Updated 2/20/2012

2012 Youth Elite and Junior Elite National Championship Qualification

This protocol establishes the method by which athletes qualify to compete in the USAT Youth Elite and Junior Elite National Championship (draft-legal). The field size for each individual race is capped at 75 athletes.

1. Direct Qualification

1.1 Athletes earn direct qualification to compete at the National Championship by meeting one (1) of the following criteria:

a) Finish in the **Top 30** at the 2011 USAT Junior Elite National Championship, **Top 20** at the 2011 Youth Elite National Championship for athletes 16 as of 12/31/2012, and **Top 50** at the 2011 USAT Youth Elite National Championship for athletes between 13 and 15 as of 12/31/2012;
b) Be among the **Top 10** ranked athletes in the 2011 Junior Elite National Rankings for athletes racing in the 2012 Junior Elite National Championships who did not meet Criteria 1.1 (a);
c) Be among the **Top 35** ranked athletes in the 2011 Youth Elite National Rankings for athletes racing in the 2012 Youth Elite National Championships who did not meet Criteria 1.1 (a);
d) Finish in the Top 10* at the 2012 Clermont Youth F1 or Elite Development Race** (1st Qualifier);
e) Finish in the Top 10* at the 2012 PlayTri Youth F1 or Elite Development Race** (2nd Qualifier);
f) Finish in the Top 15* at 2012 Monroe Youth Elite or Junior Elite Cup (3rd Qualifier); or,
g) Finish in the Top 8* at 2012 Des Moines Youth Elite or Junior Elite Cup (4th Qualifier).

*Excluding athletes already qualified under 1.1(a) and (b) and/or athletes representing other National Federations.
**Among 16 to 19 year old finishers in the Elite Development Race or among 13 to 15 year old finishers in the Youth F1 race.

1.2 The results of a Qualifier will count even if the swim is cancelled. In the event a Qualifier is cancelled and is not rescheduled to take place at least 30 days (or four weekends) prior to the National Championships, then the spots will be added to the final Qualifier or to General Qualification pool described below if the cancelled event is the final Qualifier.

2. Solidarity/Wild Card Invitation

2.1 USAT will reserve up to five (5) spots for Wild Card / International Solidarity invitations.

2.2 To receive a Wild Card invitation, the athlete must receive a written nomination from a USAT Certified Youth/Junior Coach, High Performance Team Director, Regional Athlete Development Coordinator, or member of USAT's High Performance coaching staff. Wild Card requests will be reviewed no earlier than 60 days prior to the National Championships, with athletes ranked according to USAT's junior benchmark testing protocol and draft-legal competencies. Invitations will be made no later than 30 days prior to the event. USAT reserves the right to consider Wild Card invitations on a rolling basis or at intervals of its choosing.

2.3 Requests for Solidarity spots will be reviewed for (a) support from the athlete's National Federation, (b) prior relevant draft-legal racing experience (e.g. PATCO or Sub-Regional Championships), and (c) evidence of the athlete's ability to enhance the quality of field at the U.S. National Championship. Solidarity requests will be considered no earlier than 45 days prior to the National Championships and invitations will be made no later than 30 days prior to the event. Solidarity athletes are not eligible for awards at U.S. National Championships, nor will their results be considered in the Youth Elite or Junior Elite National Rankings or Junior Elite Series Championship. If the division for which a Solidarity spot is requested is full prior to the review period, no Solidarity spots will be made available in that division.

3. General Qualification

USAT reserves the right to open the National Championship to general registration four (4) days after the final Qualifier, and after all standing requests for Wild Card or Solidarity invitations have been reviewed, whichever comes last, to fill any open spots on a first-come, first-served basis, provided the athlete meets one of the following criteria:

a) The athlete attended (is attending) a USAT Junior Select Camp in 2011 (endorsed by director);
b) The athlete finished a Qualifier, but failed to earn a spot; or
c) The athlete is a member of a USAT High Performance Team (endorsed by team director).

Upon meeting one (1) of these criteria, the athlete will be registered on a first-come, first-served.

4. Timeliness and Wait Lists

4.1 Spots earned are not held indefinitely. Athletes meeting Direct Qualification Criteria (a) - (c) will have until February 15th to claim their spots and complete registration. Athletes meeting Direct Qualification Criteria (c) - (g) will have until 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Time) on the fourth (4th) day following the Qualifier at which they earned their spots to complete the registration process. Athletes receiving a Wild Card or Solidarity invitation will have 72 hours to complete the registration process from the time of notification (email date stamp).

4.2 In the event all 75 spots in a race division are filled, USAT will maintain a Wait List. An athlete may add his/her name to the Wait List by emailing steve.kelley@usatriathlon.org. Wait listed athletes will be ranked in the following order:

1. Athletes having met Direct Qualification Criteria (a) – (c)
2. Athletes having met Direct Qualification Criteria (d) – (g)
3. Athletes having met General Qualification Criteria (a) – (c)
4. Wild Card Invitations extended after the division reached capacity
5. Solidarity Invitations extended after the division reached capacity

Athletes meeting Criteria 1 – 5 will be added to the Wait List in the order received (email date stamp).

5. Withdrawal from Competition

An athlete who intends to withdraw from the National Championship must promptly notify USA Triathlon National Events so that slot may be extended to wait listed athletes. No refunds or deferrals are allowed.

6. Modification of Criteria

USAT reserves the right to modify these criteria in the event a Qualifier is added, cancelled or postponed, in which case notice will be published on the USAT website.

2012 Qualification Timeline Summary

Date	Category	Event	Spots	Claim By
January 12	Direct	Registration Opens	Up to 35	Feb 15
March 3	1st Qualifier	Clermont Youth F1 and Elite Development Race	10	March 7
June 2	2nd Qualifier	PlayTri Youth F1 and Elite Development Race	10	June 6
June 12	Wild Card	Wildcard Review and Notification	Up to 5	June 15
June 16	3rd Qualifier	Monroe Youth Elite / Junior Elite Cup	15	June 20
June 27	Solidarity	Solidarity Review and Notification	Up to 5	July 1
July 15	4th Qualifier	Des Moines Youth Elite / Junior Elite Cup	8	July 19
		Total Spots	75	