2014 USA TRIATHLON ITU WORLD PARATRIATHLON EVENTS AND CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION CRITERIA

Introduction

This document explains how USA Triathlon will prioritize USA athletes for nomination to the International Triathlon Union (ITU) to compete in ITU World Paratriathlon Events (WPE) and Continental Championships (CCH). It is derived from the current ITU Paratriathlon Events Qualification Criteria and shall be revised by USA Triathlon within seven (7) business days to comply with any material changes by the ITU to the ITU Paratriathlon Event Qualification Criteria. Any changes made by USA Triathlon require approval from the Board of Directors. While USA Triathlon will make changes within seven days, the approval process may take longer.

The ITU determines the qualification criteria for ITU WPE and CCH events. Selections to these events are made by the ITU from entries submitted by USA Triathlon. All USA athletes interested in WPE and/or CCH entry are advised to read the ITU Paratriathlon Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Athlete Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for entry into an ITU WPE and/or CCH Event are as follows:

- Athletes must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States;
- Must hold a current USA Triathlon Annual Membership license through the date of the event;
- Must abide by all USA Triathlon, United States Olympic Committee, ITU, US Anti-Doping Agency and World Anti-Doping Agency anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations;
- Must have a Review "R", Confirmed "C" International Classification status or will have the opportunity to be Internationally Classified by ITU at the event;
- Must sign the USA Triathlon Nomination Procedure Agreement.

Athlete Nomination Process

All athletes must follow the nomination process set forth by USA Triathlon. No exceptions will be made.

1. Athletes must request entry to a WPE or CCH event by written notice to USA Triathlon via paraentries@usatriathlon.org by the USAT entry deadline for that event. No other form of request will be accepted (including email with staff, in person communication, or phone calls)
2. Athletes must have a current performance resume on file with USA Triathlon, sent to paraentries@usatriathlon.org. This performance resume is meant to include relevant performance results and verifiable training data from the prior 12 months.
3. **Deadlines.** USA Triathlon deadlines are 5 pm EST the Wednesday before the ITU deadline. USA Triathlon will continue to enter athletes into the ITU system after the deadline has passed. All nomination requests submitted after the deadline will be handled in the order of which they were received. Please note that after the ITU deadline, the wait list is ordered by date/time of entry to the ITU online system. Entry deadlines for 2014 events are listed on page three (3) of this document.
   Note: In the event that the ITU does not post a start list by the 32 day deadline, USAT will continue to enter athletes into the ITU system with no penalty to the athlete.

4. The Monday prior to the USA Triathlon deadline, an email reminder about event entries will be sent to athletes who are on the paratriathlon listserv and those who have requested a WPE entry in the current year.
5. USA Triathlon may enter additional athletes as place holders in order to maximize the number of US quota places available. *Place holder is defined as an athlete who has not requested a start to an event by the published USA Triathlon deadline.*
6. Selection to the WPE and/or CCH event will be made by the ITU in accordance with the ITU Paratriathlon Event Qualification Criteria and start lists are expected to be posted 32 days prior to the event.
7. **Substitutions**. Once ITU has created the start list for a WPE and CCH event one athlete per sport class may be replaced per the ITU substitution procedure. The purpose of this protocol is to ensure athletes returning from injury, quickly rising up the pipeline, or capable of achieving a medal performance can be placed on the team to enhance medal opportunities. This substitution process will not be used except in the following cases:
    - An athlete who has been placed on the start list as a place holder;
    - An athlete on the start list who is unable to compete due to injury or illness.

    This priority of substitutions will be exercised in the following order:
    1. Discretionary nominations in the order of priority identified by the High Performance Department;
    2. Remaining USA athletes based on wait list priority order
8. **Priority of Nominations.** For elite Paratriathlon ITU events through July 20th, 2014, USA Triathlon will use a discretionary committee to prioritize the USA waitlist. For events after July 20th, 2014, nomination priority to ITU will be in accordance with international Paratriathlon rankings managed by ITU.
    - *Rationale for the use of objective discretion through July 20, 2014:* The announcement of new Paratriathlon categories, a new classification protocol, revised competition rules and a new ranking system have rendered the 2013 ranking criteria obsolete.
    - *Objective discretionary process:* The USAT High Performance Department, in conjunction with and subject to the approval of the Elite Paratriathlon Selection Committee (EPSC), will rank all nominated athletes for each event based on objective performance measures.
    - *Objective discretionary priorities:* The following criteria shall be used for objective discretionary selection. The criteria are listed in no particular order:
        1. Performances at competitive USAT and ITU Paratriathlon events within the prior 12 months;
        2. Current 2014 ITU Paratriathlon Ranking;
        3. Results in competitive USAT-sanctioned sprint-distance triathlons within the past 12 months;
        4. Verifiable individual time trial results in individual disciplines at verified distances similar to those contested in sprint-distance triathlon (750m swim, 20k bike, 5k run)
9. **ITU Invitations:** All athletes remaining on the waitlist are eligible for an ITU invitation. The US quota and the sport class maximum quota will not be in consideration in ITU's awarding of invitations. The ITU invitation panel will decide based on its own discretion. For more about the ITU invitations refer to the ITU Paratriathlon Events Qualification Criteria posted at www.triathlon.org.

Fines and Penalties

USA Triathlon will enforce the nomination and withdrawal policies outlined in this document. If an athlete fails to adhere to these rules they may be penalized according to the fine schedule below. To avoid penalties, athletes must communicate via email (paraentries@usatriathlon.org) their wishes to be removed from the World Paratriathlon Event and or Continental Championship consideration list by the USAT deadline dates listed below. Additional penalties may be incurred from the ITU for late withdrawal. Athletes should familiarize themselves with the criteria outlined at www.triathlon.org.

Note: If the race is not fully subscribed (thus not blocking another athlete from gaining a start), and a withdrawal is requested seven days or greater before the World Paratriathlon event or Continental Championship, and USA Triathlon does not incur a penalty from the ITU, a fine will not be imposed.

1st offense: $250 fine
2nd offense: $500 fine
3rd offense: Ineligible for any ITU event starts for 3 months from race date

ITU and USA Triathlon Entry Deadlines

The ITU is expected to post start lists 32 days prior to the event. The USA Triathlon deadline for all events will be 5pm EST the Wednesday prior to the ITU deadline as noted in the second point of the Athlete Nomination Process above.

*Deadline dates are documented based on the ITU rules and event date. Any deadline date changes will be communicated via the Paratriathlon Monthly Updates.

WPE Event	Event Date	ITU Deadline	USAT Deadline
London, UK	May 31	April 29	April 23
Chicago, USA	June 28	May 27	May 21
Iseo-Franciacorta	July 4	June 2	May 28
Magog, CAN	July 19	June 17	June 11
Manaus, BRA	October 11	September 9	September 3

CCH Event	Event Date	ITU Deadline	USAT Deadline
Dallas, USA	June 1	April 29	April 23