



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR USA TRIATHLON JUNIOR ELITE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Purpose: This document establishes eligibility criteria for participation in the 2010 USAT Junior Elite National Championships.

Background: The USAT Junior Elite National Championships is a draft-legal triathlon consisting of a 750m swim, 20k bike, and 5k run. Consistent with international standards for draft-legal racing, the male and female divisions are limited to 80 athletes each. Eligibility requirements are necessary to ensure a quality of field consistent with the event's national championship status and an appropriate level of preparedness for participation in draft-legal competition of this caliber.

Age Requirement: In order to compete in the USAT Junior Elite National Championship, an athlete must be between the ages of 16 and 19 year old on December 31st, 2010.

Performance Criteria: An athlete who meets the Age Requirement plus any one of the following Performance Criteria is eligible to compete in the 2010 Junior Elite National Championships:

- 2009 USAT Youth Elite and Junior Elite National Championships finisher;
- 2009 or 2010 USAT Youth Elite or Junior Elite Cup (national-level) or PATCO Pan American Junior Championship or Junior Continental Cup or other international-level draft-legal triathlon finisher; or,
- 2009 or 2010 Youth Elite or Junior Elite National Ranking ranked athlete (does not include USAT Age Group Ranking, which is based solely on non-drafting results). <http://usatriathlon.org/pages/1963>

Endorsement Criteria: An athlete who meets the Age Requirement, but has not met one of the Performance Criteria, may achieve eligibility through endorsement as follows:

- High Performance Team: Athletes listed on the official roster of a USAT-designated High Performance Team (HPT) as of June 1st, 2010, may receive the written endorsement of their HPT Manager;
- Regional Athlete Development Coordinator (RADC): Athletes who complete a Junior Elite Clinic under the direction of an RADC may receive the written endorsement of the RADC;

- USAT Skills and Select Camp Director: Athletes having participated in a 2009 or 2010 USAT-designated Skills or Select Camp may receive the written endorsement of the Camp Director; or,
- USAT Sport Performance Endorsement: Athletes lacking access to the endorsement options set forth above may receive the written endorsement of the USAT Sport Performance Director.

Endorsement Standard: In order to secure an endorsement, the Athlete must have demonstrated to the Endorser:

- Awareness of the race format, including the distances, laps, swim conditions, transition, and draft-legal elements;
- Knowledge of the competitive rules for draft-legal triathlon, including bike set-up, uniform requirements, and transitions;
- Competency in the skills required for safe participation in draft-legal triathlon, including swim starts, bike handling, transitions, and race nutrition; and,
- Ability to finish within 20% of the prior year's winner's overall time (2009: Male Winner - 58:12; Female Winner - 1:05:30)

Junior Elite Clinic: RADCs may offer Junior Elite Clinics to provide opportunities for athletes to secure eligibility. The base price shall be \$50 per athlete and the clinic will take approximately 4 hours to complete.

First-Come, First-Served: Achieving eligibility to compete does not guarantee entry into the championship. Due to field limits, registration is first-come, first-served.

Audit and Confirmation: USA Triathlon will audit eligibility shortly after the athlete registers online. Addition to the Start List will serve as confirmation of eligibility and entry. USAT advises that athletes and families book refundable travel if there is any doubt as to their eligibility. Athletes are responsible for establishing their eligibility prior to registering for the event. USA Triathlon has a *no refund policy* for event registration.

Athletes Representing Other National Federations: If field limits have not been reached 45 days prior to the race, USAT may invite other National Federations to send athletes to participate.

Athlete Profile: All athletes should create a Profile at www.usatdevelopment.org.



**USAT JUNIOR ELITE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
ENDORSEMENT**

Athlete

First/Last Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Male Female Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age as of 12/31/10 ____

Email: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

USAT Number _____ Athlete Profile Updated Complete

Endorser

First/Last Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Email: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

USAT Coaching Certification Level 1 2 3 USAT Number _____

Capacity: High Performance Team Coach RADC Camp Director USAT

Junior Elite Clinic completed Yes No Date: _____

I hereby endorse the athlete named above to compete in the 2010 USAT Junior Elite National Championship. I have personally met with the athlete and reviewed the format, competitive rules, skill competencies, and performance measures necessary for safe and successful participation in a draft-legal national championship event.

Endorser's Signature

Date

Send Attn: Steve Kelley, Athlete Development Coordinator, steve.kelley@usatriathlon.org or fax to 719-597-2121