



## USA TRIATHLON 2013 GENERAL ELECTION

Welcome to USA Triathlon's 2013 election coverage. Please use the following information to learn about the candidates nominated in your region for the National Board of Directors. We hope this will assist you with your voting decision.

### CANDIDATES FOR THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ATHLETE DIRECTOR

Please vote for one (1) of the following candidates:

REGION	CANDIDATE
Athlete Director	Joel Rosinbum
	Steven Sexton (Incumbent)
	Melissa Stockwell
	Joanna Zeiger

## JOEL ROSINBUM

Austin, TX

Athlete Director



I'm a lifelong athlete. I played sports in high school, rowed crew in college, coached rowing after college while taking up triathlon as an amateur. Before I completed a single season as an amateur, I was injured in a skiing accident paralyzing my arm. One year after the accident I began racing triathlon again. In my first year back I excelled in the world of elite Paratriathlon racing, winning a national championship and competing at the World Championship. Since then I have been racing as an elite paratriathlete, winning another national championship, a World Cup, and representing the US at five World Championships.

I understand the needs of athletes, USAT/ITU rules, drafting, non-drafting and paratriathlon racing. I want to help provide better elite racing opportunities in the United States. Looking towards Rio, it is important to have people who will follow through and push for athletes to be timely informed of events, qualification criteria, points, etc. I have that kind of dedication. I'm excited about participating in governance and communicating with other athletes and the board. I want to see the sport of triathlon continue to grow and believe that I can be a great help to that process.

## STEVEN SEXTON

Raleigh, NC

Athlete Director



- ITU Athlete Committee Co-chair (2012-present)
- USAT Board of Directors (2010-present); Treasurer (2011)
- USAT Project 2012 team (2010-2011)
- 5<sup>th</sup> place, USAT Elite Nationals 2010, 2011;
- U.S. Collegiate National Champion 2008; 7<sup>th</sup> place, World University Games 2008
- Ph.D. applied economics, UC Berkeley

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent elites on the USAT board. I invite you to review my record of accomplishments on your behalf and then cast your ballot to re-elect me so I can continue working for you.

As USAT Treasurer and director, I fought to stop a near-decade-long decline in the share of USAT's budget devoted to elite programs. It has increased since I joined the board. My proposals to increase funding for direct athlete support also were approved each year. To save you money, I successfully lobbied to lower the elite license fee to a cost equal to the age group license.

I worked hard to bring ITU World Triathlon Series racing back to the U.S. (in San Diego) after USAT declined to support the ITU Washington, D.C. race. Along with other athlete directors and the AAC, I fought for London Olympic qualifying criteria that prioritized high performance and decisions on the field of play, rather than discretionary decisions in the boardroom. Thanks to incredible performances, our team was selected at the London test event and in San Diego, at a home soil qualifier for which I lobbied aggressively. My successful proposal to invest in hosting the ITU 2015 Chicago Grand Final helped bring age group world championships back to the U.S for the first time in a decade. I also worked to win approval of the Elite Triathlon Academy for high-performing college students and the new super sprint race series aimed at getting our sport more TV time.

There is more work to do. With Paratriathlon's introduction in the Rio Games, we must fully fund our talented paratriathletes so they can maintain their world dominance. Elite non-drafting rules, particularly the stagger rule, remain a source of frustration and confusion. In an effort to harmonize rules around the world, I will ensure they are thoroughly reviewed. I will work to

guarantee high quality officiating at elite races and to hold race directors accountable when their actions cause confusion on race day. Safety and fairness on the field of play —our workplace— are essential, particularly as elites strive to make a living in triathlon. Lastly, while we so far have been spared the major doping scandals of our sibling sports, it is important that we invest in doping control to stay ahead of the curve as our sport develops.

You have a choice of candidates in this election. Please review what each has accomplished for you. I hope you will agree that I will work hardest for you, so I humbly ask you to cast your vote for me.

## MELISSA STOCKWELL

Chicago, IL

Athlete Director



After losing my leg in Iraq in 2004, I turned to sports as a mode of rehabilitation and have chosen to live a life through sport. I competed in my first triathlon in 2009 and the multisport lifestyle has been a passion of mine ever since. As an athlete I have competed at national and world championships around the world and stood on top of podiums proud to represent the USA. As someone who believes in the sport and realizes the impact it can have on a person's life, especially those with a disability, I co-founded the Dare2tri Paratriathlon Club in Chicago with the mission of getting athletes with a disability into the sport of triathlon.

If elected as an athlete director I feel I would bring a unique perspective to the USAT board and able to represent the elite pool of athletes on a national scale. As a female, I am dedicated to growing the number of female triathletes on a national level. I would use my position to be an advocate for female triathletes around the nation and would like to work with the Women's Committee to make sure this happens effectively. My voice would assure that women have an active role in the decisions made by USAT.

I am also passionate about the sport of Paratriathlon and plan on competing as a Paratriathlete on the elite level through the Paralympic debut in 2016. Paratriathlon is the largest growing Paralympic sport and Paratriathlon clubs and teams are rapidly starting around the country. As a Paratriathlete myself, I know firsthand the importance of sports in anyone's life, especially someone with a disability. I will be a strong advocate for making sure these athletes and clubs have the necessary resources to be successful. Whether it's through increasing national level camps, setting aside financial resources, working with the Paratriathlon committee and making decisions to assure that USAT helps promote Paratriathlon recruitment at the local and national level. By inspiring the community, these athletes have a direct influence on someone trying their first triathlon and therefore, becoming part of the triathlon community as a USAT member. I will be a strong voice to make sure Paratriathlon has a successful integration into the Paralympic community.

As a female, a Paratriathlete and an elite athlete I feel I would be a good fit for the Athlete Director seat and be a voice for much of the triathlon community. I have served on boards and am aware of the commitment it takes to be an active board member. I am passionate about the sport of triathlon and hope to be able to assist USAT in providing the resources necessary to help triathletes reach their full potential.

## JOANNA ZEIGER

Boulder, CO

Athlete Director



Triathlon is my passion. I raced as an amateur from 1994-1997 and as a pro from 1998-2010. While I no longer compete as a triathlete, I am still deeply involved as a coach, spectator, and all around enthusiast. In my years in the sport, I competed across all distances thereby experiencing the ITU, WTC, Lifetime Fitness Series and the one-off local races. I raced locally, nationally and internationally, gaining a large body of knowledge about what makes triathlon successful and what advances are needed to make things better for the sport and its athletes. My triathlon achievements, highlighted by a 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, 5<sup>th</sup> place at the Hawaii Ironman, and a win at the 2008 Ironman 70.3 World Championships, in themselves are not enough to make a good board of directors member. My unrelenting desire to see triathlon mature and the need for the growing number of professionals to have unbiased representation are the added ingredients that will help me become a good board member. The United States can benefit from increased professionalism—athletes, USA triathlon, race directors and sponsors all need to utilize the professionals to a larger degree than the current modus operandi; community talks, local news involvement and education about the sport in schools are some ways to increase athlete exposure and promote a healthy lifestyle. More publicity for the professionals will only enhance the desirability of athletes in the eyes of sponsors and will elevate the status of triathlon in general. Professional athletes have long needed so many things: (1) long course athletes need more support and recognition and warrant a chance to run for a seat on the board; (2) a liaison to navigate between the athletes and ITU and WTC; (3) continued evaluation and updating of race rules; (4) a place to lodge concerns without fear of ostracism; (4) better course safety; (5) ensuring fair races for female professionals; (6) an open channel of communication between the athletes and USAT and (7) mechanisms to safeguard the athletes from misdirection on race courses (seriously, the notion that athletes need to know the course is antiquated and unrealistic). All of these issues need to be tackled head on to increase professionalism and guarantee that the elite side of our sport continues to grow just as the age groups side has grown. Communication is the key and it is my hope that you will vote for me so that we can begin a dialogue that will result in some important changes. I realize this list is long, but there needs to be a starting point. I hope to initiate the tough conversations and exact some change.