



SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES FOR THE 2009 USAT PARATRIATHLON NATIONAL TEAM

I. Criteria. Any current member in good standing of USA Triathlon (American citizens only) officially classified in an approved USAT ParaTriathlete category may apply for inclusion as a member of the 2009 ParaTriathlon National Team (formerly known as the USAT PC National Team).

II. ParaTriathlete Category. The USAT ParaTriathlete category will be determined in accordance with Classification of ParaTriathletes as outlined in USA Triathlon's Competitive Rules PC 1.2 Competition Categories. USAT ParaTriathlon categories shall be instituted and maintained as follows:

TRI 1 - Handcycle: Paraplegic, Quadriplegic, Polio, Double Leg Amputee. Must use hand-cycle on the bike portion and racing wheelchair on run.

TRI 2 - Severe Leg impairment: Above-knee Amputees. Athlete must ride bicycle and run with above knee (or similar) prosthesis or crutches.

TRI 3 - Les Autre: Includes athletes with Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Double Leg Amputee (runners) or Paralysis in multiple limbs. Must ride a bicycle and run. (May use braces or prosthesis)

TRI 4 - Arm impairment: Including Above and Elbow Amputees or "impairment" in one or both upper limbs. Athletes may use prosthesis, brace or sling on the bike and/or run.

TRI 5 - Moderate leg impairment: Below-knee amputees. Athlete must ride bicycle and run with prosthesis or crutches.

TRI 6 - Visual Impairment: Legally Blind. (20/200 vision with best corrective vision.) A handler of the same sex is mandatory throughout the race. Athlete is tethered during the swim. Athlete uses a tandem bicycle and may be tethered during the run.

III. Selection System. Depending upon the number of slots available, one female and one male ParaTriathlon athlete from each of USAT's ParaTriathlon Categories shall be selected to be a member of USAT's 2009 ParaTriathlon National Team. In the event that there are slots available over and above the fourteen primary slots, alternates will be chosen using the same criteria as used for primary members of the team.

IV. Selection Criteria.

Seven possible point categories or “scores” will be used to calculate each ParaTriathlon athlete’s “grade.” Six of these point categories are objective and shall include (1) four scores based upon race results in each of four predetermined triathlons from the previous year; (2) one score based upon inclusion on the prior year’s ParaTriathlon National Team; and (3) one score based on inclusion in the prior year’s USAT rankings. The seventh point category is subjective and will be based on the ParaTriathlon athlete’s submitted competitive résumé.

A) For the point category based upon race results, no more than four objective “scores” will be used to calculate each ParaTriathlon athlete’s “grade.” These objective “scores” will consist of points based upon the athlete’s finish at four predetermined high-profile events in 2008. They were: 2008 USAT PC Nationals (Nautica New York City Triathlon), Chicago Triathlon, Nautica Malibu Triathlon and the 2008 ITU World Championships. The members of the ParaTriathlon Committee and the Executive Director of USA Triathlon have predetermined the four qualifying high-profile events for this category.

Within this category, points will be awarded as follows:

- Five (5) points for a first place finish in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
 - Four (4) points for a second place finish in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
 - Three (3) points for a third place finish in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
 - Two (2) points for a fourth place finish in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
 - One (1) point for a fifth place *or less* finish in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
 - Zero (0) points for entry and a Did Not Finish (DNF) or Disqualification (DQ) in the appropriate ParaTriathlon category in any of the predetermined triathlons.
- B) A maximum of one objective “score” will be awarded to each ParaTriathlete that was a member of the prior year’s USAT ParaTriathlon National Team.
- One (1) point will be earned for inclusion on the prior year’s team.
- C) A maximum of one objective “score” will be awarded to each ParaTriathlete based upon inclusion in the prior year’s USAT rankings.
- Regardless of ranking, only one (1) point will be earned for inclusion in the prior year’s USAT rankings.
- D) Subjective Score. A maximum of one subjective “score” will be awarded to each ParaTriathlete based upon his/her résumé.

- A grade in the range of five (5) to one (1), five (5) being highest and one (1) being lowest will be awarded to the ParaTriathlete based on his or her submitted résumé. This subjective score will be based on factors outlined on the athlete's résumé such as accomplishments, athletic background, awards, etc.
- V. Tie breaker.** In the event that two or more ParaTriathletes should have the same overall score, a tiebreaker system will be used.
- For the purpose of breaking a tie, only the objective scores from the four predetermined triathlons shall be used. The individual with the highest objective score will be named as the primary ParaTriathlete in the appropriate USAT ParaTriathlon category. The athlete with the second highest score will then be placed into the pool of alternate team members.
 - If, following the scoring of the tie breaker, athletes continue to have the same score, the final selection will then be made by the Executive Director of USA Triathlon.
- VI. Scoring.** Compilation of objective scores and grading of résumés for the subjective score will be accomplished by a team comprised of the members of the ParaTriathlon Commission and the Executive Director of USA Triathlon.
- In the event that a member of the ParaTriathlon Commission has applied for an available team slot, that member will automatically be recused from the scoring process.
- VII. Discretionary Selection.** There will be discretionary selection if no ParaTriathlete from any category applies. All other selections and appointments as a member of the 2009 ParaTriathlon National Team will follow III. Selection System, IV. Selection Criteria, V. Tie breaker, and VI. Scoring.
- VIII. Publicity and Distribution of Selection Process.** At a minimum, the publication and distribution of the Selection Criteria and Procedures for the 2008 USAT ParaTriathlon National Team will be:
- USA Triathlon press release.
 - USA Triathlon website: www.usatriathlon.org.
 - USA *Triathlon Life* magazine.
 - Any other websites or publications that the ParaTriathlon Commission and USA Triathlon deem appropriate.
- IX. Date of Publication and Distribution of Selection Process.** At a minimum, the selection process shall be publicized from January 1, 2009, through March 1, 2009.

X. Date of Application for Membership for the 2009 USAT ParaTriathlon National Team.

- Applications for inclusion as a member of the 2007 USA Triathlon ParaTriathlon National Team will be accepted between the dates of February 1, 2009, and February 21, 2009.
- Applications postmarked, emailed, or otherwise delivered after midnight on February 21, 2009, will not be processed.

XI. Application Form to be used for consideration as a member of the 2008 USAT ParaTriathlon National Team.

- The application is attached.
- It is the athlete's responsibility to insure that the application is completed in full.
- All applications must be e-mailed to: uspctri@cox.net

XII. Announcement of the 2009 USAT ParaTriathlon National Team. USA Triathlon will announce primary and alternate members of the 2009 USAT ParaTriathlon National Team no later than March 1, 2009.

GOOD LUCK.