OVERVIEW
The goal of the Elite Athlete Development Support (Pre-National Team) criteria is to provide funding opportunities for developmental elite athletes currently racing as international-caliber Junior Elites (18-19 years old), Collegiate Elites, Under 23s (18-23 years old), and other athletes meeting the eligibility criteria below, prior to qualifying for National Team Program status within the USAT High Performance pipeline and funded support structure. With this support, USA Triathlon aims to assist athletes in their advancement through each level of International Triathlon Union (ITU) events (Continental Cups, World Cups and World Triathlon Series) and entry to the National Team Program.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY
In order to be eligible for Elite Athlete Development Support, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a citizen of the United States or be eligible to race for the United States;
- Must hold a current USAT Elite License;
- Must abide by all USAT, USOC, ITU, USADA and WADA anti-doping policies and procedures and be in good standing with these organizations.

AUTOMATIC STANDARD
Athletes achieve the automatic standard by earning any three (3) of the following qualifying results in a twelve (12) month period with at least one (1) achieved at the Olympic Distance:

- Top 10 finish at a World Triathlon Series event
- Top 8 finish at a World Cup event
- Top 3 finish at an ITU Continental Cup. No more than one Continental Cup result will be accepted from outside the Continental United States, Canada, Europe, Australia or New Zealand
- Top 5 finish at the ITU U23 World Championships
- Top 5 at FISU World University Championships (next held in 2018)
- Top 3 finish at CAMTRI Triathlon American Championships
- Top 5 finish at the ITU Junior World Triathlon Championships
- Win CAMTRI Junior Championships
- Win USAT Junior Elite National Championships

DISCRETIONARY STANDARD
Athletes may earn consideration for Elite Athlete Development Support by meeting one (1) of the following discretionary standards:

- Top 15 finish at a World Triathlon Series event (Olympic Distance)
- Top 10 finish at a World Cup event (Olympic Distance)
- By achieving any two (2) of the results listed above under the Automatic Standard
- Invitation by the High Performance General Manager

DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Athletes who qualify for Elite Athlete Development Support are required to submit a Development Plan to USAT High Performance for the proposed period of funding. Plans will be reviewed by the department staff and discussed with the Athlete and his/her coach(es) prior to acceptance of all or part of the proposed plan. The Development Plan must include the following:
• **Statement of Eligibility** (e.g. how did the athlete qualify);
• **Summary of Results** for previous 12 months with notation of significant injuries or medical conditions that impacted performance;
• **Description of Training Environment** including location(s), access to facilities, training partners, and coaching support (e.g. DTE, HPT, college program);
• **Proposed Competition/Training Camp Plan** for the funding period (e.g. European training base with associated race schedule); and,
• **Goals and Anticipated Outcomes** (e.g. specific performance improvement sought and analysis of “potential” results based on current fitness testing and research of quality of field at proposed events).
• If this is a Collegiate Elite proposal, include a summary of the student-athlete’s course load, NCAA commitments, critical down-times (mid-terms, finals, practicums) and high-level review of out of pocket expenses (tuition, fees, room and board, books per semester).

Plans that pass an initial threshold for approval at USAT’s discretion, or which meet the Automatic Standard, will lead to an athlete interview conducted by a member of the High Performance staff. The purpose of this interview will be to refine the Development Plan and ensure that the athlete’s goals and anticipated outcomes align with USAT’s funding objectives for the year. [Note: During the course of an Olympic Quad, funding priorities shift.] The athlete’s coach is invited to participate. If the athlete is a minor, his or her parents are invited to participate as well.

**FUNDING AND EQUIPMENT**

Athletes who achieve the **Automatic Standard** qualify for the following funding and benefits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Living Stipend</th>
<th>Travel Reimbursement</th>
<th>Coaching Stipend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1500/qtr*</td>
<td>TBD based on approved Development Plan</td>
<td>$900/qtr*</td>
</tr>
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* This stipend is the guaranteed support for an athlete meeting the automatic standard. The final amount in individual contracts will be determined after review and approval of the Development Plan.

Based on the proposed Development Plan and athlete interview, USAT may offer a funding contract for a specified period of time to athletes meeting the **Discretionary Standard**. Mutually agreeable review points and benchmarks will be included in the contract. A renewal option may be included as well. Any travel funding will be made on a reimbursement basis, unless prearranged with USAT High Performance staff on a mutually agreeable timeframe (note: requests for USAT staff to assist with travel booking should be made at least 30 days prior to the departure date and will be time permitting). In the event that the amounts outlined in the **USAT Incentive Plan** represent more than what is provided for in the contract, additional reimbursements may be available at the values listed in the **USAT Incentive Plan**. All reimbursements are for actual and necessary expenses only.

Equipment loaned to the athlete, with the exception of clothing items, remains the property of USA Triathlon and must be returned in the same condition, reasonable wear and tear excepted, at the conclusion of the contract period.

Athletes enrolled in a full or part-time university program working towards a degree and committed to year-round preparation for draft-legal triathlon may request consideration of scholarship support as part of their proposed Development Plan.