



AGE GROUP WORLD CHAMPS SELECTION POLICY AND CRITERIA

ITU STANDARD DISTANCE TRIATHLON GRAND FINAL **[Location and Date to be confirmed by ITU]**

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A. OBJECTIVE

To promote the growth of triathlon and its related disciplines by selecting athletes to represent New Zealand who have demonstrated the ability to finish within the top three quarters of the World Championship age-group field.

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Selections will be made by the Age Group Selection Commission (**Selectors**) based on the criteria outlined in this policy.
2. It is the athlete's responsibility to enter the nominated selection event/s through the event website.
3. Selection nomination forms **MUST** be received by Triathlon New Zealand (**Tri NZ**) no later than **2 working days following** the nominated selection event/s. This rule will be strictly enforced.
4. Subject to clause **Error! Reference source not found.**, to be eligible (**Eligible Athlete**) for selection in a Tri NZ National Age Group Team (**Team**), you **MUST** on selection race day:
 - 4.1. Be a citizen of New Zealand, be a permanent resident of New Zealand or have been residing in New Zealand for a minimum of 12 months (subject to clause **Error! Reference source not found.** below); and
 - 4.2. Be a current member of Tri NZ (TRIBE) and be in good standing with Tri NZ; and
 - 4.3. Be a current member of a Tri NZ Affiliated Club (List of clubs available at www.triathlon.kiwi) subject to clause **Error! Reference source not found.** below.
5. If an athlete is not a resident in New Zealand, then refer to "F (ii) Athletes Living Overseas" below.
6. International Triathlon Union (ITU) Constitutional rules apply to naturalised persons and those with dual citizenship. If an athlete has represented another nation at an ITU World Championships or if there is any doubt regarding an athlete's eligibility to compete for New Zealand the athlete should contact the Tri NZ for clarification.
7. Age group categorisation will be based on an athlete's age as at 31 December of the year of the World Championship event. Age groups for male and females will be: 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79 and older age group competitors will also be considered.
8. The nominated selection event will use an athlete's age as at 31 December 2021 for selection into the appropriate age group category.
9. Age-Group Teams are self-financed. By submitting a selection nomination form and accepting selection to the Team the athlete acknowledges that he or she will be responsible for funding their own travel, accommodation, race entry, uniform, insurance and administrative costs.
10. Due to the desire to create a great team culture and to enhance team management, selected athletes are encouraged to stay at the nominated Team accommodation.
11. A breakdown of fees will be provided to the athletes by the Tri NZ office at the time of selection announcement.
12. It is the responsibility of athletes to ensure that their selection nomination form and/or special circumstance form has been received by Tri NZ within the set-out deadlines.
13. On announcement of the Team, each athlete is required to provide Tri NZ satisfactory evidence of this compliance with clauses 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 as at selection event day; to pay a Tri NZ Team Administration Fee (\$275NZD); and complete an athlete agreement to confirm their position in the Team.
14. ITU competition rules state that athletes must obtain insurance to compete at ITU World Championship events. Upon accepting a position on the Team, selected athletes agree to abide by the rules set out by the ITU and Tri NZ regarding insurance. Tri NZ have a nominated insurance provider to administer the insurance requirements of Tri NZ and the ITU. It is a requirement of all athletes selected to join the Team to use this nominated provider. Upon selection into the Team athletes will be provided with the information relating to this insurance cover before being asked to commit to the Team.

C. MAXIMUM NATIONAL AGE GROUP TEAM SIZE

15. The maximum National Age Group Team size is determined by the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Competition Rules. These rules allow Tri NZ to select up to **20 males and 20 females per age group** in each race distance. Should this number be exceeded as a result of the selection process Triathlon New Zealand will apply for additional spots from the ITU (but no guarantee can be given that any such application will be successful).

D. SELECTION COMMISSION

16. The role of assessing athletes against the selection criteria is the responsibility of the Selectors who are appointed by the Tri NZ Board.

E. SELECTION CRITERIA

ITU Triathlon Grand Final – [Location and Date to be confirmed by ITU].

Selection Channel	ITU slots available per AG
Primary selection events (including 2020 qualifiers – see below)	Maximum of 16
Special Circumstances	4 (subject to adjustment as noted in clauses 26 to 28)

17. The Primary Selection Events are:
- 17.1. Tri NZ Suzuki Standard Triathlon North Island Championship (**NI Selection Event**), Mt Maunganui, Sunday 8 November 2020
 - 17.2. Tri NZ Suzuki Standard Triathlon South Island Championship (**SI Selection Event**), Christchurch, Sunday 31 January 2021
- (together, the **Primary Selection Events**)
18. **PLEASE NOTE:** In light of the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the COVID 19 Pandemic and the cancelation of the 2020 World Championships by the ITU, all athletes who were selected for the 2020 Triathlon NZ Age Group Team will retain their selection status subject to them completing at a minimum of one event of an equivalent distance and type within the Triathlon New Zealand National Series 2020/21 (**Qualifying Event**).
19. Accordingly, subject to clauses 20 to 26, Eligible Athletes within each age and gender group will be selected for the 2021 Team in the following order of priority:
- 19.1. **2020 Athletes:** All Eligible Athletes who were selected for the 2020 Triathlon NZ Age Group Team and who have competed in at least one Qualifying Event, will be selected with priority (**2020 Priority Athletes**).
 - 19.2. **Primary Selection Events:** Eligible Athletes who either win one of the two Primary Selection Events or finish within 20% of the winner at one of the Primary Selection Events will be allocated places in the Team based on their finishing place (with priority given to the highest places) until (together with all 2020 Priority Athletes), all 16 places have been allocated. These places will be allocated based on the finishing place in the relevant Primary Selection Event. For example, if there are 10 2020 Priority Athletes in a particular age/gender group, 6 places will be available at the Primary Selection Events, meaning that (provided they all come within 20% of the winner) the first, second and third place-getter in each Primary Selection Event will be allocated places.
20. In the unlikely event that an Eligible Athlete that competes in the NI Selection Event and an Eligible Athlete that competes in the SI Selection Event have the same finishing place and there is only one remaining allocation place available, the place will be allocated to the Athlete whose result is the closest (by percentage) to the winner of their race..
21. If Tri NZ successfully applies for an additional allocation of Team places, these places will be allocated in accordance with clause 19.2 until all additional allocated places have been assigned, provided that each

Eligible Athlete that is selected has finished within 20% of the winner of the relevant race.

22. Please note that Eligible Athletes must finish within 20% of the winner in order to be allocated a place in the Team under clause 19. Accordingly, it is possible that an Eligible Athlete that has a higher placing in one Primary Selection Event (but is not within 20% of the winner) does not get selected but an Eligible Athlete that has a lower placing in the other Primary Selection Event (but is within 20% of the winner of that race) is selected.
23. In accordance with the Tri NZ Competition Rules, and for the purpose of a fair selection criteria throughout all age groups, the time of an athlete who holds current Professional or Elite status with any ITU Member National Triathlon Governing Body, World Triathlon Corporation's (WTC's) Pro Membership Program or having raced as an elite/professional in any event during the past 12 months will not be considered in the age group selection times, (and their result and placing will not be counted for the purposes of calculating any Eligible Athlete's place in one of the Primary Selection Events for the purposes of clause 19.2), nor shall such athlete be eligible for selection as an age group athlete. This exclusion does not apply to athletes whose only Elite race in the past 12 months was an ITU Continental Cup. Refer to the ITU rules regarding eligibility for more details.
24. Athletes aged 16-19 will be eligible for the 16-19 age group selection unless they have raced as a junior elite at an ITU World Championships during the past 12 months (in which case they will not be considered in the age group selection times (and their result and placing will not be counted for the purposes of calculating any Eligible Athlete's place in one of the Primary Selection Events for the purposes of clause 19.2), nor shall such athlete be eligible for selection as an age group athlete). This rule will also apply to athletes moving from 16-19 age group, into the 20-24 age group in the next calendar year
25. In the circumstance that a winner of an age group is 10 minutes or more ahead of the second-place athlete, the 20% allowance will be taken from the 2nd placed athlete's finishing time, e.g. time of first place athlete is 3:00:00 and second place is 3:15:00, the 20% will be taken from the 3:15:00 time.
26. In the event that following the selection of Eligible Athletes as provided in clauses 17 to 25, less than 16 athletes have been allocated in each age and gender group, then at the selector's discretion the number of Special Circumstances slots may be increased up to the number of slots that have not been allocated (as an example, if following the primary selection event only 10 slots have been allocated, a maximum of 10 Special Circumstances slots will be available).
27. Eligible Athletes that podium (1st, 2nd or 3rd) at an official ITU World Championship event (while representing New Zealand) will be granted Special Circumstance entry into the same team the following year. This is provided they can prove on-going dedication and have maintained physical fitness. Athletes who are selected by this method must submit their Special Circumstance form within two working days of the final selection event. If an Eligible Athlete qualifies by this method, the number of Special Circumstance slots for the age group will reduce accordingly. For example, if in the women's 40-44 age group, a NZ athlete places third, there will only be 3 Special Consideration slots available for the following year's selection race in that distance. Should the number of Eligible Athletes who meet the criteria at the selection events be less than the allocated slots (16 in this instance), the number of Special Circumstance spots will revert to the original allocation (in this case 4).
28. The remaining available slots (unless reduced as provided in clause 27 or increased due to the non-allocation of slots at the Primary Election Event) will be determined by selector discretion following special circumstance procedures set out in F below.

F. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE APPLICATIONS/SLOTS

29. Eligible Athletes who claim Special Circumstances will be required to provide relevant recent race results. Results must relate to the distances/discipline that the application is being made for or provide clear evidence of relevance to the event. All race results must show the applicants finishing within 10% of first place in their respective age-group of the event (e.g. 35-39) and be no more than 6 months old, unless the Eligible Athlete lives in the northern hemisphere. In this case results up to 12 months old will be considered. Links should be provided to online race results and relevant contextual information about the event(s) (e.g. size of fields) should be included. This will help the Selectors understand the relevance of the race(s) concerned in determining that the Eligible Athlete concerned has the ability to finish in the top three quarters of the World Championship age-group field.
30. Special Circumstance Applications carry a fee of \$100 + the Active Network service fee, GST inclusive.

31. The Special Circumstance Application fee is to acknowledge the manual review process which is undertaken by the Age Group Selection Commission in respect of Special Circumstances applications. This Fee is non-refundable, regardless of the applications outcome.
32. In certain cases, when granting and allocating Special Circumstances slots, the Selectors may request an athlete to carry out a fitness trial by a certain date to demonstrate fitness and form for the athlete's chosen event.
33. Athletes who wish to make a Special Circumstances Application will need to complete and submit their special circumstance form online no later than [Date to be determined].. In no circumstances will late selection applications for Special Circumstances Applications be considered. The special circumstances form must be fully completed and include all the details required in the first instance, as incomplete applications will be declined.
34. Special circumstance applications will only be considered in the following instances:
 - 34.1. Eligible Athletes who have entered a selection event and their performance was adversely affected by illness/injury/mechanical problems.
 - 34.2. Athletes based overseas:
 - 34.2.1 Tri NZ encourages all Eligible Athletes based overseas to compete in the Primary Selection Events, but if an Eligible Athlete's circumstances prevent the Eligible Athlete travelling to New Zealand to attend a Primary Selection Event they may still be considered for Special Circumstance selection provided they meet the following criteria:
 - 34.2.2 be a current member of Tri NZ (TRIBE); and
 - 34.2.3 be a citizen of New Zealand; and
 - 34.2.4 provide written evidence of their overseas address during the NZ selection season upon request from Tri NZ; and
 - 34.2.5 Membership with an affiliated New Zealand triathlon club is strongly encouraged but is not compulsory.
 - 34.3. Inability to compete at any Primary Selection Event due to health/surgery/other extenuating circumstances.
 - 34.4. Junior / U23 athletes: Athletes who have raced in Junior Elites or Under 23 selection races but not age group selection races will not receive automatic selection into age group teams. For such athletes, a special circumstance application must be made.
35. A Special Circumstance Application does not guarantee selection. Selection is subject to Selectors' discretion.

G. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

36. Tri NZ will endeavour to notify the automatic age group selected Eligible Athletes of their place in the Team within 10 days of the last of the Primary Selection Events..
37. Where practicable, Tri NZ will announce the full provisional Team (excluding Special Circumstance Application announcements) within 30 days of the last of the Primary Selection Events. By this time, the Eligible Athlete will have been required to formally accept their position on the team and have paid their Team Admin Fee (NZD275). The provisional team list will be posted on the Tri NZ website, but official confirmation will be sent by email to each individual member.
38. Decisions about Special Circumstance applications will be confirmed by [date to be determined].

H. APPEALS

39. If an Eligible Athlete considers they have been unfairly or unreasonably excluded from selection, they should contact the Community Manager (Chair of the Selectors) within 7 days of the public announcement of the Team in question to request a review of their non-selection. And the Community Manager will review the selection decision and advise the affected Eligible Athlete of the outcome of that review.
40. If, following the Community Manager's review an Eligible Athlete is still not selected and they wish to appeal the decision of the Selectors then the Eligible Athlete may lodge an appeal within 7 days of being advised of the outcome of the Community Manager's review.
41. In respect of any such dispute concerning age group and other Eligible Athletes (other than Elite Athletes), this shall be determined by a Selection Appeal Panel appointed by the Board as stipulated in the Tri NZ Constitution 'Selection Disputes'. The Selection Appeal Panel shall be constituted by the Board within 14 days of receipt by Tri NZ of a written notice of appeal. The Selection Appeal Panel shall decide which of its members shall act as its Chairperson, shall set its own procedures, and shall hear and determine the appeal. The Selection Appeal Panel shall give all parties a fair hearing and at all times act in accordance with the principles of natural justice. The Selection Appeal Panel's decision shall not be subject to further appeal.