

# AGE GROUP TEAM CANADA

## HISTORY OF THE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

### What is Age Group Team Canada?

Age Group Team Canada is made up of all Age Group athletes who are selected to compete for Canada at International and Domestic World Championship events. This Team represents the best Age Group triathlon and multisport athletes in the country. The selection process is done primarily through a top performance at a qualifying event for each race discipline.

### History of the Qualification Process

Triathlon Canada has followed a Team Selection Process to enable the largest possible Age Group Team to represent Canada on the world stage. This was done through a two-tiered selection process. Stage 1 included all “Automatic Qualifiers”. These were all athletes who raced at a qualifying event, and placed within the allocated number of spots for their age group. Stage 2 included “General Registration” for any unclaimed spots. Anyone meeting the basic eligibility criteria could register for remaining slots.

As of 2017, many Local Organizing Committees (LOCs) operating World Championship events began to move towards offering “Open Categories”, meaning that anyone can register through the LOC to race on the World Championship course. However, this Open Category isn’t affiliated with a Federation, and athletes racing in this category are not eligible for awards.

The current Age Group Team Canada selection process does not ensure that the top Canadian athletes are competing on the world stage for Age Group Team Canada. With the addition of Open Categories, there are opportunities for athletes looking to participate at World Championship events. Triathlon Canada surveyed Age Group Athletes on how they would like to see Team Selection done moving forward with a choice between continuing to fill as many spots as possible, or following a “Qualification Only” process to send the best possible Age Group Team Canada. The results of the surveys were as follows:

#### 1. 2017 ITU Multisport World Championship Festival - Penticton

49% of surveyed athletes favoured moving to a qualification only model (434 respondents), and 51% were in favour of continuing to allocate all spots through General Registration. For this 2017 domestic World Championship event, Canada had a team of over 900 athletes; the largest Canadian Age Group Team to date. Many of which competed for their first time as part of Age Group Team Canada, and registered through Stage 2: “General Registration”.

#### 2. 2017 ITU Triathlon Grand Final - Rotterdam

53% of surveyed athletes were in favour of moving to a qualification only model (133 respondents), and 47% were in favour of continuing to allocate all spots through General Registration. Being an International World Championship event, Canada had a team of approximately 330 athletes which aligns with the typical team size for World Championship events.

With such an even split in survey results, Triathlon Canada has decided to make some changes to the Age Group Team Selection Process moving forward towards a Qualification Only model.

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## SELECTION PROCESS FAQs

### Why go to a Qualification Only Model?

The purpose of an Age Group World Championship team is to provide an opportunity for Canada's best age group athletes to represent Canada. Now that opportunities exist for athletes who don't qualify to participate in Age Group World Championship events outside of the Federation in Open Categories, we are essentially duplicating the process by offering "Stage 2". We have been trying to balance the concepts of qualification, and inclusivity of all ability levels. This has been detrimental to the prestige that should go along with qualifying for a World Championship team. Ultimately Age Group Team Canada should be about the athletes who have done the work to qualify and have earned a spot. Those that wish to race internationally and experience a World Championship course will maintain an opportunity to do so through Open Categories.

### What about the athletes who cannot qualify?

Triathlon Canada is offering one alternative to qualification in the form of Charity Entries. In an effort to recognize athletes who wish to be supporters of Triathlon Canada programs, a limited number of Charity Entries will be made available once the automatic qualification process is completed. These charitable supporters will have the opportunity to race as a member of Age Group Team Canada.

### How many spots are available?

Canada is allocated 20 spots (*per age group, per gender*) for all international Age Group World Championship events, and 25 slots if the Age Group World Championship event is held domestically.

### Where do I go to qualify?

This year, Triathlon Canada has allocated the Age Group World Championship spots to the Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs). Each province is allocated 1 spot in each qualifying discipline, and then the remaining spots are allocated based adult membership numbers for each province. The PSOs will have the first opportunity to purchase their allocated spots. If they are not claimed, they go back into the pool to be redistributed amongst the provinces, again by percentage of adult membership. **Please note:**

- a. Allocation of a single "Age Group Qualifying Spot" means one spot per age group per gender for the event (*First place athlete in every age group is eligible to claim a spot*)
- b. Triathlon Canada retains the right to allocate spots to National Championship events, and to the Age Group Charity Entry Program.

The event calendar will be determined and announced by the end of November/early December. To find qualification events in your region, you should get in touch with your PSO.

### What are the qualifying disciplines?

**Triathlon** – Sprint and Standard

**Multisport** – Aquabike, Aquathlon, Cross Triathlon, Duathlon (*Sprint and Standard*), Long Distance Triathlon, Winter Triathlon, S3 Winter Triathlon