2013 U23 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Introduction

This 2013 U23 ITU World Championship Team Selection Criteria (the "Criteria") will be used to determine the athletes aged "Under 23" (18 to 23 as of December 31, 2013) that will represent the United States in the International Triathlon Union (ITU) U23 World Championship (the "Team") in London, England, on September 13-15, 2013 (the "World Championship").

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 U23 division of the 2013 ITU Triathlon World Championship event. However, start positions may be limited to two in a gender category should the US not place at least two (2) athletes in the top twenty-five (25) in that gender at the 2012 ITU U23 Triathlon World Championship. Based on the results of the 2012 World Championship and ITU World Triathlon Series Qualification Criteria published at this time, USAT has earned an allocation of two (2) male and two (2) female spots for the 2013 World Championship.

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:** 2013 Sarasota ITU Pan American Cup; March 16, 2013
b. **Selection Event #2**: 2013 Dallas ITU Pan American Cup; June 1, 2013
**Entry to the Selection Events will be made according to the 2013 USA Triathlon ITU Continental Cup Selection Criteria*

4. Selection Procedure

a. The maximum size for the Team is two (2) athletes per gender. If the ITU allows for additional athletes, then USAT High Performance may apply for additional spots by invitation. Additional nominations over the two (2) athletes per gender maximum will be made by discretionary selection. USAT will submit all entries for the competition to the ITU thirty-five (35) days prior to the World Championship.

b. **Automatic Selection:** The highest placing U23 USA athlete at Selection Events #1, and the highest placing U23 USA athlete at Select Event #2 who did not already qualify for the Team, will automatically qualify for the Team provided they finish within five percent (5%) of the winner's time, and within the top 1/3 of all starters, at the respective Selection Event.

c. **Discretionary Selection:** If there are any remaining slots on the Team following the Automatic Selection process, the remaining slots will be filled by discretionary selection per Section 5 below.

Selection Event Table:

2013 USAT U23 World Championships Selection Criteria

Selection Event	Location	Date	Qualification Criteria
2013 Sarasota ITU Triathlon Pan American Cup*	Sarasota, FL	March 16, 2013	First USA U23 finisher; provided he/she has a finish time within 5% of winner and top 1/3 of all starters.
2013 Dallas ITU Triathlon Pan American Cup*	Dallas, TX	June 1, 2013	First USA U23 finisher not yet automatically qualified; provided he/she has a finish time within 5% of winner and top 1/3 of all starters.

*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 Events or who can contribute to winning a medal through specific team tactics at the World Championship.
   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 to ITU 35 days prior to the 2013 ITU U23 World Championships. Athletes will be notified of their nomination 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. ITU ranking points (if any);
         3. Other results from competitive draft-legal international events;
         4. Official swimming and running marks established in 2013.
            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:

Under-23 Swim and Run Benchmarks				
		1500m LC	1650yd SC	10k
Men	A	17:26	16:31	32:00
Men	B	18:48	18:09	33:30
Women	A	18:45	18:17	36:15
Women	B	20:16	19:46	38:20

d. The Selection Committee will be comprised of two members of the High Performance Department staff and one member of the Athlete 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:
   i. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USA Triathlon High Performance National Team Program Manager.
   ii. 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.
   iii. 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.

7. Replacements to the Team

a. If for any reason a position on the Team shall become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by discretionary selection, provided a replacement is allowed by the ITU. In the event that there is no athlete that 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:
   i. 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.
   ii. Agree not to race any event **longer** than an Olympic triathlon distance (1.5km/40km/10km) between the period beginning six (6) weeks prior to the date of the World Championship through the date of the World Championship.
   iii. Agree to stay in lodging as a team for the 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 may be eligible for additional support as set forth in the 2013 High Performance Incentive Plan.

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 athlete 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.