



## AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY

### CATEGORIES AND EVENTS

Triathlon Australia (TA) conducted a High Performance National Athlete Pathway Workshop in January on the Gold Coast to discuss the future structure of our athlete talent pathway and to develop the National Athlete Pathway Framework for High Performance (NAPF-HP). Based on the feedback and input from many junior development and athlete pathway stakeholders from all over Australia including School Sport Australia, TA will implement the following changes outlined in this document to the race/membership categories and events within the National Athlete Pathway.

The amendments will form important key drivers within Triathlon Australia's NAPF-HP as part of Australia's Winning Edge (AWE) funding requirements set by the AIS.

The membership category amendments will take place from **1<sup>st</sup> July 2016**.

#### **NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY - CATEGORIES**

##### **Existing NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY Categories**

- ITU Youth (13-15yrs)
- ITU Junior (16-19yrs)
- PROFESSIONAL LICENCE
  - U23 Development
  - Open Elite
  - Long Course/Multi-Sport

##### **NEW NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY Categories for 2017** (Age as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017)

- **ITU Youth (13-16yrs)\***
  - ITU Youth A (15 & 16yrs)
  - ITU Youth B (13 & 14yrs)
- **ITU Junior (17-19yrs)\***
- **ITU U23 (20-23yrs)\*\***
- **PROFESSIONAL LICENCE**
  - U23 Development
  - Open Elite
  - Long Course/Multi-Sport

**\*Amended Category**

**\*\* New Category**

**ITU U23 (20-23yrs):** The introduction of the ITU U23 (20-23yrs) category is a recognition and acknowledgement of the need to create better opportunities for athletes to both transition from ITU Junior into the U23 category and for potential talent transfer athletes in their early 20's. This category will assist in facilitating the identification and development of the later maturing athlete and/or potential talent transfer athlete. This category will give ITU Junior athletes turning 20 another 2-3 years to meet the Professional Licence criteria without being forced into Age Group racing. It will also give athletes in 20-24 age group an opportunity to race draft legal triathlons within our key National Athlete Pathway events structure.

**ITU JUNIOR (17-19yrs):** The new ITU Junior (17-19yrs) category for 2017 will result in the removal of the 16yr athletes from this category.

**ITU YOUTH (13-16yrs):** The new ITU Youth (13-16yrs) category will see the addition of 16yrs athletes. The ITU Youth (13-16yrs) membership category can then be split into the following race categories if required:

- ITU Youth A (15 & 16yrs)
- ITU Youth B (13 & 14yrs)

This will provide larger states the opportunity to split the ITU Youth (13-16yrs) into two races and smaller states the ability to combine the category when they have small fields. By splitting the ITU Youth (13-16yrs) category there is significantly more flexibility when conducting events (i.e. combine or split races, vary race distances as well as recognise/acknowledge within the 2 year age group peers). Both ITU Youth A (15 & 16yrs) and ITU Youth B (13 & 14yrs) will be recognised by Triathlon Australia in Australian Youth Triathlon Series.

The new categories also ensures the National Athlete Pathway categories falls in line with the existing School Sport Australia categories, which are; Junior (13-14yrs), Intermediate (15-16yrs) and Senior (17-19yrs).

**NATIONAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (NPS):** The modifications to the Athlete Pathway Categories have also allowed the National Performance Standard (NPS) TT distance for ITU Youth (13-16yrs) to be reset at distances considered developmentally more appropriate for each age category.

For example, the NPS in 2017 may look like:

- ITU U23 (20-23yrs) SWIM 1000m & RUN 5000m
- ITU Junior (17-19yrs) SWIM 1000m & RUN 5000m
- ITU Youth A (15 & 16yrs) SWIM 400m & RUN 3000m
- ITU Youth B (13 & 14yrs) SWIM 200m & RUN 1500m

## **NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY - EVENTS**

### **Existing NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY Events**

- School Sport Australia Triathlon Championships (SSATC)
- Australian Youth Triathlon Championships (AYTC)
- Australian Junior Triathlon Series (AJTS) including:
  - Super Sprint Race Weekend
  - Australian Junior & Youth Triathlon Championships
  - OTU Oceania Junior Triathlon Championships
- OTU Oceania Sprint Distance Cup Triathlons (Pro Licence Athletes Only)
- OTU Oceania Standard Distance Cup Triathlons (Pro Licence Athletes Only)

### **NEW NATIONAL ATHLETE PATHWAY EVENTS for 2017**

- **AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TRIATHLON FESTIVAL\*\*** (ASTF)
  - Presented by School Sport Australia (SSA) & Triathlon Australia (TA).
  - A 3-4 day AUS schools multi-sport festival combining the existing SSATC & AYTC
  - Venue & Date TBC
  - **School Sport Australia Triathlon Championships** (SSA State School Teams Only)
    - Individual SSA Triathlon Championships (Draft Legal)
    - Mixed Teams Relay SSA Triathlon Championships (Draft Legal)
    - SSA State School Teams are selected by respective state school sport assoc.
  - **Australian Open Schools Triathlon** (Open to all Schools/Students across Australia)
    - Aquathlon
    - Individual Triathlon (Non-Drafting)
    - Teams Relay (Non-Drafting) – 1 swim, 1 bikes & 1 runs
- **AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TRIATHLON SERIES\*** (AYTS)
- **AUSTRALIAN JUNIOR TRIATHLON SERIES\*** (AJTS)
  - 3-4 National Junior & Youth Race Series expanding on existing AJTS including the new ITU Youth (13-16yrs) category being split into Youth A & Youth B:
    - **Super Sprint Race Weekend**
    - **Australian Youth & Junior Triathlon Championships**
    - **OTU Oceania Junior Triathlon Championships**
- **AUSTRALIAN U23 TRIATHLON SERIES\*\*** (AU23TS)
  - New national event/series concept starting with 1-2 races in 2017 (tbc)
  - Open to all athletes aged U23 (17-23) as at 31 December 2017 who hold a draft legal endorsement (i.e. ITU U23 (20-23), ITU Junior (17-19) or Age Group).
  - Opportunity for ITU U23 athletes to automatically qualify for a professional licence
- OTU Oceania Sprint Distance Cup Triathlons (Pro Licence Athletes Only)
- OTU Oceania Standard Distance Cup Triathlons (Pro Licence Athletes Only)

**\*Amended/Evolved Events**

**\*\* New Events Concept**