USA TRIATHLON ITU CONTINENTAL CUP EVENT SELECTION CRITERIA

Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to the International Triathlon Union (ITU) to compete in ITU Continental Cup (CC) events. It is derived from the current ITU CC Elite Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USAT within seven (7) business days to comply with any material changes by the ITU to the CC Elite Qualification Criteria. Any changes made by USAT require approval from the Board of Directors. While USAT will make changes within seven days, the approval process may take longer.

The ITU determines the qualification criteria for ITU CC events. Selections to these events are made by the ITU from entries submitted by USA Triathlon. All USA athletes interested in CC entry are advised to read the ITU CC Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Athlete Eligibility

The eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for entry into an ITU CC Event are as follows:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States;
- Must hold a current USAT Elite License;
- Must abide by all USAT, USOC, ITU, USADA and WADA anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations.
- Must sign the USAT Nomination Procedure Agreement.

Athlete Nomination Process

All athletes must follow the nomination process set forth by USAT. No exceptions will be made.

1. Athletes must request entry to a CC event by written notice to USAT via ituentries@usatriathlon.org by the USAT entry deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff and in person communication).
2. **Deadlines.** USAT deadlines are 5 pm EST the Monday before the ITU deadline. USAT will continue to enter athletes into the ITU system after the deadline has passed. All nomination requests submitted after the deadline will be handled in the order of which they were received. Please note that after the ITU deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry to the ITU online system.
   Note: In the event that the ITU does not post a start list by the 32 day deadline, USAT will continue to enter athletes into the ITU system with no penalty to the athlete.
3. USAT may enter additional athletes as place holders in order to maximize the number of US quota places available. *Place holder is defined as an athlete who has not requested a start to an event by the published USAT deadline.*
4. Selection to the CC event will be made by the ITU in accordance with the ITU CC Qualification Criteria and start lists are expected to be posted 32 days prior to the event.
5. **Substitutions**. Once ITU has created the start list for a CC event three athletes per gender may be replaced per the ITU substitution procedure. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, quickly rising up the pipeline, or capable of contributing to a medal performance can be placed on the team to enhance medal opportunities. This substitution process will not be used except in the following cases:
   - An athlete who has been placed on the start list as a place holder;

- An athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury, illness or other reason.

This priority of substitutions will be exercised in the following order:

1. Discretionary nominations in the order of priority identified by the High Performance Department;
2. Remaining USA athletes based on wait list priority order.

6. **Discretionary Nominations.** In the event substitutions are used, USAT reserves the right to submit up to three discretionary entries per gender for CC level events. Discretionary nominations will be determined by USAT High Performance personnel using the Principles of Athlete Selection. All nominations will be reviewed and confirmed by the Elite Athlete Selection Committee (EASC).

Fines and Penalties

USAT will enforce the nomination and withdrawal policies outlined in this document. If an athlete fails to adhere to these rules they may be penalized according to the fine schedule below. To avoid penalties, athletes must communicate via email (ituentries@usatriathlon.org) their wishes to be removed from the Continental Cup Event consideration list by the USAT deadline dates listed below. Additional penalties may be incurred from the ITU for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at www.triathlon.org.
Note: If the race is not fully subscribed (thus not blocking another athlete from gaining a start), and USA Triathlon does not incur a penalty from the ITU, a fine will not be imposed.

1st offense: $250 fine
2nd offense: $500 fine
3rd offense: Ineligible for any ITU event starts for 3 months from race date

ITU and USAT Entry Deadlines

The ITU is expected to post start lists 32 days prior to the event. The USAT deadline for all events will be 5 pm EST the Monday prior to the ITU deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above. All event dates can be found under the "events" section on the ITU website (www.triathlon.org).