



## What is Team USA?

Team USA was created by USA Triathlon to be a team of age group/amateurs who will best represent the United States and compete in the International Triathlon Union's (ITU) world championships, which attracts the best athletes representing over 50 countries each year. Team USA World championship teams are fielded for:

- Short Course (Olympic) triathlon (1.5K swim, 40K bike, 10K run)
- Long course triathlon (2X Olympic distance)
- Sprint distance triathlon (1/2 Olympic distance)
- Short course duathlon (10K run, 40K bike, 5K run)
- Long course duathlon (18k run, 74k bike, 9k run)
- Aquathlon (2.5K run, 1K swim, and 2.5K run)
- Winter triathlon (distances based on the location - disciplines: trail run, mountain bike, cross country ski)

Qualifiers exist for all but the winter triathlon.

## Who can qualify?

All athletes eligible to represent the United States must be at least 18 years old as of December 31st of the year of the World Championship **AND**

- Be a U.S. citizen
- OR
- Be a U.S. national – someone who has resided in the US for three consecutive years and has not competed for their country of citizenship in the prior year.

\*Athletes who choose to be recognized as nationals who have competed for their country of citizenship in the last year may get dispensation by obtaining a letter from the NGB of their home country allowing competition as a U.S. athlete.

All members of Team USA must be current USAT annual members on the day they plan to qualify.

## How does an individual qualify?

For a list of qualifying races, click [here](#)

## **If I qualified for Team USA this year, do I automatically have a slot on Team USA next year?**

No, you do not automatically qualify for Team USA next year. However, if you were on Team USA this year, you do automatically qualify for **nationals** the next year

On the other hand, **if you win your age group at a World Championship race, you automatically qualify for that same race the following year**. For example, if you win your age group at 2009 Long Course Tri World Championships, you automatically qualify for 2010 Long Course Tri World Championships.

## **How many athletes are on Team USA?**

Between 16 and 18 members per age group, depending on the event, make up Team USA. Age groups are fielded in five-year increments from 18-19, 20-24, etc up to 90 years of age.

## **How long is an athlete eligible for Team USA once they are on the team?**

Athletes are current Team USA members up through the completion of the world championship event at which they qualified for and in which they competed.

## **Are athletes required to be members of USAT if they are part of Team USA?**

Yes. All athletes are required to be annual members of USA Triathlon before qualifying for Team USA. To register or renew, click [here](#).

## **What benefits does an athlete receive if he/she is a member of Team USA?**

- **Travel:** USAT provides travel packages specifically for world championships, which usually include: airport/hotel transfers, bicycle transportation at destination, lodging and other benefits. Most U.S. athletes travel as part of the prepared package and with other U.S. athletes. All costs are borne by the athlete. Land package costs usually run between \$150-\$250 per person per day (foreign hotels can be very expensive). Athletes are free to book housing separate from the package but do so at the expense of lost team camaraderie.

- **Insurance:** The USOC provides coverage under the foreign assistance program. TravMed is an insurance plan designed for short-term travel and can be utilized by either U.S. athletes traveling outside the country or incoming foreign athletes or teams. The cost of this benefit under the USOC's blanket program is \$3 per person per day. This program includes a \$100,000 expense benefit. This may be important for travelers whose personal medical coverage is restricted to the U.S. and its territories. The maximum duration for travel under this program option is 70 days. Medex has waived, for the Olympic family, the exclusions related to sports participation. This insurance is extended to athletes for select world events
- **Support Team:** USAT has assigned a user fee to every athlete who qualifies for the U.S. team. The purpose of this fee is to cover the base cost for the entire support team to be in attendance at the event and offer special services to team members. The costs are modest compared to the services provided by the hard-working staff. This fee is subject to be changed each season based on the event's location.
- **Communication:** Athletes on each of the world teams receive periodic e-mails from the national office with updates on the various race related activities. Updates also appear on the USAT web site <http://www.teamusatriathlon.org/>. The goal is to have all of the applicable information on the website for easy access. There is also a monthly newsletter that is sent out to current team members.
- **Networking:** The most exciting part of being on Team USA is the friends that you make. Many athletes make it a priority to get to know others by eating meals, riding, swimming and running together and just hanging out in the host hotel lobby. You also get to meet athletes from all across the world.
- **Uniforms and Gear:** You get the option of buying Team USA gear and uniforms at a discount and low price. <http://www.usatstore.com/>. There is World Championship collectors memorabilia for each race available for purchase.
- **Nationals Qualification:** If you are a current member of Team USA, you automatically qualify for the Nationals next year.

## How many events are athletes on Team USA required to compete or race in?

Athletes must compete and qualify in at least one qualifying event.

## Do members of Team USA wear the same uniforms?

Yes they do. USAT provides a clothing package for all ITU world championship teams. Athletes will only have to purchase the competitive gear (consists of a singlet or shorts/top). These items will change each season, so they will remain as part of the mandatory package. The remaining portion of the package, considered optional, consists of many items from training tops and running shorts to warm-up jackets and hats.

When athletes order their uniform they will be sent a sponsor goody package as well consisting of the Team USA parade shirt, a Team USA hat by SweatVac, a Speedo/Team USA swimcap, Hammer gel samples, Yankz! shoe laces, and Defeet USAT socks.

Further information will be sent to those confirmed on the team in the periodic updates. The

approximate cost of the mandatory package is \$150. Uniform rules and prices are subject to yearly changes. Athletes pay additional shipping and handling costs for having the clothing shipped.

## **How much does it cost to be a member of Team USA?**

All athletes registering for a world championship are required to pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit per event. This \$50 deposit is the user fee that will help fund the USAT Support Staff traveling to the World Championship such as a Team USA Manager, a Team USA Doctor, a Team USA Chiropractor, and a Team USA Mechanic. Once the International Triathlon Union (ITU) announces the entry fee each athlete who paid their deposit must then pay the entry fee to USA Triathlon. This cost can vary between \$150- \$400 depending on the race.

Traveling to the World Championship event is at the expense of the individual (flight, hotel, food, bike transport).

- This can be done through the USAT travel partner, Polk Majestic Travel. Click [here](#) to get in touch with Polk.

Uniforms must be purchased every year and therefore must be compliant with the current ITU uniform rules. This cost is expensed by the athlete and generally run approximately \$150.

## **How is Team USA funded?**

Team USA is funded through the remaining registration funds and national sponsors.

## **What if I want to cancel my Team USA registration?**

All cancellations must be received in writing to [teamusa@usatriathlon.org](mailto:teamusa@usatriathlon.org). The \$50 deposit is non-refundable. If you cancel between two and four months prior to your respective race, you will be granted a refund of the ITU entry fee minus a \$25 administrative fee via a check from USA Triathlon. If you cancel less than two months before the race you will not be eligible for the ITU entry fee refund.

## **How can I get more information on Team USA?**

The Team USA website is your best bet for up to date information. Be sure to visit [www.teamusatriathlon.org](http://www.teamusatriathlon.org) regularly. You can also email the Team USA manager [teamusa@usatriathlon.org](mailto:teamusa@usatriathlon.org).