall and within 7% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least one (1) USAT sanctioned duathlon having at least 200 participants that occurred within the past 12 months **OR**

CRITERIA B: Finish top-2 overall and within 7% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least one (1) USAT sanctioned duathlon having a minimum of 125 participants and a maximum of 200 participants that occurred within the past 12 months.

3. ELITE OFF ROAD LICENSE:

This license is for any athlete wishing to race as an elite in any USAT sanctioned off-road event (e.g., Xterra). Athletes approved for this license remain amateur in all on road events. This license costs \$50 and expires December 31st of the year in which it was issued.

Any athlete who chooses to compete as an elite off road athlete must meet one of the three criteria below:

CRITERIA A: Finish top-10 and within 10% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least three (3) USAT sanctioned events OFF ROAD having at least 200 participants that occurred within the past 12 months **OR**

CRITERIA B: Any athlete who holds elite status in NORBA, UCI, USAC, AND/OR USAT&F **OR**

CRITERIA C: Any athlete who has qualified as an Olympic athlete in swimming, cycling, or running.

4. ELITE FOREIGN LICENSE:

This license is for foreign athletes who compete in multiple USAT sanctioned events and want to avoid paying the \$10 one day license fee multiple times. This license costs \$100 and expires December 31st of the year in which it was issued.

Qualification criteria: Any athlete who chooses to compete as a foreign elite athlete must present proof of elite status from his/her National Triathlon

Federation or meet the USAT elite license qualification criteria outlined above under item one (Elite Triathlete License) described above.

5. ELITE COLLEGIATE LICENSE:

This license is recommended for current or soon-to-be NCAA athletes who do not want to jeopardize their NCAA eligibility but want to compete in elite events sanctioned by USAT to gain experience. These athletes are NOT eligible for prize money but may race when it is offered. These athletes are excluded from competing in the amateur National Championships.

Qualification criteria: Any athlete who chooses to compete as an elite collegiate triathlete must meet at least one of the three (3) criteria listed below:

CRITERIA A: Finish top-8 overall and within 8% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least three (3) USAT sanctioned events having at least 500 participants that occurred within the past 12 months. No exceptions will be made.

CRITERIA B: Finish within 8% of the overall winner's time in at least two (2) ultra-distance events having at least 500 participants that included an elite field (offering \$5,000 or greater in prize purse) that occurred within the past 12 months. Ultra-distance is defined as any distance equal to or greater than a 4 kilometer swim, 112 mile bike and 26.2 mile run. Events must have been sanctioned by USA Triathlon. No exceptions will be made.

CRITERIA C: Finish within 8% of the overall winner's time in one (1) ultra-distance event having at least 500 participants that included an elite field (offering \$5,000 or greater in prize purse) that occurred within the past 12 months **AND** finish top-8 and within 8% of the overall winner's time, according to gender, in at least one (1) USAT sanctioned event having at least 500 participants that occurred within the past 12 months.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION:

Special consideration for exceptions to all elite membership rules will be granted by the AAC, who will only consider exceptions for athletes who meet the following criteria:

- Applying athlete has been on a USA Swimming, USA Cycling, or USA Track and Field Olympic or Pan American Games Team or National Elite Team (recognized by that NGB). The athlete must have finished in the top ten overall and within 10% of the overall winner's time in at least one (1) USAT sanctioned event having at least 200 participants that occurred within the past 12 months.