USA Triathlon National Team Program

The USA Triathlon National Team Program identifies and supports talented athletes at all stages of their development. Athletes who have proven potential to compete begin development as juniors (ages 16-19) and can move up through the athlete development pipeline with a stream of continual support and education from USA Triathlon.

Funded Teams

National Team

The primary objective of USA Triathlon's National Team Program is to provide an administrative, performance and financial support structure to assist athletes in achieving optimal results for themselves and Team USA at the Summer Olympic Games, Pan American Games and ITU World Triathlon Series. In order for athletes to excel at these major events, it is essential that they have extensive international competitive experience and exposure to top-level ITU World Cup racing with medal winning results. The USA Triathlon National Team is comprised of those athletes with proven performance capability at World Cups, World Triathlon Series events and the Summer Olympic Games.

Project 2012

The primary objective of USA Triathlon's Project 2012 Development Program is to provide an administrative, performance and financial support structure to assist athletes in their development toward podium performances on the international stage, qualification for the Elite National Team, and ultimately the 2012 Olympic Team. The main focus of the Project 2012 Development Program during the 2012 Olympic Quadrennial (2009-2012) is achieving international success in events such as ITU World Cups, ITU World Triathlon Series, the Pan American Games and the Olympic Games.

Project 2016

The primary objective of USA Triathlon's Project 2016 Development Program is to provide an administrative, performance and financial support structure to assist athletes toward achieving world-class performance levels at international events with the realistic goal of representing the U.S. at the 2016 Olympic Games. The main focus of the Project 2016 Development Program during the 2012 Olympic Quadrennial (2009-2012) is on achieving national and international success in events such as ITU World Cups, ITU Under-23 World Championships, FISU World University Championships and PATCO Championships.

2012 USA Triathlon National Team Roster

Name	Current nesidence	Hometown
Laura Bennett	Boulder, Colo.	North Palm Beach, Fla.
Matt Chrabot	Aptos, Calif.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Sarah Groff	Hanover, N.H.	Cooperstown, N.Y.
Sarah Haskins	Colorado Springs, Colo.	St. Louis, Mo.
Manuel Huerta	Miami, Fla.	Miami, Fla.
Gwen Jorgensen	Milwaukee, Wis.	Milwaukee, Wis.
Hunter Kemper	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Longwood, Fla.
Jarrod Shoemaker	Clermont, Fla.	Sudbury, Mass.
Rold denotes 2012 U.S.	Olympic Team member	<u> </u>

2012 USA Triathlon Project 2016 Roster

	Carrent riesidence	Hometown	
Greg Billington	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Spokane, Wash.	
Lindsey Jerdonek	Sagamore Hills, Ohio	Brecksville, Ohio	
Joe Maloy	Wildwood Crest, N.J.	Wildwood Crest, N.J.	
Kaitlin Shiver	Gainesville, Fla.	Melbourne, Fla.	
Kaleb VanOrt	Mishawaka, Ind.	Waterloo, Ind.	
Lukas Verzbicas	Colorado Springs, Colo.	Orland Hills, III.	
Tommy Zaferes	Santa Cruz, Calif.	Santa Cruz, Calif.	

Hometown

Note: there are currently no members of the USA Triathlon Project 2012 program.

Pronunciation Guide

Chrabot – SHAR-bot Groff – Groff, not Gruff Huerta – WHERE-ta Jerdonek – jur-DAH-nick Jorgensen – JOR-ginn-sin, not YOUR-ginn-sin Shiver – SHY-ver Verzbicas – vurz-BEAK-us Zaferes – zuh-FEAR-es

Resident Program

The Resident Program provides opportunities for eligible elite athletes who are focused on Olympic-distance, draft-legal racing to live and train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. The goal of the program is to provide access to the best facilities and scientific training techniques as well as to enable elites to train together in order to achieve the best possible results in International Triathlon Union (ITU) races. Resident Program opportunities include long-term stays that range from six months to a year (with the possibility of renewal) and short-term stays that last less than six months.

TRIATHLON

Additional USA Triathlon National Team Athletes



Matt Chrabot (Aptos, Calif.) • 2012 Olympic Alternate

A former collegiate swimmer at George Mason, Matt Chrabot was the highest-ranked U.S. male in the 2010 and 2011 ITU World Championship Series rankings. He owns a trio of ITU World Triathlon Series top-10 finishes in his career and added three ITU World Cup podium showings over the 2010-11 seasons.



Sarah Haskins (Colorado Springs, Colo.) • 2012 Olympic Alternate

A member of Team USA for the Beijing Games, Sarah Haskins is coming off a 2011 season which saw her win a career-best seven races, including the Pan American Games and the Monterrey ITU World Cup. Haskins finished sixth in the 2009 ITU World Triathlon Series rankings and was 14th in 2010.



Jarrod Shoemaker (Clermont, Fla.)

After battling a concussion and neck injury during the 2011 campaign, Jarrod Shoemaker returned to form early in 2012 with a win at the Clermont (Fla.) ITU Pan American Cup and a 10th-place finish at the ITU World Triathlon Sydney. The only American to win an ITU World Triathlon Series event (Hamburg, 2009), Shoemaker placed 18th at the Beijing Olympic Games and owns nine career ITU WTS top-10 finishes.



Greg Billington (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

A resident athlete at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Greg Billington recorded three top-eight ITU Pan American Cup finishes early in 2012 and was 15th at the ITU World Triathlon San Diego. He was the 2011 USA Triathlon Under-23 national champion and placed fourth at U23 Worlds in 2011.



Lindsey Jerdonek (Sagamore Hills, Ohio)

Lindsey Jerdonek placed 13th at the 2012 PATCO Pan American Championships and owns three career ITU Pan American Cup podium finishes - Myrtle Beach and Kelowna in 2011 and San Francisco in 2009.



USA Triathlon Project 2016 Athletes (Continued)

Joe Maloy (Wildwood Crest, N.J.)

A former swimmer at Boston College, Joe Maloy has recorded three ITU Pan American Cup podium finishes in 2011-12. He was third at the 2012 ITU Dallas Pan American Cup.



Kaitlin Shiver (Gainesville, Fla.)

Kaitlin Shiver earned the 2011 USA Triathlon Under-23 National Championship title and the 2011 USA Triathlon Collegiate National Championship crown. Additionally, Shiver was fourth at the ITU Under-23 World Championships in 2011.



Kaleb VanOrt (Mishawaka, Ind.)

A former standout runner at Notre Dame. Kaleb VanOrt earned



runner-up finishes at the 2011 USA Triathlon Elite National Championship and 2011 USA Triathlon Elite Sprint National Championship. He also placed third in the five-race 2011 USA Triathlon Elite Race Series.



Lukas Verzbicas (Colorado Springs, Colo.)

One of the most decorated high school runners in U.S. history, Lukas Verzbicas capped a memorable 2011 season by winning the ITU Junior World Championships title in Beijing. As an elite in 2012, he won his first ITU Pan American Cup race in Dallas and his ITU World Cup debut in Banyoles, Spain. He is the youngest U.S. athlete to win an ITU World Cup event.



Tommy Zaferes (Santa Cruz, Calif.)

A 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials qualifier as a swimmer, Tommy Zaferes made his elite debut in 2010 and has posted three top-five ITU Continental Cup finishes in his career - Myrtle Beach in 2011 and Clermont and Cremona in 2012.



Finding Future Olympians

USA Triathlon Collegiate Recruitment Program

To increase the depth and quality of potential U.S. Olympic triathletes, USA Triathlon turned its attention to the collegiate ranks with the launch of the Collegiate Recruitment Program in 2009. Every member of the U.S. Olympic Triathlon Team — with one exception — since 2000 has come from a collegiate swimming or running background. Until this program was started, all of those Olympians found the sport of triathlon. No one was actively recruiting, encouraging or mentoring them to make the post-graduate transition to triathlon.

The program's goal is to expose collegiate swimmers and runners, who have both a background in the other sport and are finished with their eligibility, to the possibility of making a career out of triathlon. Through mentoring them on the steps and skills needed to becoming an elite triathlete, the program aims to identify talent from the NCAA ranks and fast track their growth in triathlon.

Led by Stanford swimmer turned Olympic triathlete, Barb Lindquist, the Collegiate Recruitment Program works by creating relationships with collegiate coaches who refer their athletes, assessing triathlon potential of these referrals and developing that talent through mentorship and elite triathlon coaching relationships.



Elite Triathlon Academy

The Elite Triathlon Academy, a landmark program that provides the United States' top up-and-coming triathletes the opportunity to receive a top-notch college education while benefitting from a full-time coach and the nation's best training resources, debuted in 2011 at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs with national-level support from USA Triathlon and the United States Olympic Committee.

The ultimate goal of the program is to develop potential Olympic triathletes into medal contenders on the sport's biggest stage. Four of the nation's best emerging multisport athletes, including 2010 Youth Olympic Games medalists Kevin McDowell and Kelly Whitley, comprised the first class of the Elite Triathlon Academy, which enrolled at UCCS in August 2011. Since then, rising star Lukas Verzbicas has joined the ETA roster.

Prior to the formation of this program, the top junior triathletes in the U.S. often chose to pursue running and swimming at the collegiate level due to the availability of scholarships. The Elite Triathlon Academy identifies potential Olympians and allows them to continue their multisport development throughout their college years with the potential to earn a collegiate scholarship.

Academy student-athletes attend UCCS, one of the fastest-growing universities in Colorado and the nation, and have full access to the resources of the U.S. Olympic Training Center, a full-time coach and the UCCS athletic facilities.

Paratriathlon in the 2016 Paralympics

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) announced Dec. 11, 2010, that the sport of paratriathlon will officially make its debut at the Paralympic Summer Games in 2016 in Rio De Janeiro. The announcement came following a vote by the IPC Governing Board in Guangzhou, China, prior to the Opening Ceremony of the 2010 Asian Para Games. Paratriathlon was one of two sports selected from a group of seven nominated sports. The 2016 Paralympic Games will take place Sept. 7-18, 2016.



Triathlon has always been a very inclusive sport and is unique in that physically challenged athletes often compete side-by-side with able-bodied athletes. The sport of paratriathlon offers a unique and inclusive global opportunity for athletes of all disabilities to perform at elite levels in a modern, exciting and dynamic sport.

Paratriathletes compete in six categories in a sprint-distance event (750m swim, 20k bike, 5k run) at the national and world championship level.

The USA Paratriathlon National Championship has enjoyed its three largest fields on record in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The sport also has blossomed on the global level, with participation at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships growing 529 percent from 2001 to 2010.

The United States has long been a leader in the sport of paratriathlon on the world stage. Since 2008, the U.S. has earned more than one-fourth of all possible podium finishes at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships. With inclusion in the Paralympic Games, the sport of paratriathlon will only become more and more competitive in the U.S. and abroad.

USA Triathlon is in the process of developing its Paratriathlon High Performance Plan and held the first-ever Paratriathlon High Performance Camp in June 2012 at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

USA TRIATHLON



About ITU

The International Triathlon Union is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the world governing body for the Olympic sport of triathlon. ITU is the most influential organization in the sport and the organizer of the world's premier triathlon events, including the ITU World Triathlon Series and ITU Triathlon World Cup Series. ITU represents National Federations in over 140 countries and its sport development initiatives are fueling triathlon's extraordinary growth from a grassroots to high performance level.

ITU World Triathlon Series

The ITU World Triathlon Series was introduced in 2009, creating a series of world championship races rather than a single-day world championship. From 2009 until 2011, it was called the Dextro Energy Triathlon ITU World Championship Series, but was re-branded in 2012 as the ITU World Triathlon Series. There will be eight rounds in the 2012 season, culminating with the Grand Final in Auckland, New Zealand, in October. The world's top triathletes will compete head-to-head for rankings points that determine the overall ITU World Champion, with media and fans able to watch from everywhere with a live international broadcast feed available from every event. A total of \$2.06 million will be available for elite athletes racing in the 2012 ITU World Triathlon Series, the first time since the series started that the prize pool has topped \$2 million.

While the ITU World Triathlon Series represents the pinnacle of draftlegal Olympic-distance racing, ITU has organized the ITU World Cup series since 1991 and also sanctions ITU Continental Cup events around the globe.

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Sarah Groff (right) celebrates her first career ITU World Championship Series podium finish in Kitzbühel, Austria, in 2011.

