



Welcome to USA Triathlon's 2012 Elite Athlete election coverage.

Please use the following information to learn about the candidates nominated for the AAC and Athlete Director seats. In addition, the USOC AAC Representative position is also up for election.

We hope this will assist you with your voting decision.

Meet the candidates!

NAME OF CANDIDATE	NOMINATION
Barrett Brandon	BOD
Dave Kuendig	BOD
Victor Plata	BOD/USOC AAC
Sarah Reinertsen	AAC/USOC AAC
Travis Ricks	AAC
Jarrood Shoemaker	AAC
Jennifer Tetrick	AAC

Athlete Advisory Council

Candidates



Sarah Reinertsen
San Juan Capistrano, CA

For over 20 years I've been racing in elite sport. Pushing the limits on the track first as a US champion, world record holder and proud Paralympic athlete. I made the leap first from world-class marathons to triathlons 10 years ago because I had a dream to do an Ironman. I was the first woman on a prosthetic to do the Hawaii Ironman and I hoped to lead the charge for women with disabilities in a sport that has had a long history of welcoming Physically Challenged athletes to the starting line. Triathlon is a young sport that was born in the US, and has swept around the world and into the Olympics in 2000, and now, thanks to the work of many athlete advocates like myself triathlon will also be in the Paralympics. In 2016 Paratriathlon will make its debut in Rio.

As the AAC representative for USAT and the USOC – I want to be a leader and a voice for our elite US athletes both with and without physical disabilities. The US should be leaders in triathlon both on the Olympic and Paralympic stage and I want to help shape how our sport continues to grow on a national and international level. As a woman who has raced for 10 years as a Paratriathlete, I have a unique perspective and can represent the newest program in USAT. Now Paratriathlon is a funded part of the US Paralympic family and the USAT will be offering more resources to these athletes. The US team is a mosaic of many different athletes and I want to be sure that the needs of *all* triathletes be considered. As your athlete delegate I will do my best to help the USA triathlon program grow in a positive direction for our elite men, women, and Paratriathletes competing on the world stage.

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**Travis Ricks
San Diego, CA**

My name is Travis Ricks and I am a 32 year old Paratriathlete and sports enthusiast. I work for a non-profit and have a Bachelor's degree in Biology. Triathlon has held an ever growing importance in my life since I was first introduced to it in 2003. The year I first learned about triathlon was the year that I had my leg amputated from infections related to cancer I went through as a teen. At that point in my life I thought that real physical activity, let alone competitive sports, was something of the past. It was triathlon that changed everything for me. It was during this time that I started to dabble in triathlon and around 2008 I approached the sport with a more competitive attitude and spirit. The sport of triathlon has given me a chance to experience true competition again and because of this I have been able to compete as one of the top three paratriathletes in my division since 2010 and was just recently the National Champion in 2011. I have truly engulfed myself in triathlon, not only as an athlete, but as a representative of the sport through serving on the USAT Paratriathlon Committee and by being an advocate of the inclusion of Paratriathlon as a Paralympic sport in 2016.

I would like to be considered for nomination to the Athlete Advisory committee because I have a true passion in not only seeing the growth and success of USAT's newest sport, Paratriathlon, but also the growth of USA Triathlon as a whole. It is a fact that the numbers for USA podium finishers in international and Olympic competitions has been low and it would be my dream to see an increase in the numbers of USA Triathletes and Paratriathlete that reach the podium in international competitions such as the ITU World Championships and Olympic/Paralympic games. By joining the Athletes Advisory Committee I feel that I can help this happen through my knowledge of not only USA Triathlon, but especially that of Paratriathlon.

With my involvement on the Paratriathlon committee, my understanding of paratriathlon as a whole and my familiarity with the athletes involved, I can be a contributing factor to the committee and to USAT's decision making processes. I have extensive knowledge in the USA Triathlon and Paratriathlon rules and policies that will be valuable in helping with selection procedures for not only elite series races, but series rankings and National team selections, especially in the area of Paratriathlon. If I was to

join the committee I would bring with me the drive to possibly help see procedures drafted for Paratriathlon Elite Licensing criteria and the willingness to work with the High Performance Department on Paratriathlon team selection and funding. It is with this that I put my name in for your consideration to the Athletes Advisory Council for the position of USAT Athletic Director representative.

Respectfully,

Travis Ricks

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Jarrod Shoemaker
Clermont, FL

Competing as an elite for 8 years now I have seen the ups and downs of the sport. Triathlon is as much about being a profession as it is about moving the sport forward. Triathlon has been the fastest growing sport both at the amateur and professional level. USAT and its athletes are an important piece to help continue this growth.

USAT needs dedicated athletes that understand the sport and can work with a large group of elites to help solve problems. The AAC is a valuable tool to help the USAT Board of Directors and the High Performance Staff shape policy. It is important to have AAC members who can help advise these groups and who are in touch with the athlete members. I want to continue helping shape policy to help our elite athletes, draft legal and non-draft alike.



Jennifer Tetrick
Santa Monica, CA

Jennifer's primary athletic objective is to compete at the highest level in triathlon and represent herself, her sponsors and team with professionalism, integrity and sportsmanship. With a background as a collegiate runner and volleyball player, Jennifer is now an elite level triathlete, focusing on non-draft long course racing, particularly half ironman distance. After competing in her first triathlon in 2009, Jennifer has developed as an athlete and is increasingly engaged in the triathlon world.

In 2010, Jennifer won the Triathlon at Treasure Island as an amateur, and moved into professional field of racing. Career highlights thus far include 2nd place at Ironman 70.3 Florida 2012, 2nd at Ironman 70.3 Muskoka 2011, 3rd at Ironman 70.3 Pocono Mountains, in addition to being included on USA's team for ITU long course worlds.

Jennifer has participated at the elite level in cycling as well as triathlon and is an advocate for increasing opportunities in sport for people of all abilities and levels.

Jennifer has worked as a communications director for a Member of Congress and later as a communications lead supporting the Department of Energy's Solar Energy Program. Currently, when not training or racing, Jennifer consults for a renewable energy company based in Santa Monica, CA, and volunteers for an organization dedicated to helping athletes with intellectual disability reach the highest level in sport, including the Paralympics.

As a part of USAT's Athletes' Advisory Council, Jennifer hopes to share and represent the insight and perspective of her fellow athletes with USA Triathlon in a way that continues to improve on the overall experience and allow increased opportunities for excellence in the elite field of triathlon.

Board Of Directors

Candidates



Barrett Brandon
Fort Worth, TX

My name is Barrett Brandon and I would like to ask for your support and vote for the position of Athlete Director. Over the past 2 years, I have had the honor of serving as the Chair of the Athletes Advisory Council. I have been a professional triathlete for the last 7 years, and have been on the 2004 U/23 World Championship Team and the 2004, 2006, 2008 World University Games Triathlon Teams. In 2011, I was also part of the 5th place Team USA at the ITU Triathlon World Championship Mixed Relay event. I also have two degrees from the University of Nebraska: B.S. in Economics from the University of Nebraska and a M.B.A. with an Emphasis in Strategic Management.

In terms of my triathlon resume, I have participated in a wide range of distances (from sprint to 70.3) and raced in many countries. As a predominately ITU-focused professional, I have been able to travel and see many different sides of the sport, and how programs and athletes are successful outside the USA. I have raced extensively in Asia, lived and raced in France on the French Grand Prix circuit, and also participated in the British Triathlon Series. I love the sport of triathlon and have had some incredible opportunities that have given me unique perspective on the sport. I have a broad knowledge and interest in ALL distances of triathlon, and want to make the sport better for all elites, not just those in one genre of racing.

I believe that I can be a great ambassador for all elite athletes and effectively communicate your interests to the Board of Directors. There are many different ways that we can make our federation better, and my experiences and education make me an excellent candidate to do that. If

elected, I am excited by the idea of serving elite athletes, and making USAT a better federation in the process.

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Dave Kuendig
Lexington, KY

For the last four years, I have served as your Elite Representative on the USA Triathlon Board of Directors. During this time, USA Triathlon has increased its funding of elite athletes and has overseen the growth of series racing which has increased earning opportunities for the professional triathlete. This year, USA Triathlon brought both an Olympic Trial WCS Event and an ITU Cross World Championship to US Soil. We have accomplished a lot in the last few years, but I think we can accomplish much more if I am elected.

As we have seen recently, a careful review of rules for non-draft racing is overdue to ensure they guarantee fair competition and yet reflect common sense in order to avoid frivolous and arbitrary penalties and disqualifications. I will work to ensure our rulebook is modernized and reflects the unique characteristics of elite non-draft racing. I will work with USA Triathlon, the WTC, the ITU, and major race directors to collaborate on a universal rulebook. Drafting zones and wetsuits temperatures should be consistent from one race to another.

I will work to ensure ongoing support for ITU racing across all disciplines in the United States. I had the privilege to be a part of both the ITU World Series Event in San Diego and the ITU Cross World Championship in Alabama. The San Diego race was an amazing spectacle with the added drama of being an Olympic Qualifier. Cross Worlds was a more laid-back experience, but super competitive. I think all who raced there would like to bring that race back to the United States as soon as possible. I will work with my colleagues at USAT and with international counterparts to bring both World Triathlon Series and Cross racing back to the U.S.

I will support the Professional Triathlon Association PROTA to make sure it gets off the ground. I believe elites need an organization that they can rely on to provide support, information, and a voice when

individually they do not have one. I will also make sure USAT's Athlete Advisory Council is attentive to these issues and provides a powerful voice for elites within USAT.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to serving the elite triathlon community for the next two years.

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Victor Plata
Monterey, CA

As a member of the USAT Board of Directors and USOC AAC I have made fundamental and tangible improvements for athletes. I successfully led the fight against raising the elite license fee to **\$300** by writing the AAC Position Statement against the increase, and lobbying the Board proponent to rescind the resolution. You can read my statement here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/296348243712674/doc/362458330434998/>

I have been a leader in getting USAT to respect athletes and our sense of fundamental fairness. I have ensured the posting of qualification criteria at the *beginning* of the season, and eliminated the burden of arbitrarily changing criteria. When I started my tenure, USAT used to post selection criteria in December to *retroactively* select the National Team. USAT also *changed* the criteria for qualifying for World Cups in mid-season by adding mandatory time-trials.

In the process of working on behalf of athletes I've read every USAT governance document, reviewed and amended almost every athlete contract and qualification criteria, and begun drafting an orientation program so that others can learn from my years of experience. I have been recognized by my colleagues with appointment to leadership posts on the Board (Secretary General) and the USOC AAC (Vice-Chair,

Communications). I have also served on the USOC Best Practices Task Force, and presented at the 2011 USOC Best Practices Seminar for NGB leadership.

Many of the rights that we enjoy as elite athletes are the result of dedicated advocacy by current and former athlete representatives. My work has focused on ensuring that the Bylaws are followed to protect elite athlete interests by providing fair, clear, and transparent team selection procedures; guaranteeing a minimum level of team funding; ensuring at least 20% athlete representation on boards and committees; and maintaining robust communication with all elite athletes. I have been an active participant in communicating the workings of the Board and USOC AAC by posting meeting dates, agendas, notices, and reports of meetings on the AAC Newsgroup and Facebook pages.

One of my most important jobs is to sign off on the Olympic Team qualification procedures. I worked with staff and other athlete representatives to produce consensus criteria that ended up selecting the entire 2012 Olympic Team on the field of play, and not a backroom committee.

I have also worked as the Head Track coach for the Marine Wounded Warrior Team. Working with wounded Marines has given me a deep appreciation for the challenges faced by our paratriathletes. Now that USAT is the NGB for the Paralympics I have diligently worked to include paratriathletes into the governance process. At the end of the day, we are all competitors that want a fair chance to compete. I work hard to ensure that chance for every athlete.

-Victor Plata

USAT Secretary General

USOC AAC Vice Chair, Communications

USOC Athlete Advisory Council

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