2012 ITU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - JUNIOR TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **Introduction**

   This 2012 ITU Junior Triathlon World Championship Team Selection Criteria (the "Criteria") will be used to determine the athletes that will represent the United States at the 2012 ITU Junior Triathlon World Championships (the "Team") in Auckland, New Zealand on October 21, 2012 (the "World Championship"). The selection criteria are designed to provide emerging athletes aged 16 to 19 (as of December 31, 2012) the opportunity to continue their athletic development by demonstrating their abilities at the highest levels of international triathlon competition.

   Under ITU World Championship eligibility guidelines (posted on the ITU web site www.triathlon.org) the USA may send a maximum of three (3) men and three (3) women to compete in the Junior division of the 2012 ITU Triathlon World Championship event. However, start positions are not guaranteed. Start positions are awarded to USAT by the ITU based on: 1) a quota system; and 2) USA athlete results at the 2012 ITU Pan American (PATCO) Junior Championships.

2. **Minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for nomination to the Team:**

   a. Athlete must be eligible under all applicable rules of ITU (www.triathlon.org), the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (www.usada.org), and USA Triathlon.
   b. Athlete must be an annual member in good standing of USA Triathlon.

3. **Selection Events**

   a. **Selection Event #1:** 2011 ITU Junior World Championship, Beijing, China; September 10-11, 2011
   b. **Selection Event #2**: 2012 PATCO Junior Championship, Edmonton, Canada; July 7, 2012
   c. **Selection Event #3**: 2012 USAT Junior National Championship, West Chester, Ohio; August 11, 2012

4. **Selection Procedure**

   a. The maximum team size for the Team is 3 athletes per gender. If the ITU allows for additional athletes, then USAT High Performance may apply for additional invitations from the ITU. Additional nominations over the 3-athletes per gender maximum will to be made by discretionary selection. USAT will submit all entries for the competition to the ITU 35 days prior to the World Championship.

   b. Automatic Selection:

      i. The highest placing junior USA athletes in Selection Event #1 will automatically qualify for the Team provided they finish in 5th place or better. Athletes will qualify by order of finish. Athletes who qualify by this standard must also demonstrate their fitness by meeting one of the following standards in 2011:
         1. Compete in draft-legal junior events in 2012; <u>or</u>
         2. Meet swimming and running benchmarks. Athlete must meet the "A" standard in the swim or run, <u>and</u> the "B" standard of the other discipline from the "Junior Swim and Run Benchmarks" table below.

ii. If any slots remain following Selection Event #1, up to two positions will be awarded at Selection event #2.
   1. Single qualifier per gender: The first Junior USA athlete at Selection Event #2, who did not already qualify for the Team, will automatically qualify for the Team provided he/she finishes in 8th place or better and within 5% of the winner's time. Athletes will qualify by order of finish.
   2. Two qualifiers per gender: The first two Junior USA athletes at Selection Event #2, who did not already qualify for the Team, will automatically qualify for the Team provided they both finish in 3rd place or better and within 5% of the winner's time.

iii. If any slots remain following Selection Event #2, then the first Junior USA athlete at Selection Event #3, who did not already qualify for the Team at previous Selection Events, will automatically qualify for the Team provided he/she finishes in 3rd place or better and within 5% of the winner's time for men and 8% of the winners time for women.

c. Discretionary Selection: any remaining slots on the Team following the Automatic Selection process will be filled by discretionary selection.

Selection Event Table:

2012 USAT Junior World Championships Selection Criteria

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	UP TO	Qualifying Criteria
2011 ITU Junior World Championship	Beijing, China	September 10-11, 2011	3 MEN 3 WOMEN	The highest placing Junior USA athletes provided they finish 5th place or better. Athletes qualify by order of finish, and must demonstrate fitness in 2011
2012 PATCO Junior Championship*	Edmonton, Canada	July 7, 2012	2 MEN 2 WOMEN	Single qualifier per gender: Qualifying athlete must finish top 8 overall and within 5% of winner's time Two qualifiers per gender: Two US athletes (not already qualified) must both finish top 3 overall and within 5% of the winners time
2012 Junior National Championship*	West Chester, OH	August 11, 2011	1 MAN 1 WOMAN	Men: Qualifying athlete must finish top 3 overall and within 5% of winners time Women: Qualifying athlete must finish top 3 overall and within 8% of winners time

*In the event of cancellation of any portion of the event (swim, bike or run), slots for this event will be awarded according to the Discretionary Selection criteria in Section 5.

5. Discretionary Selection

a. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection: By meeting the automatic selection standards, athletes will have demonstrated their ability as the best USA athletes in this category. If the maximum number of USA athletes have not met the standards, then USA Triathlon may select athletes who, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, can win a medal despite not performing to the standard at the selection event, or who can contribute to winning a medal through specific team tactics during the event.

b. Discretionary Process: Any athlete who meets the minimum eligibility requirements in Section 2 may be considered for nomination. The Selection Committee shall rank athletes for nomination to the ITU. Athletes must fully understand and agree to their individual strategic roles within the team before being nominated to the Team by discretionary selection. USAT will submit all approved entries for the competition to ITU 35 days prior to the 2012 ITU Junior World Championships. Athletes will be notified of their selection on or before that date.

c. Discretionary criteria:

i. The following criteria shall be used for discretionary selection. The criteria are listed in no particular order:
   1. Finish place in the Selection Events;
   2. USAT Junior Elite Ranking (if any);
   3. a record of competitive swimming results <u>and</u> a record of competitive cycling results <u>and</u> demonstrated knowledge of cycling team tactics; <u>or</u> official swimming and running marks established in 2012.
      a. For an athlete judged by swimming and running marks, the athlete must meet the "A" standard in the swim or run and the "B" standard of the other discipline from the Swim and Run Benchmarks below:

Junior Swim and Run Benchmarks				
		800yd SC	800m SC	5k
Men	A	8:15	9:05	15:40
Men	B	8:39	9:32	16:20
Women	A	8:40	9:33	17:30
Women	B	9:23	10:32	18:40

d. The Selection Committee will be comprised of two members of the High Performance Staff and one member appointed by the USAT Athletes' Advisory Council.

6. Removal from the Team

a. An athlete who is to be nominated to the Team by USA Triathlon may be removed as a nominee for any of the following reasons, as determined by USA Triathlon:
   ii. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Triathlon High Performance National Team Manager.
   iii. Injury or illness as certified by an approved USA Triathlon physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of his/her illness or injury by an approved USA Triathlon physician (or medical staff), his/her injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
   iv. Violation of the USA Triathlon Code of Conduct. An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USA Triathlon Bylaws Article XV or the USOC's Bylaws, Section 9.
   v. Failure to meet the fitness requirement of Section 4(b)(i) of this document.

7. Replacements to the Team

a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall roll down to the next qualified athlete, provided that the replacement athlete meets all applicable Selection Criteria requirements, and a replacement is allowed by the ITU. In the event that no athlete meets all of these criteria, or the ITU does not allow replacement, the vacancy shall not be filled.

8. Additional Requirements for Selection

a. All athletes selected to the Team will be required to comply with all applicable rules and requirements of ITU, WADA, USADA, and USAT, including, but not limited to, the following:
   vi. Sign and abide by the USAT's Code of Conduct, any USAT or ITU Wavier or Release, and conform to all USAT policies and protocol regarding Team preparation and participation.
   vii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than the Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the World Championship.
   viii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for World Championship. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be coordinated by the High Performance staff.

9. Team Athlete Benefits

a. USA Triathlon will pay all of Athlete's reasonable travel expenses to the World Championships.
b. Athletes finishing in the top-3 (*first, second, or third place*) will be eligible for an additional $1,000 allowance to cover any travel expenses for national-level or international-level events not covered through other allotments during the 2012 Junior Elite season. An expense report with original receipts is required.

10. Preparation Training Camp

a. All athletes selected to the Team may be required to attend a Preparation Training Camp (the "Camp") at a date and location to be determined. Transportation, lodging, meals, and training venues will be provided at no cost to the Team by USAT. Written announcement of the pre-Games camp will be posted on the USAT website (www.usatriathlon.org) 90 days before the commencement of the camp.

11. International Disclaimer

a. These Selection Criteria are based on the latest information available to USAT, and on ITU and USAT rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in ITU or USAT rules and regulations, or other unforeseen circumstances, will be distributed to the affected athletes promptly, and USAT reserves the right to revise these Selection criteria in such event.