2018 Triple Crown Tour Event Participation Requirements

Based on their finish from the prior year’s Triple Crown Tour season, teams are placed into flights for the following year. Teams in the top two flights, Pro and Elite, qualify for and are required to attend certain flight-specific events. Top Select teams are also required to attend one flight-specific event. The following outline describes the regular season participation requirements for Pro and Elite teams in order to 1) maintain eligibility for the 2018 season and series and 2) qualify to bypass Sectionals and start the post-season at Regionals.

1. **Pro Flight 1st-4th (2017 Nationals semi-finalists)**
   a. Eligibility for Series
      i. 1 required event
         1. US Open
      ii. 10 required sanctioned games
   b. Eligibility for bye to Regionals
      i. 1 optional event
         1. Pro Finale
            a. Priority bid
         2. Pro-Elite Challenge
            a. Priority bid
         3. Elite-Select Challenge
            a. Wait list bid if available
         4. Select Flight Invite
            a. Wait list bid if available

2. **Pro Flight 5th-8th (2017 Nationals teams that finished 5th-8th)**
   a. Eligibility for Series
      i. 1 required event
         1. Pro-Elite Challenge
      ii. 10 required sanctioned games
   b. Eligibility for bye to Regionals
      i. 1 optional event
         1. US Open
            a. Priority bid
         2. Pro Finale
            a. Priority bid
         3. Elite-Select Challenge
            a. Wait list bid if available
         4. Select Flight Invite
            a. Wait list bid if available

3. **Elite Flight (2017 Nationals teams that finished 9th-16th)**
   a. Eligibility for Series
      i. 1 required event
         1. Elite-Select Challenge
      ii. 10 required sanctioned games
   b. Eligibility for bye to Regionals
      i. 1 optional event
         1. US Open
            a. Wait list bid if available
         2. Pro-Elite Challenge
            a. Priority bid
         3. Select Flight Invite
            a. 4 Priority bids
b. Wait list bid if available
4. Pro Finale
   a. Wait list bid if available

4. Top Select (Highest placing team in each regional event, that did not qualify to 2017 Nationals)
   a. Eligibility for Series
      i. 1 required event
         1. Elite-Select Challenge
            OR
         2. Select Flight Invite
      ii. 10 required sanctioned games

Note: Top Select teams must attend one of these two events, and will receive a wait list bid to the other event, if available.
   b. Eligibility for bye to Regionals
      i. n/a–All Select teams, including Top Select, must qualify for Regionals through Sectionals
Waiting Lists for TCT Flights and Events

1. Flight Vacancies - Vacancies in TCT flights will be offered to teams in order of TCT flight (Pro, Elite, Top Select, Select, and Classic), as specified below. Within each flight, the waiting list order shall be decided as follows:
   a. General wait list order
      i. For Pro and Elite Flights, the primary factor shall be placement at the previous season’s National Championships.
         1. In the event of a tie, the secondary factor shall be ranking from the previous season.
         2. In the event of another tie, order shall be determined by standard event tie-break criteria (i.e. head to head, etc.).
      ii. For Top Select, Select, and Classic Flights, the primary factor shall be ranking from the previous season.
         1. In the event of a tie, order shall be determined by standard event tie-break criteria (i.e. head to head, etc.).
      iii. Note: “Ranking” as used above refers to final end of year ranking from the previous season.
   b. Flight-specific wait list order
      i. Pro Flight: Elite, Top Select, Select, Classic
      ii. Elite Flight: Top Select, Select, Classic
      iii. Select Flight: Regional finish order within the same region

2. Event Vacancies - Vacancies at specific TCT events will be offered to teams in order of TCT flight (Pro, Elite, Select, and Classic), as specified below. Within each flight, the waiting list order shall be decided as follows:
   a. General wait list order
      i. For Pro and Elite Flights, the primary factor shall be placement at the previous season’s National Championships.
         1. In the event of a tie, the secondary factor shall be ranking from the previous season.
         2. In the event of another tie, order shall be determined by standard event tie-break criteria (i.e. head to head, etc.).
      ii. For Select and Classic Flights, the primary factor shall be ranking from the previous season.
         1. In the event of a tie, order shall be determined by standard event tie-break criteria (i.e. head to head, etc.).
      iii. Note: “Ranking” as used above refers to final end of year ranking from the previous season.
   b. Event-specific wait list order
      i. Pro-Elite Challenge [July 7-8, 2018 – Broomfield, CO]
         1. This is a required event for the bottom 4 Pro Flight finishers (5th-8th) from the previous season’s National Championships. Initial invites go to the top 4 Pro finishers from the previous season’s Nationals and the 8 Elite flight teams.
         2. Waiting list order: Select, Classic.
      ii. Select Flight Invite [July 28-29, 2018 – Salt Lake City, UT]
         1. Initial invites go to 12 Select teams and 4 Elite teams.
         2. Waiting list order for Elite bids: Pro, Select, Classic
         3. Waiting list order for Select bids: Select, Classic

*Top Select teams will receive bid priority to either the Select Flight Invite or Elite-Select Challenge. Top Select teams that decline to participate in the Select Flight Invite must participate in the Elite-Select Challenge.*
iii. **US Open Club Championships** [August 3-5, 2018 – Blaine, MN]

1. This is a required event for the semifinalists from the previous season’s National Championships. Initial invites go to the bottom 4 Pro finishers from the previous season’s Nationals. 4 additional spots are reserved for international teams, provided USA Ultimate can fill the spots with competitive international teams by the TCT season commitment deadline.

2. Waiting list order: Elite, Select, Classic.

iv. **Elite-Select Challenge** [August 18-19, 2018 – Hilliard, OH]

1. Initial invites go to the 8 Elite teams and the 8 Top Select* teams.

2. Waiting list order for Elite bids: Pro (in reverse order of Nationals finish, from 8th – 1st place), Select, Classic

3. Waiting list order for Top Select bids: series finish order among Pro and Select teams from the same region as the team which declined. If no Pro or Select team from that region accepts the bid, then it is treated as an Elite bid (see above).

*Top Select teams will receive bid priority to either the Elite-Select Challenge or the Select Flight Invite. Top Select teams that decline to participate in the Elite-Select Challenge must participate in the Select Flight Invite.

v. **Pro Championships** [September 1-3, 2018 – Middletown/New York, NY]

1. Initial invites go to the 8 pro teams.

   a. Waiting list order: Elite, Select, Classic.

2. 2 additional invites go to the finalist of the 2018 Pro-Elite Challenge.

   a. Waiting list order: Finish order of the Pro-Elite Challenge.

3. USA Ultimate reserves the right to modify the above rules to fill event vacancies in emergency situations.