



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR USA TRIATHLON JUNIOR ELITE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Purpose: This document establishes eligibility criteria for participation in the 2011 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 75 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, 2011.

Performance Criteria: An athlete who meets the Age Requirement plus any one of the following Performance Criteria is eligible to compete in the 2011 Junior Elite National Championships:

- 2010 USAT Youth Elite and Junior Elite National Championships finisher;
- 2010 or 2011 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,
- 2010 or 2011 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: An athlete listed on the official roster of a USAT-designated High Performance Team (HPT) as of March 1st, 2011, may receive the written endorsement of their HPT Manager;
- Regional Athlete Development Coordinator (RADDC): An athlete who completes a Junior Elite Clinic under the direction of an RADDC may receive the written endorsement of a RADDC. The RADDC may designate a USAT certified-Youth & Junior Coach to conduct said clinic;

- USAT Skills and Select Camp Director: An athlete having participated in a 2010 or 2011 USAT-designated Skills or Select Camp may receive the written endorsement of the Camp Director; or,
- USAT Sport Performance Endorsement: An athlete lacking access to the endorsement options set forth above may, as a last resort, petition the USAT Athlete Development Coordinator for endorsement.

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

- Understanding 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,
- Demonstrated ability to finish within 15% of the prior year's winner's overall time (2010: Male Winner - 57:04; Female Winner - 1:03:25)

Junior Elite Clinic: RADCs will offer Junior Elite Clinics that provide opportunities for athletes to secure an endorsement. RADCs will set a reasonable price for participation in the clinic. The clinic will take approximately 4 hours to complete.

Protected Entry Status: Athletes who finished in the Top 30 overall in the 2010 Junior Elite Championship, or in the Top 10 overall in the 2010 Youth Elite Championship, will be invited to register prior to the opening of general registration. Once general registration opens, this protected entry status shall expire and all registrations thereafter become first-come, first-served.

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: Athletes are responsible for confirming their eligibility prior to registering for the event. USA Triathlon will audit all entries and remove ineligible athletes from the start list. USAT advises athletes to book refundable travel if there is any doubt as to their eligibility. USA Triathlon has a *no refund policy* for event registration.

Athletes Representing Other National Federations: USAT may permit up to five (5) international solidarity places per gender per Youth Elite and Junior Elite Championship. Interested athletes or National Federations must contact the USAT Athlete Development Coordinator prior to registering any athlete for the event. Athletes must have prior draft-legal triathlon experience and have demonstrated the ability to finish within 15% of the 2010 winner's time. Solidarity places will be opened 45 days prior to the event provided the field is not already full.

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 12/31/11 ____

Email: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

USAT Number _____ Athlete Profile Updated Complete

Endorser

First/Last Name: _____ Team/Camp 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 on _____ (date)

I hereby endorse the athlete named above to compete in the 2011 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