

2012 ITU PARATRIATHLON WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Introduction

This 2012 ITU Paratriathlon World Championship selection criteria (the 'criteria') will be used to determine the prioritization of athletes selected to represent the United States in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Paratriathlon World Championship (the 'Team') in Auckland, New Zealand on October 18-22, 2012 (the 'World Championship').

The number of athletes eligible to compete for the USA at the World Championship is dependent upon ITU entry criteria which will be confirmed prior to final selection decisions.

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.
- c. Paratriathlon Category Classification: Each athlete wanting to compete in the World Championship must be Officially Classified and placed in a USA Paratriathlon Category as outlined in USA Triathlon's Competitive Rules. USA Paratriathlon categories shall be instituted and maintained as follows:
 - **TRI 1 Handcycle**: Paraplegic, Quadriplegic, Polio, Double Leg Amputee. Must use long-seat hand-cycle on the bike portion and racing wheelchair on run.
 - **TRI 2 Severe Leg impairment**: Above-knee Amputees. Athlete must ride bicycle and run with above knee (or similar) prosthesis or crutches.
 - **TRI 3 Les Autre**: Includes athletes with Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Double Leg Amputee (runners) or Paralysis in multiple limbs. Must ride a bicycle and run. (May use braces or prosthesis)
 - **TRI 4 Arm impairment**: Including Above and Elbow Amputees or "impairment" in one or both upper limbs. Athletes may use prosthesis, brace or sling on the bike and/or run.
 - **TRI 5 Moderate leg impairment**: Below-knee amputees. Athlete must ride bicycle and run with prosthesis or crutches.
 - **TRI 6 Visual Impairment**: Legally Blind. (20/200 vision with best corrective vision.) A handler of the same sex is mandatory throughout the race. Athlete uses a tandem bicycle. Athletes may be tethered and must wear blackout shades during the run.

3. Selection Events

- a. Selection Event #1: 2012 USAT Paratriathlon National Championship, Austin, TX; May 28, 2012
- b. Selection Event #2: 2011 ITU Paratriathlon World Championship, Beijing, China; September 10, 2011

4. Selection Procedure

a. The maximum size for the Team has yet to be determined by the ITU. At a minimum, USA Triathlon expects to be permitted one entry per classification per gender. It is possible a maximum threshold for team size will not be set by the ITU. USA Triathlon will endorse and enter as many athletes as the ITU permits, providing they meet the qualification criteria set forth below.

b. Automatic Selection:

- i. The highest placing USA athletes in Selection Event #1 will be eligible for the Team provided they finish 3rd place or better. Athletes will qualify by order of finish.
- ii. If any slots remain following Selection Event #1, the highest placing USA athletes in Selection Event #2 will be eligible for the Team provided they finish 3rd place or better. Athletes will qualify by order of finish.
- c. Discretionary Selection: any remaining slots on the Team following the Automatic Selection process will be filled by discretionary selection.

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, 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.
- b. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 and submits a race resume, including links to results for qualifying performances as well as any other performance data they wish to share, to ituentries@usatriathlon.org by midnight EDT on August 1, 2012 may be considered for nomination. The Selection Committee shall rank athletes for nomination to the ITU. USA Triathlon will submit all approved entries for the competition to ITU no less than 35 days prior to the 2012 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships. 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 the Selection Events;
 - 2. 2011-2012 race resume;
- a. The Selection Committee will be comprised of one member of the High Performance Staff and two athletes appointed by 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 Department.
 - 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.

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, provided that the replacement athlete meets all applicable Selection Criteria requirements, 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 USA Triathlon, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - v. Sign and abide by the USA Triathlon's Code of Conduct, any USA Triathlon or ITU Wavier or Release, and conform to all USA Triathlon policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
 - vi. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning four (4) weeks prior to the date of the World Championship if receiving funding from USA Triathlon.

9. International Disclaimer

a. These Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to USA Triathlon, and on ITU and USA Triathlon rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ITU or USA Triathlon rules and regulations, or other unforeseen circumstances, will be distributed to the affected athletes promptly, and USA Triathlon reserves the right to revise these Selection criteria in such event.