2013 USA Paratriathlon National Team Qualification Criteria

1. **Introduction**
   The primary objective of the USA Paratriathlon 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 Paralympic Games, the Parapan American Games, and ITU-sanctioned elite Paratriathlon competitions.

   The USA Triathlon National Team is composed of those athletes with proven performance capability at domestic and international triathlons.

2. **Paratriathlon Category Classification.** Each athlete applying for the 2013 USA Paratriathlon National Team must have already been officially classified or be able to be officially classified as outlined in USA Triathlon's Competitive Rules. USA Paratriathlon categories are 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 (if required by the ITU).

3. **Application Process**
   Athletes that meet the National Team eligibility criteria must request, complete, and submit a National Team application to the High Performance Department. These can be obtained and submitted to the Paratriathlon Program Manager Amanda.Duke@usatriathlon.org.

   The purpose of the application process is for eligible athletes to submit an annual training and competition plan that outlines specific goals and key competitions for the year ahead. The plan then serves as a tool for the High Performance Department to foster greater cooperation, communication, accountability, and financial support.

4. Team Size

The size of the 2013 USA Paratriathlon National Team will be limited to 20 athletes total in all gender/categories as outlined by USA Triathlon's Competitive Rules. There does not have to be representation from every gender and category if eligibility is not met.

5. Eligibility Criteria

All paratriathletes must be a current member in good standing of USA Triathlon (U.S. citizens or U.S. Nationals). Eligibility priority lies in the following order:

a) Gold medalists from the 2013 USA Paratriathlon National Championship
b) Gold medalists from a to be determined selection event that will be posted on the USA Paratriathlon web page as well as communicated via email when known

c) Discretionary invitation by the selection panel. These discretionary slots will be based on podium performance potential.

6. Discretionary Panel

The discretionary panel is made up of the USAT High Performance General Manager, the Paratriathlon Program Manager, the USA Paratriathlon Worlds Team Coach, and an athlete representative appointed by the AAC. . This group will meet via a conference call to discuss discretionary invitations.

7. National Team Benefits

The benefits of being on the 2013 USA Paratriathlon National Team is outlined as follows;

a) TYR Suit: All National Team athletes shall receive a complimentary ITU compliant TYR Competition suit.
b) TYR Team Apparel: All National Team athletes shall receive complimentary TYR team apparel.
c) Travel Stipend: All National Team athletes who qualify for the World Championship in London shall receive a minimum travel stipend of $500 plus the cost of lodging at the team hotel. . This stipend will be paid after the event in a reimbursement check from USAT.
d) Performance Bonus: All USA athletes, including the National Team, will have an opportunity to earn an additional travel stipend based off a podium performance at the 2013 ITU London Paratriathlon World Championships. Any USA athlete earning a gold medal shall receive an additional $1,500 to offset travel costs not already covered by USAT. Any USA athlete earning a silver medal shall receive an additional $1,000 to offset travel costs not already covered by USAT. Any USA athlete earning a bronze medal shall receive an additional $500 to offset travel costs not already covered by USAT.
e) Invitations to HP Camps: All National team athletes may be considered for High Performance Camps hosted by USA Triathlon throughout the 2013 season.

8. National Team Tenure

The National Team tenure will begin after the selection events in 5a-5c have occurred and will conclude on December 31, 2013.

9. National Team MOU

Each National team member will be required to read and sign a memorandum of understanding. This will include the code of conduct, team rules, and other various components of being on the USA Paratriathlon National Team.

10. International Disclaimer

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.