

AGE GROUP WORLD CHAMPS SELECTION POLICY AND CRITERIA

2026 WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS PONTEVEDRA, SPAIN – TBC

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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 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 **14 days following** the nominated selection event/s. This rule will be strictly enforced.
4. To be eligible for selection in a Tri NZ National Age-Group Team ("eligible athlete"), 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 6 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 triathlon.kiwi) Subject to 5. below.
5. If an athlete is not a resident in New Zealand, then refer to "F (ii) Athletes Living Overseas" below.
6. World Triathlon (WT) Constitutional Rules apply to naturalised persons and those with dual citizenship. If an athlete has represented another nation at a World Triathlon Championships or if there is any doubt regarding an athlete's eligibility to compete for New Zealand the athlete should contact the TriNZ 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 open and female 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, 80-84, 85-90 and older age group competitors will also be considered.
8. The nominated selection event will use an athlete's age as at 31 December of the year of the selection event 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 a National Age Group Team the athlete acknowledges that her 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 physical evidence of 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 as at selection event day; to pay a Tri NZ Team Administration Fee (\$335NZD + the GameDay service fee); and complete an athlete agreement to confirm their position in the team.
14. World Triathlon competition rules state that athletes must attain insurance in order to compete at World Triathlon Championship events. Upon accepting a position on an Age Group team, selected athletes agree to abide by the rules set out by the World Triathlon and Tri NZ regarding insurance. Tri NZ have a nominated insurance provider to administer the requirements of Tri NZ and the World Triathlon. It is a requirement of all athletes selected in the Team to use this nominated provider. Upon selection into the Team athletes will be provided with the respective information of 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 World Triathlon (WT) Competition Rules. These rules allow Tri NZ to select up to **20 open and 20 female per age group** in each race distance.

D. SELECTION COMMISSION

16. The role of assessing athletes against the selection criteria is the responsibility of the Tri NZ Age Group Selection Commission, which is appointed by the Tri NZ Board.

**E. SELECTION CRITERIA for all Age Groups
2026 World Triathlon Championship Finals
Pontevedra, Spain – TBC**

Selection Channel	World Triathlon slots available per Age Group
Primary selection event	Maximum of 16
Special circumstances	4 (subject to adjustment as noted in clauses 21 and 22)

17. The primary selection event is:

The qualifying for events for selection to the World Triathlon Championship Finals are:

- [Standard Triathlon](#) – Tinman Triathlon – 23rd November 2025
- [Standard Aquabike](#) – Kinloch Triathlon Festival – 14th February 2026
- [Sprint Triathlon](#) – Napier Triathlon Festival – 1st March 2026

18. Subject to the other terms of this policy, the first 16 eligible athletes in each age and gender group to cross the line at the primary selection event will gain automatic selection, as long as their finishing time is within 20% of first place in their respective age and gender group. Selection is subject to selectors' discretion.
19. 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 World Triathlon 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, nor shall such athlete be eligible for selection as an age group athlete. This is subject to the exemptions in a. and b. below.
- a. Athletes whose only Elite race in the past 12 months was a World Triathlon Continental Cup will remain eligible for participation in age group races and will be eligible for medals and awards. Refer to the World Triathlon rules regarding eligibility for more details.
20. Athletes aged 16-19 will be eligible for the 16-19 age group medals/awards unless they have raced as a junior elite at a World Triathlon Championships during the past 12 months. This rule will also apply to athletes moving from 16-19 age group, into the 20-24 age group in the next calendar year
21. 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.
22. In the event that following the selection of eligible athletes as provided in clauses 18 and 19, 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).
23. Athletes that podium (1st, 2nd or 3rd) at an official World Triathlon Championship event (while representing New Zealand) will be granted special circumstance entry into the same team the following year. This is provided they are able to 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 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 athletes who meet the criteria at the selection events be less than the allocated slots (16 in this instance), the number of special circumstance slots will revert to the original allocation (in this case 4).

24. The remaining available slots (unless reduced as provided in clause 23 or increased due to the non-allocation of slots at the Primary selection event) will be determined by selector discretion following special circumstance procedures set out in F below.

F. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE APPLICATIONS/SLOTS

25. Athletes who claim special circumstances will be required to provide relevant recent race results. Results must be for 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 20% 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 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 athlete concerned has the ability to finish in the top three quarters of the World Championship Age Group field.
26. Special Circumstance Applications carry a fee of \$100 + the GameDay service fee, GST inclusive.
27. The Special Circumstance Application fee is to acknowledge the manual review process which is undertaken by the Age Group Selection Commission as well as selection through qualifying at the elected selection event. This Fee is non-refundable, regardless of the applications outcome.
28. 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.
29. Athletes who wish to make a Special Circumstances Application will need to complete and submit their special circumstance form online no later than 15th April 2026. 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.
30. Special circumstance applications will only be considered in the following instances:
- 30.1 Athletes who have entered a selection event and their performance was adversely affected by illness/injury/mechanical problems:
- 30.2 Athletes based overseas:
- 30.2.1 Tri NZ encourages all athletes based overseas to compete in the primary selection event/s, but if an athlete's circumstances prevent the athlete travelling to New Zealand to attend the selection event they may still be considered for special circumstance selection provided they meet the following criteria the athlete must:
- 28.2.1.2 be a current member of Tri NZ (TRIBE); and
- 28.2.1.2 be a citizen of New Zealand; and
- 28.2.1.3 provide written evidence of their overseas address during the NZ selection season upon request from Triathlon NZ.
- 28.2.2 Membership with an affiliated New Zealand triathlon club is strongly encouraged but is not compulsory.
- 28.30 Inability to compete at the primary selection event due to health/surgery/other extenuating circumstances.
- 28.31 Junior / U23 athletes:
- 28.31.1 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.

31. A Special Circumstance Application does not guarantee selection. Selection is subject to selector discretion.

G. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT

32. Tri NZ will endeavour to notify the automatic age group selected athletes of their place in the team within 10 days of a selection event. If a team place is not taken by one of the automatic qualifiers, a roll down process will occur for eligible athletes outside the automatic selection slot allowance but within the 20% time limit of the first-place getter in their respective age group (or second place athlete if the winner is more than 10 minutes faster than the second place athlete).
33. Where practicable, Tri NZ will announce the full provisional Age Group Team (excluding Special Circumstance Application announcements) by the 30th of April 2026. By this time, the athlete will have been required to formally accept their position on the team and have paid their Team Admin Fee (NZD335). The provisional team list will be posted on the Tri NZ website, but official confirmation will be sent by email to each individual member.
34. Decisions about Special Circumstance applications will be confirmed by 15th May 2026.

H. APPEALS

35. If an athlete considers they have been unfairly or unreasonably excluded from selection, he or she should contact the Age Group Experience Manager (Chair of the Selection Commission) within 7 days of the public announcement of the team in question to request a review of their non-selection. The Age Group Experience Manager will review the selection decision and advise the affected athlete of the outcome of that review.
36. If, following the Age Group Experience Manager's review an athlete is still not selected and they wish to appeal the decision of the selectors then the athlete may lodge an appeal within 7 days of being advised of the outcome of the Community Manager's review.
37. In respect of any such dispute concerning age group and other 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.