2014 ITU/PATCO CHAMPIONSHIP - JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **Introduction**

   This 2014 ITU/PATCO Junior Triathlon Championship Team Selection Criteria (the "Criteria") will be used to determine the athletes who will represent the United States at the 2013 ITU/PATCO Junior Triathlon Championship (the "Team") in Dallas, Texas, on May 31, 2014 (the "PATCO Championship"). The selection criteria are designed to provide emerging athletes, ages 16 to 19 (as of December 31, 2014), the opportunity to continue their athletic development by demonstrating their abilities at the highest levels of international regional triathlon competition.

   Under ITU/PATCO Championship eligibility guidelines (posted on the ITU web site www.triathlon.org) USAT may nominate a maximum of ten (10) men and ten (10) women to compete in the 2014 PATCO Championship event. Start positions are awarded to USAT by the ITU based on: 1) a quota system; and 2) USA athlete results at select events during the 2013 and 2014 season.

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 ITU (www.triathlon.org), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon.
   b. Athlete must be an annual member in good standing of USA Triathlon.

3. **Selection Priority/Events**
   a. **Selection Priority #1:** Athletes ranked in the top 15 of the 2013 end of season USAT Junior Elite National Rankings, with priority going to the higher ranked athlete (maximum of four).
   b. **Selection Priority #2**: Finish position at the 2014 PATCO North American Junior Championships in Sarasota, Florida (March 8, 2014) (maximum of six).

4. **Selection Procedure**
   a. Through ITU's quota system, USAT may earn up to ten (10) athletes per gender. If the ITU allows for additional athletes, then USAT High Performance may apply for additional invitations from the ITU. Additional nominations over the 10 athletes per gender maximum will be made by discretionary selection. USAT will submit all entries for the competition to the ITU 35 days prior to the PATCO Championship.
   b. Automatic Selection:
      i. The highest ranked USA athletes in Selection Priority #1 will automatically qualify for the Team provided they are ranked 15th or better. Athletes will qualify by order of rank and a maximum of four (4) athletes will be identified through this priority. Athletes who qualify by this standard must also demonstrate their fitness by meeting one of the following standards in 2014:
         1. Compete in a draft-legal event in 2014 prior to the PATCO Championships; <u>or</u>
         2. Meet swimming and running benchmarks prior to the deadline for submitting nominations to ITU/PATCO for the PATCO Championships. Athlete must meet the "A" standard in the swim or run, <u>and</u> the "B" standard of the other discipline from the "Junior Swim and Run Benchmarks" table below.
      ii. Up to six positions will be awarded at Selection event #2.
         1. The first six (6) USA athletes at the PATCO North American Junior Championships (Selection Priority #2), who did not already qualify for the Team, will automatically qualify for the Team, provided they finish within 5% of the winner's time.

   c. Discretionary Selection: any remaining slots on the Team following the Automatic Selection process will be filled by discretionary selection.

Selection Event Table:

2014 USAT Junior PATCO Championships Selection Criteria

PRIORITY/EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	UP TO	Qualifying Criteria
2013 USAT Junior Elite Rankings	www.usatriathlon.org	N/A	4 MEN 4 WOMEN	The highest ranking Junior USA athletes provided they are ranked 15th place or better. Athletes qualify by order of rank, and must demonstrate fitness in 2014
2013 PATCO North American Junior Championship*	Sarasota, Florida	March 8, 2014	6 MEN 6 WOMEN	First six athletes not already qualified; must finish within 5% of winner's time

*In the event of cancellation of any portion of the event (swim, bike or run), slots for this event will be awarded based on the discretionary selection criteria.

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 have not met the standards, then USA Triathlon may select athletes who, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, can win a medal despite not performing to the standard at the selection event, or who can contribute to winning a medal through specific team tactics during the event.

b. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The Selection Committee will rank athletes for nomination to the ITU. Athletes must fully understand and agree to their individual strategic roles within the team before being nominated to the Team by discretionary selection. USAT will submit all approved entries for the competition to ITU 35 days prior to the 2014 PATCO Junior Championships (Dallas, Texas). 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. Finish place in 2013 and 2014 Junior Elite draft-legal events; and/or,
   2. USAT Junior Elite Ranking (if any); and/or,
   3. a record of competitive swimming results <u>and</u> a record of competitive cycling results <u>and</u> demonstrated knowledge of cycling team tactics; <u>or</u> official swimming and running marks established in 2014.
      a. For an athlete judged by swimming and running marks, the athlete must meet the "A" standard in the swim or run and the "B" standard of the other discipline from the Swim and Run Benchmarks below. Results submitted on or before April 15th will be considered in the discretionary process.

Junior Swim and Run Benchmarks				
		800yd SC	800m SC	5k
Men	A	8:15	9:05	15:20
Men	B	8:39	9:32	16:00
Women	A	8:40	9:33	17:10
Women	B	9:23	10:32	18:15

d. The Selection Committee will be comprised of two (2) members of the High Performance Staff and one (1) member of the Athlete Advisory Council.

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:

ii. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Triathlon High Performance General Manager.

iii. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Triathlon physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USA Triathlon physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.

iv. 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.

v. Failure to meet the fitness requirement of Section 4(b)(i) of this document.

7. Replacements to the Team

a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall roll down to the next qualified athlete from Selection Priority #2, provided that the replacement athlete meets all applicable Selection Criteria requirements, or by discretionary selection if there are no qualified athletes from Selection Priority #2, and a replacement is allowed by the ITU. In the event that no athlete meets all of these criteria, or the ITU does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

8. Additional Requirements for Selection

a. All athletes selected to the Team will be required to comply with all applicable rules and requirements of ITU, WADA, USADA, and USAT, including, but not limited to, the following:

vi. Sign and abide by the USAT's Code of Conduct, any USAT or ITU Wavier or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.

vii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the PATCO Championship.

viii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for PATCO Championship, if so requested. In which case, accommodation arrangements will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.

9. Team Athlete Benefits

a. Athletes selected for the PATCO Junior Championship Team will receive the following benefits:

i. USA Triathlon will cover the PATCO Championship race registration fee, room and board, and will provide a base travel grant of $300.

ii. USA Triathlon will provide a team uniform. Sponsor logos are permitted uniform, but must comply with ITU specifications and are the responsibility of the athlete.

iii. USAT will provide team leadership and coaching support for the Team.

iv. Athletes may be eligible for travel reimbursement pending performance – a summary of funding opportunities can be found in the USAT Junior Performance Plan.

10. International Disclaimer

a. These Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to USAT, and on ITU and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ITU 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.