



2015 USA PARATRIATHLON NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

Program Overview

The goal of the USA Paratriathlon National Team Program is to have consistent podium performances on the international stage at the highest competitive level. It is a three tiered system which provides administrative, performance, and financial support to assist athletes in achieving optimal results for themselves and the Team at the Paralympic Games and ITU World Championships. The National Team is composed of those athletes with proven performance capability at the most competitive international level and is not intended to serve as a development pathway.

Athletes who have qualified for one of the three National Team Program Levels will be eligible to receive funding and benefits from USA Triathlon (USAT) and possibly the United States Olympic Committee (USOC.) Each athlete will be evaluated upon qualifying for the team and a funding model appropriate for their needs and performance capability will be determined by USAT. Each athlete will receive a contract specific to his/her funding, training needs and competition schedule. Contracts will also outline expectations and goals in order for an athlete to retain their National Team status.

Results achieved on or after January 1, 2014 are eligible to be used as automatic qualification criteria outlined below and will be valid for a rolling 12 month period. An athlete's position on the National Team (regardless of Level) may be extended for a period of up to one year at the discretion of the High Performance Department.

The figures outlined in this document represent minimum funding levels based on objective performance measures met. Other funding and support opportunities may be available to National Team Program athletes throughout the competition year including but not limited to USAT-supported camps and the USAT Elite Athlete Incentive Plan which is available to all paratriathletes and published on the USAT website.

USAT and USOC benefits are not guaranteed and funding may not be equally distributed among all athletes.

To receive any or all benefits available through this Program, an athlete must be a current USAT Elite paratriathlete license holder, be internationally classified according to the ITU Masterlist, be 2016 Paralympic Games eligible and be currently training and competing in sprint distance triathlons exclusively with an objective to qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games. Commitment to sprint distance triathlons and desire to qualify for the Paralympic Games will be evaluated by USAT as athletes qualify for a Level within the Team. Each athlete must provide a competition plan to the High Performance department at the beginning of the calendar year which will be reviewed and approved by USAT. Any non-sprint race (e.g., Olympic, Half-Iron, Full-Iron, etc) or endurance event exceeding one hour (e.g, marathon) must be pre-approved. Athletes will be subject to removal from the Team if the approved plan is not adhered to. Changes to any plans must be communicated to and approved by the High Performance department in advance. Athletes also must be internationally classified by ITU for the 2015 season.



Funding

***Note: These descriptions are intended to outline the details of each stipend/reimbursement option. All athletes will be required to submit an annual training and competition plan which outlines their financial needs. Upon review and approval of the plan, a budget for each athlete will be developed. Participation in USAT-funded and organized camps will help determine each athlete's budget. Any variation outside of the pre-approved plan will need to be submitted to USAT and have any additional costs approved.*

USAT Stipend: This stipend is intended to offset costs needed by the athlete to train and compete effectively.

Travel Reimbursement: This funding is intended to support athletes' travel domestically and internationally to ITU events. These amounts represent the maximum level of reimbursement approved for an event. Travel reimbursements in addition to this will be available based on athlete performances at a given event.

Coaching Stipend: For coaches to be eligible for this stipend, they must be a current USAT certified coach who are developing paratriathletes and facilitating an in-person training environment. An in-person training environment means the coach has face-to-face contact and training sessions with the athlete at least once a month. If an athlete is operating under a remote coaching scenario (i.e. sees the athlete face-to-face less than once per month), USAT will review the situation and decide if this is a good fit for the athlete and what the appropriate stipend amount should be.

USOC Benefits: Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) will be allocated per objective criteria found on page 6.

International Disclaimer

This criteria is based on International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Pan American Triathlon Confederation (PATCO), as applicable, and/or International Triathlon Union (ITU) rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the criteria caused by a change in IOC, IPC, PATCO, as applicable, and/or ITU rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected athletes immediately. The criteria is based on the latest information available to USA Triathlon.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, the criteria may be revised, pursuant to their resubmission to USAT.



National 'A' Team

Qualification Criteria

Athletes can achieve National A Team Level status through achieving any **one** result from the criteria listed below.

- World Champion at the TU Paratriathlon Elite World Championships – provided the competition category had a minimum of three (3) athletes start in the sport class
- First place at the ITU Rio de Janeiro World Paratriathlon Event – provided the competition category had a minimum of three (3) athletes start in the sport class
- Top three (3) world-wide ranked athlete(s), per competition category, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2015 calendar year. – if three U.S. athletes occupy the top 3 Paralympic ranking slots, then only the top 2 qualify

Funding and Benefits

Athletes who achieve National A Team Level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP Level	Training Stipend	Travel Reimbursement	Coaching Stipend	USOC Benefit
National A Team	\$2,400/qtr*	TBD based on approved ATP	\$900/qtr**	Eligible for EAH***

*This stipend is the minimum support for the NTP A team member. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

** This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.

*** Eligibility is determined through criteria developed by USAT and approved by the USOC. Criteria can be found on page 6.



National 'B' Team

Qualification Criteria

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Silver Medal at the ITU Paratriathlon Elite World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and have a minimum of five competitor’s start in the sport class
- Silver Medal at ITU Rio de Janeiro World Paratriathlon – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and have a minimum of five competitors start in the sport class
- Top six (6) world-wide ranked athlete(s), per competition category, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2015 calendar year. – athlete must be top four (4) of U.S. athletes

Athletes can achieve National B Team Level status through any **two** results from the below criteria points.

- Gold Medal at the CAM TRI Paratriathlon Championships – provided there were a minimum of three competitors start in the sport class
- Bronze Medal at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class
- Gold Medal at any ITU Paratriathlon WPE – provided a minimum of three competitors start in the sport class

Funding and Benefits

Athletes who achieve National B Team level status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP Level	Training Stipend	Travel Reimbursement	Coaching Stipend	USOC Benefit
National B Team	\$1,500/qtr*	TBD based on approved ATP	\$600/qtr**	Eligible for EAHI***

* This stipend is the minimum support for the B Team. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

** This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.

*** Eligibility is determined through criteria developed by USAT and approved by the USOC. Criteria can be found on page 6.



Emerging Team

Qualification Criteria

Athletes can achieve Emerging Team Level status through any **one** result from the below criteria points.

- Top eight (8) world-wide ranked athlete(s), per competition category, in the Paralympic Rankings at the conclusion of the 2015 calendar year. – provided the 7th and 8th place athlete is with 5% of the 6th ranked athlete.

Athletes can achieve Emerging Team Level status through any **three** results from the below criteria points.

- Top 3 finish at the CAM TRI Paratriathlon Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 3 finish in an ITU Paratriathlon WPE - provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 5 finish at the ITU Paratriathlon World Championships – provided the finish was within 5% of the winners result in the sport class and the top 50% of the starting field in the sport class
- Top 5 finish in an ITU Paratriathlon WPE – provided the finish was within the top 30% of the starting field and within 4% of the winners result in the sport class

Funding and Benefits

Athletes who achieve emerging team status are eligible for the following funding and benefits:

NTP Level	Training Stipend	Coaching Stipend	Travel Reimbursement
Emerging	\$600/qtr*	\$300/qtr**	TBD based on approved ATP

*This stipend is the recommended support for the emerging team level. The final amount will be determined by athlete needs and approved ATP.

** This coaching stipend is contingent on the parameters set on page 2.



ELITE ATHLETE HEALTH INSURANCE (EAHI)

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) allocates EAHI slots to National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on an annual basis. This program provides an affordable insurance option for athletes. This benefit is provided through the USOC and is dependent on the criteria outlined below. The number of slots may change at the discretion of the USOC. There are currently six (6) EAHI slots available for the USA Triathlon Paralympic Program athletes who are classified as 2016 Paralympic Games eligible.

EAHI qualification will be evaluated twice per year. Athletes must remain in good standing to receive EAHI benefits for the full six (6) month period. Athletes who choose to break their contract or no longer remain committed to the sprint-distance triathlon format will be removed from receiving this benefit effective at the next evaluation period.

January 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015

Within each Level, athletes will receive EAHI in the priority order of which they qualified for the National Team. If two or more athletes qualify in the same manner, the first priority lies with the athlete who has the highest ITU World Ranking as of January 1, 2015. If a further tie breaker is needed, the second priority order lies with the athlete who has the shortest gap between their finishing time and their sport class winner's time at the 2014 ITU Edmonton Paratriathlon World Championships.

- 2015 National A Team
- 2015 National B Team

October 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016

Within each Level, athletes will receive EAHI in the priority order of which they qualified for the National Team. If two or more athletes qualify in the same manner, the first priority lies with the athlete who has the highest ITU World Ranking as of September 30, 2015. If a further tie breaker is needed, the second priority order lies with the athlete who has the shortest gap between their finishing time and their sport class winner's time at the 2015 ITU Elite Paratriathlon World Championships. The main objective of this evaluation period will be to ensure that folks who are receiving EAHI are 2016 Paralympic Games eligible and capable of winning a medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games.

- 2015 National A Team
- 2015 National B Team

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