

## U.S. Qualification Procedure for the 2012 Olympic Games

- Between June 2010 and May 2012, athletes were constantly racing to earn points to improve their standing on the ITU Olympic Qualification List, which could help assure the U.S. of earning the maximum three slots per gender at the 2012 Olympic Games.
- At the 2011 London World Championship Series event (Aug. 6-7, 2011), the two highest-placing eligible U.S. athletes per gender qualified for the Games, provided they placed among the event's top nine finishers. Gwen Jorgensen (second) and Sarah Groff (seventh) qualified in this manner.
- Any eligible athlete who did not qualify in London and placed in the top nine at the ITU World Triathlon San Diego (May 11-12, 2012) qualified for the team, depending on the number of slots remaining. Entering the ITU World Triathlon San Diego, only one spot remained on the U.S. Olympic Women's Triathlon Team. Laura Bennett (third), Hunter Kemper (fifth) and Manuel Huerta (ninth) qualified in this manner.
- Any slots available following the automatic selection process would have been filled by a discretionary selection. Discretionary selections could have entailed potential medalists or an athlete who could assist the medal-potential athletes through specific team tactics.
- If there was still a spot (or spots) remaining after the two qualification events and one discretionary selection, they would have been awarded based on placing at the ITU World Triathlon San Diego.

## Qualifying Event No. 1 London, Aug. 6-7, 2011

### Jorgensen, Groff Claim Spots on 2012 U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team

American duo posts top-seven finishes on Olympic Games course

**LONDON (Aug. 6, 2011)** — Less than two years after completing her first-ever competitive triathlon, Gwen Jorgensen placed second to post the best finish by an American woman in the history of the International Triathlon Union World Championship Series and claim a spot on the 2012 United States Olympic Triathlon Team at Hyde Park. Sarah Groff also earned an Olympic berth with a seventh-place finish.

In just her third career WCS start, Jorgensen (Milwaukee, Wis.) continued her meteoric rise in triathlon by posting the day's fastest run split en route to a time of 2 hours, 41 seconds on the Olympic-distance course. She was just seven seconds off the pace of winner Helen Jenkins of Great Britain. Groff (Hanover, N.H.) locked up her first Games appearance in 2:00:58.

According to USA Triathlon's 2012 Olympic qualification criteria, the two highest-placing eligible American athletes could automatically qualify for the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team by placing among the top nine finishers today in London.

The race was held on the same course proposed for use at the 2012 Olympic Games.

After Groff, Laura Bennett (Boulder, Colo.) and Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.) led the race throughout much of the swim, things played out perfectly for Jorgensen. She spent the majority of the bike in a chase pack that steadily chipped away at a more than one-minute advantage held by a lead group of 34 women that included Groff, Bennett and Haskins.

After whittling the lead down to just 25 seconds after six laps of the bike, the chase pack merged with the leaders on the seventh and final lap to send nearly 60 athletes into T2 together. Jorgensen exited transition in the back third of that group, but moved her way up to sixth place midway through the run. Jorgensen and Groff were running third and fourth, respectively, with 2.5k to go, and Jorgensen surged to grab second with a 33:43 closing 10k run. Groff crossed



**Gwen Jorgensen placed second to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games.**

the line in seventh 17 seconds later join Jorgensen on the U.S. roster for 2012.

Bennett and Haskins, both Beijing Olympians, finished 24th and 34th, respectively.

Jorgensen, a former standout runner and swimmer at the University of Wisconsin, is a second-year triathlete who earned her elite license in her first-ever triathlon in March 2010. She displayed her potential at the sport's highest level at the July 2011 WCS stop in Hamburg where she clocked the day's fifth-fastest run split but had to settle for a 27th-place finish.



PAUL PHILLIPS/COMPETTIVE IMAGE

The women's bike pack rides through London's Hyde Park.

"You just go out there every day and you learn from each race," said Jorgensen, who was introduced to the sport by 2004 U.S. Olympian Barb Lindquist, who heads USA Triathlon's Collegiate Recruitment Program. "The USA athletes and coaches have been helping me and teaching me the ropes. I'm just taking what I learn."

After dealing with injury for much of last season, Groff continued a breakthrough season Saturday with a third top-seven finish on the 2011 WCS circuit.

"I wasn't ready to go (to the Olympics) in 2008, I don't think, but I was definitely ready this time around," Groff said. "The past three years have been really tough, lots of ups and downs, so it's been a long

road, and I'm really, really pleased to be there."

In addition to earning an individual berth to the Games, Jorgensen also locked up a country slot for the U.S. thanks to her top-three finish in London.

"I think the USA has an awesome qualification process," said Jorgensen. "Sarah Groff and I can now spend the next year training, planning and getting it right so we can peak at the Olympics."

In the Aug. 7, 2011, men's race Manuel Huerta battled through rainy conditions to lead the United States' contingent with a 25th-place finish at the ITU World Championship Series event at Hyde Park.

Huerta (Miami, Fla.) logged a time of 1:52:30 on the proposed 2012 Olympic Course. Matt Chrabot (Colorado Springs, Colo.) was 42nd in 1:53:20.

Jarrod Shoemaker (Maynard, Mass.) was forced to abandon the race following a bike crash on the fifth of seven bike laps. Hunter Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.) withdrew on the run due to a stomach illness.

Two men's spots on the 2012 U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team could have been claimed with top-nine finishes by the Americans in London.

### **London Dextro Energy Triathlon ITU World Championship Series – Aug. 6, 2011 (1,500m swim, 40k bike, 10k run)**

#### **Women's Top-10 Finishers**

1. Helen Jenkins (GBR), 2:00:34
- 2. Gwen Jorgensen (Milwaukee, Wis.), 2:00:41**
3. Anja Dittmer (GER), 2:00:49
4. Emma Jackson (AUS), 2:00:51
5. Emma Snowsill (AUS), 2:00:52
6. Andrea Hewitt (NZL), 2:00:54
- 7. Sarah Groff (Hanover, N.H.), 2:00:58**
8. Nicola Spirig (SUI), 2:01:04
9. Ashleigh Gentle (AUS), 2:01:07
10. Emmie Charayron (FRA), 2:01:10

## Qualifying Event No. 2 San Diego, May 11-12, 2012

### Laura Bennett Races to Olympic Berth at ITU World Triathlon San Diego

Boulder, Colo., standout places third to earn second straight Games appearance



**Laura Bennett was third in San Diego to qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games.**

PAUL PHILLIPS/COMPETITIVE IMAGE

**SAN DIEGO, Calif. (May 11, 2012)** — Laura Bennett claimed the third and final spot on the 2012 U.S. Olympic Women's Triathlon Team with a third-place finish at the inaugural ITU World Triathlon San Diego.

Bennett (Boulder, Colo.) will head to her second straight Olympic Games in August thanks to a time of 2 hours, 11 seconds on the 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike, 10-kilometer run course throughout Mission Beach. She was fourth in Beijing in 2008.

Great Britain's Helen Jenkins, the ITU World Triathlon Series leader, lifted the tape in 1:58:20, with Australia's Erin Densham taking second in 1:59:25. Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.) placed eighth in 2:00:56 for her first top-10 WTS finish since 2010.

Bennett was among the first women out of the water and rode with a pack of eight leaders throughout the

40k bike. After helping build a 2:30 advantage on the chase pack heading into T2, Bennett and Haskins pushed the pace on the second half of the bike, quickly established themselves in the top four on the run. Toward the end of the first of three laps of the 10k, Jenkins and Densham pulled away from the field to leave the final podium spot up for grabs.

Bennett and Haskins were within a few yards of each other for much of the run before Bennett opened up a 13-second advantage heading onto the bell lap. By extending that lead to lock up third, Bennett claimed her first career World Triathlon Series podium finish and the third all-time by American woman — all coming over a stretch of eight WTS events.

"It's tough when you have to go up against a good friend," Bennett said on her duel with Haskins, a fellow Beijing Olympian. "I put a lot of pressure on this day. Last year in London I just had a terrible day for some reason; I'm still just not quite sure what happened. You know,

in the end I think it was a blessing in disguise because there was things that I changed in my training that I wouldn't have changed if I had made the team and I think it has made me a better athlete. It's hard to have the courage to change things when things are going well. So, I'm really happy."

With Gwen Jorgensen (Milwaukee, Wis.), and Sarah Groff (Hanover, N.H.) qualifying for Team USA with top-nine finishes in London a year ago, just one remaining spot was up for grabs in San Diego. According to USA Triathlon's 2012 Olympic qualification criteria, the final spot could be claimed today with a top-nine finish. With two athletes finishing in the top nine, the final Olympic berth went to Bennett, whose third-place effort bested Haskins' eighth-place showing.

"Even if I took (my legs) out of the race for the run we both worked really hard on the bike," Haskins said. "We didn't want to leave it down to us both coming into (the run) with a big group. Working hard on the bike allowed Laura to get on the podium. The goal was, essentially, to get an American on the podium."

### ITU World Triathlon San Diego – May 11, 2012 (1,500m swim, 40k bike, 10k run)

#### Women's Top-10 Finishers

1. Helen Jenkins (GBR), 1:58:21
2. Erin Densham (AUS), 1:59:26
- 3. Laura Bennett (Boulder, Colo.), 2:00:11**
4. Jessica Harrison (FRA), 2:00:14
5. Vicky Holland (GBR), 2:00:28
6. Flora Duffy (BER), 2:00:46
7. Anne Haug (GER), 2:00:50
- 8. Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 2:00:56**
9. Emma Moffatt (AUS), 2:01:18
10. Ashleigh Gentle (AUS), 2:01:33

### Kemper, Huerta Shine in San Diego to Earn U.S. Olympic Triathlon Spots

Kemper headed to fourth Olympics; Huerta to make first Games appearance

**SAN DIEGO, Calif. (May 12, 2012)** — In an emotional and dramatic finish, Hunter Kemper and Manuel Huerta ran to spots on the 2012 U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team with fifth- and ninth-place finishes, respectively, at the ITU World Triathlon San Diego.

Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.) earned his fourth consecutive Olympic berth with a time of 1 hour, 49 minutes, 17 seconds on the 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike and 10-kilometer run course. The Cuban-born Huerta (Miami, Fla.) crossed the line ninth in 1:49:31 to lock up his first Olympic Games appearance.

Great Britain's Jonathan Brownlee claimed the win in 1:48:46, with Sven Riederer of Switzerland (1:48:52) and South Africa's Richard Murray (1:49:02) rounding out the podium.

According to USA Triathlon's 2012 Olympic qualification criteria, two men could qualify for the U.S. Olympic roster in San Diego, provided they both placed in the top nine. Kemper and Huerta did just that thanks to a pair of sub 31-minute 10k performances after 56 men — including all seven Americans — took to the run within 25 seconds of one another. Huerta was nine seconds in front of the 10th-place finisher, New Zealand's Kris Gemmell, to secure his spot in London.



PAUL PHILLIPS/COMPETITIVE IMAGE

**Manuel Huerta realizes he is Olympic bound as he races toward the finish line in San Diego.**

Matt Chrobot (Colorado Springs, Colo.) led the U.S. men out of the water in seventh, with Kemper and Jarrod Shoemaker (Clermont, Fla.) also among the top 20. Chrobot was among eight leaders to push the bike early, but by the third of eight laps the majority of the field had come together, leaving the race to be decided on the run.

"I knew that it would come down to the run," Huerta said. "The past couple weeks I've been focusing on my run, especially my running off the bike. I did very hard bikes and then I'd come down and do runs. I was pretty much on the last pack on the swim, but I stayed positive; I stayed calm. We caught up and then I set myself in very good position on the bike on the last couple laps, and then I went out with my heart and then gave everything I had."

The 36-year-old Kemper joins Canada's Simon Whitfield and Germany's Anja Dittmer as the only three athletes to qualify for all four Olympic triathlons — Sydney, Athens, Beijing and, now, London. The ITU World Triathlon San Diego marked Kemper's first race since suffering a broken elbow at the Myrtle Beach ITU Pan American Cup in October 2011.

"It's a tremendous day for me; I didn't know if I would actually be

back here. I went through so much ... It's been a struggle," said Kemper, who has been the top U.S. male finisher in all three Olympic triathlons with a top finish of seventh in Beijing.

"Ultimately, you always want to settle it on a race course. You don't want a selection committee to decide who's going to go to the Olympic Games," said Kemper, regarding the fact that a discretionary selection would have been named to the Olympic Team if two Americans did not place in the top nine in San Diego. "I did that today, and so did Manny, and that means a lot. I'm just happy to go back and represent my country. There's no better feeling than representing the USA."

For Huerta, who moved to the U.S. from his native Cuba at age 13, qualifying for the London Games was especially emotional and represented a way to honor his mother, who sacrificed much to help make a better life for her family in Miami.

"Today is Mother's Day weekend so this is the best gift I can give her — that I didn't give up on my fight, on my dream. [so she doesn't give up] on her fight with cancer," Huerta said. "All those things have been on my mind, affecting me a little bit. Hopefully she'll be in London as well watching me from the stands."

## **ITU World Triathlon San Diego – May 12, 2012 (1,500m swim, 40k bike, 10k run)**

### **Men's Top-10 Finishers**

1. Jonathan Brownlee (GBR), 1:48:46
2. Sven Riederer (SUI), 1:48:52
3. Richard Murray (RSA), 1:49:02
4. Mario Mola (ESP), 1:49:08

### **5. Hunter Kemper (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 1:49:17**

6. Ryan Sissons (NZL), 1:49:22
7. Tim Don (GBR), 1:49:25
8. Bevan Docherty (NZL), 1:49:29

### **9. Manuel Huerta (Miami, Fla.), 1:49:31**

10. Kris Gemmell (NZL), 1:49:40

# 2011 Pan American Games

**Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Oct. 23, 2011**

## **Gold for Haskins, Silver for Huerta at Pan American Games**

Teamwork delivers podium finishes for the U.S.

**PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (Oct. 23, 2011)** — USA Triathlon National Team member Sarah Haskins struck gold in convincing fashion, while Manuel Huerta raced his way to silver in the Pan American Games triathlon at the Puerto Vallarta Maritime Terminal.

Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.) earned the fifth all-time Pan Am Games triathlon gold medal for the U.S. in 1 hour, 57 minutes, 37 seconds on the 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bike, 10-kilometer run course. Silver went to Barbara Riveros Diaz of Chile, while Brazil's Pamela Nascimento Oliveira earned bronze.

On the men's side, Huerta (Miami, Fla.), who finished in 1:48:09, was edged by seven seconds in the final 200 meters of the run by gold medalist Reinaldo Colucci of Brazil. Canada's Brent McMahon was third.

With her victory, Haskins clinched the second country spot for the U.S. women for the 2012 London Olympic Games. Gwen Jorgensen (Milwaukee, Wis.), who was fourth, locked up the first Olympic spot for the Americans with a second-place finish at the London ITU World Championship Series event in August.

"This was my last race of the season, so it's awesome just to end on a high note. I felt good on the run ..." Haskins said. "Our goal was to really work together as a team, and we had many different scenarios on how to pull it together and I'm just so happy that it worked, most especially for Team USA over my individual goals."

From the start of the swim, Haskins and Sara McLarty (Clermont, Fla.) — along with Oliveira — set the pace. The trio carried a 40-second lead onto the bike and they continued to expand the advantage throughout the six-lap, 40k ride. After opening a lead of 1:45 after just one lap of the bike, the leaders pushed the gap from just over three minutes at the midway point of the bike to nearly four minutes in T2.

"You never know how you're going to feel on the run," Haskins said. "And if I was not feeling so hot on the run I had a feeling I could need almost a three-minute lead."

But once on the run, Haskins was never threatened. The 2007 Pan Am Games silver medalist opened a 55-second lead on Oliveira after one lap of the 10k run and continued to push the pace, crossing the line nearly three minutes ahead of a hard-charging Riveros Diaz.

Jorgensen closed strong with the day's second-fastest run split (36:16) to finish fourth. After working to hard to build a sizeable lead on the swim and bike with Haskins, McLarty finished 13th.



RICHARD LAM/ITU

**Manuel Huerta (left) earned silver at the 2011 Pan American Games.**

Following the women's race, the men took to the course under hot, humid conditions. All three U.S. men — Huerta, Matt Chrabot (Colorado Springs, Colo.) and Mark Fretta (Colorado Springs, Colo.) — were just off the pace of the leaders into T1, and they quickly joined the lead pack on the first lap of the bike.

With Chrabot and Fretta working hard on the bike to drive the pace and protect Huerta, a lead pack of 17 cyclists stuck together for most of the 40k ride.

"I was covering all the attacks, while at the same time trying to keep the pace a little high to try to shake some of the guys off the back ... We knew the Brazilians were going to be up there; the Canadians we couldn't do anything about on the bike," Chrabot said. "The idea was to have the least amount of guys up there that we could."



RICH CRUSE/ITU

**Sarah Haskins won 2011 Pan American Games gold in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.**

The three eventual podium finishers — Colucci, Huerta and McMahon — pulled away on the first lap of the run. On lap two, it was down to Colucci and Huerta, and the two ran side by side before Colucci managed to pull away with 200 meters to go.

“I was able to keep that U.S. streak of winning medals at the Pan Am Games. We came here to win, but today (Colucci) was stronger than me. I gave everything I had so when I go to sleep tonight I know that it was 110 percent,” Huerta said. “My teammates did 200 percent, and I think they even sacrificed their races to get me that podium spot.”

Chrabot finished 10th in 1:50:58, and Fretta took 23rd in 1:56:08.

With two medals earned in Puerto Vallarta, the U.S. is now tied for the top spot with Canada with 10 all-time Pan American Games medals, including five gold, since triathlon made its de-

but in 1995.

### **2011 Pan American Games Triathlon, Oct. 23, 2011 (1,500m swim, 40k bike, 10k run)**

#### **Women**

- 1. Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 1:57:37**
2. Barbara Riveros Diaz (CHI), 2:00:23
3. Pamela Nascimento Oliveira (BRA), 2:00:32
- 4. Gwen Jorgensen (Milwaukee, Wis.), 2:00:54**
- 13. Sara McLarty (Clermont, Fla.), 2:05:49**

#### **Men**

1. Reinaldo Colucci (BRA), 1:48:02
- 2. Manuel Huerta (Miami, Fla.), 1:48:09**
3. Brent McMahon (CAN), 1:48:23
- 10. Matt Chrabot (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 1:50:58**
- 23. Mark Fretta (Colorado Springs, Colo.), 1:56:08**

## **2012 Olympic Games Triathlon Schedule & Course Description**



### **2012 Olympic Games Triathlon Schedule**

#### **Monday, July 16 onwards, Training Venues**

9 a.m. Training Venues at Eton Manor, Redbridge and Newham Open for Athletes

#### **Friday, July 27, Olympic Stadium**

9 p.m. Opening Ceremony

#### **Wednesday, Aug. 1, Hyde Park**

9:30-10:30 a.m. Swim Familiarization

10:45-11:45 a.m. Coaches' Briefing

#### **Thursday, Aug. 2, Hyde Park**

6:30-7:15 a.m. Bike Familiarization (Full Course)

7:30-8:30 a.m. Swim Familiarization

9-10 a.m. Women's Race Briefing and Pontoon Draw

#### **Saturday, Aug. 4, Hyde Park**

9-11:40 a.m. Women's Competition and Victory Ceremony

1-2 p.m. Bike Familiarization (up to the top of Constitution Hill)

2-3 p.m. Swim Familiarization

#### **Sunday, Aug. 5, Hyde Park**

9:30-10:30 a.m. Swim Familiarization

11 a.m.-Noon Men's Race Briefing and Pontoon Draw

#### **Tuesday, Aug. 7, Hyde Park**

9-9:45 a.m. Bike Familiarization (full course)

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Men's Competition and Victory Ceremony

#### **Sunday, Aug. 12, Olympic Stadium**

TBD (Evening) Closing Ceremony

### **2012 Olympic Games Triathlon Course Description**

The 2012 Olympic Games triathlon takes place in London's most famous park and one of the most beautiful places you can find in Central London: Hyde Park. Competitors had the opportunity to try out the proposed 2012 Olympic course during the 2011 ITU World Championship Series last August. The course and venue are as compact as possible, giving spectators the possibility to catch all the action. Competitors will pass through the stadium-like finish arena 12 times, bringing the drama and energy of the race up close to the fans.