

#### **USA PARATRIATHLON NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM**

## **Program Overview**

The goal of the USA Paratriathlon National Team Program is to have consistent podium performances on the international stage at the highest competitive level. It is a three tiered system which provides administrative, performance, and financial support to assist athletes in achieving optimal results for themselves and the Team at the Paralympic Games and ITU World Championships. The National Team is composed of those athletes with proven performance capability at the most competitive international level and is not intended to serve as a development pathway.

Athletes who have qualified for one of the three National Team Program Levels will be eligible to receive funding and benefits from USA Triathlon (USAT) and possibly the United States Olympic Committee (USOC.) Each athlete will be evaluated upon qualifying for the team and a funding model appropriate for their needs and performance capability will be determined by USAT. Each athlete will receive a contract specific to his/her funding, training needs and competition schedule. Contracts will also outline expectations and goals in order for an athlete to retain their National Team status.

Results achieved on or after January 1, 2014 are eligible to be used as automatic qualification criteria outlined below and will be valid for a rolling 12 month period. An athlete's position on the National Team (regardless of Level) may be extended for a period of up to one year at the discretion of the High Performance Department.

The figures outlined in this document represent minimum funding levels based on objective performance measures met. Other funding and support opportunities may be available to National Team Program athletes throughout the competition year including but not limited to USAT-supported camps and the USAT Incentive Plan which is available to all elite Paratriathletes and published on the USAT website.

USAT and USOC benefits are not guaranteed and funding may not be equally distributed among all athletes.

To receive any or all benefits available through this Program, an athlete must be a current USAT Paratriathlete license holder, be internationally classified according to the ITU Masterlist, be 2016 Paralympic Games eligible and be currently training and competing in sprint distance triathlons exclusively with an objective to qualify for the Paralympic Games. Commitment to sprint distance triathlons and desire to qualify for the Paralympic Games will be evaluated by USAT as athletes qualify for a Level within the Team. Each athlete must provide a competition plan to the High Performance department at the beginning of the calendar year which will be reviewed and approved by USAT. Any non-sprint race (e.g., Olympic, Half-Iron, Full-Iron, etc) or endurance event exceeding one hour (e.g., marathon) must be pre-approved. Athletes will be subject to removal from the Team if the approved plan is not adhered to. Changes to any plans must be communicated to and approved by the High Performance department in advance. Athletes also must be internationally classified by ITU for the 2014 season.



## **Funding**

\*\*Note: These descriptions are intended to outline the details of each stipend/reimbursement option. All athletes will be required to submit an annual training and competition plan which outlines their financial needs. Upon review and approval of the plan, a budget for each athlete will be developed. Participation in USAT-funded and organized camps will help determine each athlete's budget. Any variation outside of the pre-approved plan will need to be submitted to USAT and have any additional costs approved.

USAT Stipend: This stipend is intended to offset costs needed by the athlete to train and compete effectively.

*Travel Reimbursement:* This funding is intended to support athletes' travel domestically and internationally to ITU events. These amounts represent the maximum level of reimbursement approved for an event. Travel reimbursements in addition to this will be available based on athlete performances at a given event.

Coaching Stipend: For coaches to be eligible for this stipend, they must be a current USAT certified coach who are developing paratriathletes and facilitating an in-person training environment. An in-person training environment means the coach has face-to-face contact and training sessions with the athlete at least once a month. If an athlete is operating under a remote coaching scenario (i.e. sees the athlete face-to-face less than once per month), USAT will review the situation and decide if this is a good fit for the athlete and what the appropriate stipend amount should be.

*USOC Benefits*: Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) will be allocated per objective criteria that will be published in the Fall 2014 to begin on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **International Disclaimer**

This criteria is based on International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Pan American Triathlon Confederation (PATCO), as applicable, and/or International Triathlon Union (ITU) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the criteria caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PATCO, as applicable, and/or ITU rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The criteria is based on the latest information available to USA Triathlon.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the altercation or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, the criteria may be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to the USOC.



## National 'A' Team

# **Qualification Criteria**

Athletes can achieve National A Team Level status through achieving the criteria listed below.

• World Champion at the 2014 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the competition category had a minimum of three (3) athletes start in the sport class

# **Funding and Benefits**

Athletes who achieve National A Team Level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP	Training Stipend	Travel	Coaching Stipend
Level		Reimbursement	
National	\$2,400/qtr*	TBD based on approved	\$900/qtr**
A Team		ATP	

<sup>\*</sup>This stipend is the minimum support for the NTP A team member. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.



# National 'B' Team

## Qualification Criteria

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any one result from the below criteria points.

• Silver Medal at the 2014 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class, have a minimum of three competitor's start in the sport class, and finish in top 50% of the field.

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any two results from the below criteria points.

- Gold Medal at the PATCO Dallas Paratriathlon Championships provided there were a minimum of three competitors start in the sport class
- Bronze Medal at the 2014 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class
- Gold Medal at any ITU Paratriathlon WPE provided a minimum of three competitors start in the sport class

#### Funding and Benefits

Athletes who achieve National B Team level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP	Training	Travel	Coaching Stipend
Level	Stipend	Reimbursement	
National B Team	\$1,500/qtr*	TBD based on approved ATP	\$600/qtr**

<sup>\*</sup> This stipend is the minimum support for the B Team. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.



## **Emerging Team**

## Qualification Criteria

Athletes can achieve Emerging Team Level status through any **three** results from the below criteria points.

- Top 3 finish at the PATCO Dallas Paratriathlon Championships provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 3 finish in an ITU Paratriathlon WPE provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 5 finish at the 2014 ITU Paratriathlon World Championships provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 20 finish in an ITU Paratriathlon WPE provided the finish was within the top 30% of the starting field and within 2% of the winners result in the sport class

#### Funding and Benefits

Athletes who achieve emerging team status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP Level	Training Stipend	Coaching Stipend	Travel Reimbursement
Emerging	\$600/qtr*	\$300/qtr**	TBD based on approved ATP

<sup>\*</sup>This stipend is the recommended support for the emerging team level. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

<sup>\*\*</sup> This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.