

## 2025 TRIATHLON CANADA U23 WORLD TRIATHLON CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION POLICY

### A. INTRODUCTION

This document establishes the eligibility and selection process used by Triathlon Canada for entry into the following event.

- 2025 World Triathlon Championship Series Final Wollongong – U23

Triathlon Canada is committed to selecting the highest performing team using clear selection methods, and in accordance with World Triathlon entry criteria. The primary goal is to achieve podium performances at all tiers and levels of competition.

- Selection according to the terms of this Policy will not qualify an athlete for participation in any World Triathlon event if the athlete is not eligible according to World Triathlon's Eligibility Rules.
- World Triathlon determines the maximum number of quota positions, as per the World Triathlon's Qualification Rules, for all the aforementioned events.
- Neither this policy, nor World Triathlon's requires Triathlon Canada to select any or all athletes to the maximum number of allotted quota positions.
- This policy can be amended at any time by Triathlon Canada if Triathlon Canada is of the opinion, that such an amendment is necessary due to any change in World Triathlon guidelines, or to give effect to the Policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Triathlon Canada by Triathlon Canada. Triathlon Canada shall not be responsible or liable in any way to any one as a result of any such amendment.
- The Schedules and Appendices and any other document referred to in this document form part of this Selection Policy.
- It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand this Policy (and other supporting documents and/or policies).

In the first instance, for further clarification relating to this Policy, queries should be directed to the High-Performance Director. If an athlete is still unclear about the Policy (and other supporting documents and/or policies) operation or effect, independent legal advice should be sought.

### B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only athletes meeting the following terms will be eligible for selection.

#### 1. *World Triathlon Eligibility Criteria*

An athlete must:

- Be 20, 21, 22 or 23 years of age as of December 31, 2025
- Comply with all current World Triathlon Rules regarding citizenship, national representation, and eligibility.
- Complete the World Triathlon medical Pre-Participation Evaluation (PPE) prior to competing in any World Triathlon event.

If there is any doubt regarding eligibility to compete for Canada, athletes must contact the High-Performance Director or designate of Triathlon Canada for clarification.

## 2. *Triathlon Canada Specific Eligibility Criteria*

An athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen;
- Be members in good standing with a Triathlon Provincial Sport Organization and Triathlon Canada
- Have a current Triathlon Canada International Competition Card (ICC);
- Be deemed healthy to race as per Triathlon Canada's Competition Readiness policy
- Participate fully with Team Canada as per the Triathlon Canada Athlete Agreement
- If eligible, participate in the 2025 Triathlon Canada National Championships
- Have a coach of record that is in good standing with the Coaching Association of Canada and Triathlon Canada OR be in good standing with their respective National Sport Organization/Coaching Association

## C. SELECTION PROCESS

- Triathlon Canada is allocated up to three (3) quota spots per gender for the 2025 U23 World Triathlon Championships Wollongong. The final number of quotas spots will be communicated to Triathlon Canada by August 2025.
- The High-Performance Director reserves the right to substitute an athlete onto the start list as outlined in the substitution policy in section E.
- Discretionary selection is at the sole authority of the High-Performance Director with advisement of the High-Performance Advisory Committee and will be based on, but is not limited to, the following objective and subjective criteria (not in priority order):
  - Head-to-head racing results
  - Previous World Triathlon draft legal race results in the sprint, super sprint, and standard distances
  - Triathlon Canada Position Score evaluations of individual race performances within Triathlon Canada's Performance Analytics model (Appendix A)
  - Athlete potential, trajectory, health status etc.
  - Triathlon Canada's strategic benefit; specifically, the Mixed Relay ranking/Olympic qualification, Individual Olympic Qualification
  - World Triathlon Individual Olympic Ranking in relation to the World Triathlon/IOC Olympic Qualification System
  - Submitted ratified times as per Triathlon Canada's Ratified Times Policy

## D. NOMINATION PROCESS

- In accordance with World Triathlon rules all athlete entries into World Triathlon events are managed by Triathlon Canada;
- All athletes may submit **Expressions of Interest** (EOI) for World Triathlon events as of December 13, 2024, and completion of their ICC;
- Any athlete, including those who have met automatic nomination status, must submit their EOI via the Triathlon Canada EOI form **45 days before race start**. Each EOI submitted will receive an automatic confirmation receipt. If an athlete does not receive a response, he/she should contact the Triathlon Canada office directly ([hp@triathloncanada.com](mailto:hp@triathloncanada.com)).
- Results must be achieved in events with more than 30 athletes on the start list

## 1. Automatic Nomination

Subject to available quota spots, eligible athletes will be automatically nominated to the U23 World Triathlon Championships Wollongong if they have achieved any individual performances outlined below between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, **and** are ranked in the top 250 of the World Triathlon Rankings. These individual benchmarks are listed in priority order;

- i) Top 5 at 2025 Americas Triathlon U23 Continental Championships
- ii) One (1) Top 20 World Cup finish
- iii) Two (2) Top 5 Continental Cup finishes

Individual performance benchmarks must be achieved in events with more than 25 athletes on the start list.

Subject to availability, substitutions will be used to secure a start for an athlete who has achieved the above benchmarks if they HAVE NOT secured themselves a place on the start list via World Ranking.

If there is no use for substitution or discretionary selection and more athletes meet the automatic criteria outlined above than there are quota spots, an athlete's best Triathlon Canada Position Score will be used to determine the order in which athletes are granted places on the start list.

Athletes who have been unable to compete in the 3 months prior to the EOI deadline due to injury/illness will need to provide a proof of fitness to compete prior to their automatic nomination being accepted.

## 2. Discretionary Nomination

The High-Performance Director may nominate 1 eligible athlete at their discretion to the U23 World Championships provided they are considered, by them, to be capable of delivering the level of performance required to be competitive at a U23 Championship event. The High-Performance Director is not obligated to use discretionary selection for this event. The following criteria will be used to determine if an athlete is deemed competitive at this level;

- i) Athlete performances in 2024/2025 WTCS, World Cup and Continental Championship Events
- ii) Trajectory of World Triathlon World Ranking and Triathlon Canada Performance Score in the previous 2 years

In order to secure a place on the start list for a discretionary selected athlete, the High-Performance Director may use the substitution process.

## **E. SUBSTITUTIONS**

As per World Triathlon's rules, after the provisional start list for a World Triathlon individual event has been created, the following number of athletes per gender may be replaced via the World Triathlon substitution procedure.

- U23 World Triathlon Championships– one (1) athlete per gender

Substitutions may be used in the following cases but is not limited to:

- To **prioritize an athlete** with a better World Triathlon Individual Olympic Ranking (for Olympic qualifying events only) over athletes with lower World Triathlon Individual Olympic Ranking
- To **prioritize an athlete** with a lower World Triathlon World Ranking but higher Position Score on the start list ahead of an athlete with a higher World Triathlon World Ranking but lower Position Score;  
To replace a **placeholder athlete** (i.e., an athlete who has not submitted an Expression of Interest 45 days before the start).

#### **F. TEAM ANNOUNCEMENT (if applicable)**

Triathlon Canada will inform athletes of their selection after the EOI deadline and prior to the creation of the World Triathlon Start List.

#### **G. CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES OF WITHDRAWALS**

An athlete who receives a position on the start list for a World Triathlon Event, or has a high probability of doing so, must notify Triathlon Canada **no later than 14 days** before the race start should they decide to withdraw from the race, unless an injury and/or unforeseen circumstance arises preventing him/her from honoring his/her commitment to race. In the event an athlete withdraws due to injury or illness, a medical certificate must be provided with the withdrawal request. In the event an athlete withdraws due to an unforeseen circumstance, a communication of the justification must be sent directly to the High-Performance Director for consideration. As per World Triathlon rules, late withdrawals may remove an athlete from all start and waitlists for 30 days following the withdrawal and may also reduce Triathlon Canada's quota spots for future events. Furthermore, late withdrawals block over quota athletes from the opportunity to race. The following penalties will be applied to all late withdrawals within the stated time frame when sufficient justification cannot be provided:

- **1st Offence:** Athlete will receive a formal warning from the High-Performance Director
- **2nd Offence:** Athlete is fined \$150 and will receive another warning from the High-Performance Director
- **3rd Offence:** Athlete is fined \$300 and will be required to attend a zoom meeting with the High-Performance Director.

#### **H. MODIFICATION OF POLICY**

Triathlon Canada reserves the right, in extenuating circumstances, to modify this policy as it deems necessary in its sole discretion. Any such exercise of discretion shall be subject to the Canadian administrative law principles of fairness.

In the event that this policy is modified, Triathlon Canada will promptly communicate to its affected athletes and publish the revised document on its web page.

#### **I. LANGUAGE**

Where there is a difference in interpretation between the French and English versions of this document, the English shall prevail.

#### **J. EVENT COSTS**

All event costs are the responsibility of the athlete unless communicated by Triathlon Canada. If Triathlon Canada, as the National Sport Organization, is managing an event's logistics and costs, all costs that are

the responsibility of the athlete will be communicated upon confirmation of available resources and final expenses.

#### **K. APPEALS**

Triathlon Canada is responsible for all Team decisions. As such, an athlete wishing to appeal a decision regarding the Team selection must follow the Triathlon Canada Appeals Policy (see Triathlon Canada website).

## Appendix A

### Triathlon Canada Performance Analysis Model

#### INTRODUCTION

Triathlon Canada has developed an analytical model to compare athletes' results by considering both their capability levels and the uncertainty in their performance. This novel approach offers a dynamic and precise method of evaluating competitors, surpassing the limitations of traditional ranking systems.

The calculation involves two key metrics for each athlete: a performance score and a variance measure (uncertainty). The performance score estimates the athlete's capability level based on their historical race results, while the variance measure reflects the reliability of this rating, varying based on the number and type of races competed in.

The algorithm updates an athlete's capability ratings after each race. It calculates changes based on the outcome of the race relative to the expected outcomes. If the result is surprising (e.g., a lower-rated athlete wins against a higher-rated one), the changes in the ratings will be more substantial. Conversely, expected outcomes (such as a higher-rated athlete winning against a lower-rated one) result in smaller adjustments. The system is designed to be dynamic, adjusting both the capability level and the confidence in that level as more data is accumulated.

In this model, each athlete starts with an initial default rating and a significant level of uncertainty due to the limited information available about their capabilities. As athletes compete in more races, the accumulation of performance data enables the model to refine their ratings with greater accuracy and reduce the uncertainty associated with their performance. This nuanced approach not only adds context and depth to the analysis but also ensures an objective comparison of results across competitors. The benefit of this system is that it allows Triathlon Canada leadership to make well-informed decisions based not just on past finishes but through a comprehensive, data-informed comparison of potential future performances. This framework turns athlete selection for races into a strategic decision-making process, enhancing fairness and precision in choosing competitors.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### Performance Score

Represents the perceived **overall capability level of an athlete**. In triathlon, a performance score would be an aggregate indicator of a competitor's performance relative to the field across their entire racing history. After each event, the performance score would be updated to reflect the triathlete's performance: it would increase following better-than-expected results and decrease following poorer-than-expected results. This parameter adjusts as the athlete shows improvements or declines in their performance relative to the field.

##### Variance

Indicates the **uncertainty or variability in the triathlete's capability estimation**, or performance score. In triathlon, a higher variance would suggest that the athlete's results are inconsistent across different events, leading to greater uncertainty about their capability level.

### Position Score

This score is used to **objectively compare the results of athletes in an individual event** by mapping each athlete’s placing in a race to their capability level based on the distribution of scores in the start list. It enables a direct comparison of race performance by accounting for the quality of the competition and the athlete’s relative position in the event.

### Predicted Position

The predicted position is calculated based on the distribution of performance scores within a specific race. This metric **anticipates where an athlete is expected to finish given their current performance score relative to the other competitors**. The prediction is derived from the model’s assessment of an athlete’s adjusted capability level and the variance associated with their past performances.

### Confidence Interval

The confidence interval provides **a range within which the predicted position is likely to fall**, expressing the uncertainty associated with the prediction. This interval is influenced by the athlete’s variance, which reflects the consistency of their performances. A wider confidence interval indicates greater variability in the athlete’s results, suggesting less certainty in the predicted outcome. This statistical measure helps in assessing the reliability of the predictions made by the model, allowing for more informed strategic decisions.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

### Within-Race & Athlete Analysis

Outlined in the table below is a series of performances by Athlete A, highlighting the impact of race result (position score) on overall rating (performance score). In this example, results at different levels of racing are objectively compared through the position score, whilst the performance score is dynamically changing as an outcome of these results. Athlete A’s 37<sup>th</sup> placing at the 2023 World Triathlon Sprint Championships Hamburg is scored higher than the 9<sup>th</sup> placing at the 2023 World Triathlon Cup Tangier, which is higher than the 9<sup>th</sup> placing at the 2021 Americas Triathlon Cup La Paz.

Event	Performance Score	Variance	Upset Score	Position	Position Score
2023 World Triathlon Sprint Championships Hamburg	3.2816	0.2845	-0.0313	37	3.8477
2023 World Triathlon Olympic Games Test Event Paris	3.2485	0.2817	-0.0157	48	3.8383
2023 World Triathlon Championship Finals Pontevedra	3.1903	0.2885	-0.0450	44	3.6463
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tangier	3.1734	0.2921	-0.0169	9	3.5812
2023 World Triathlon Cup New Plymouth	3.3880	0.3022	-0.0051	34	3.5381
2021 Americas Triathlon Cup La Paz	3.0391	0.4192	0.0796	9	2.7801

### Between Race Analysis

The table below outlines the position score for the same 10<sup>th</sup> placing at a range of World Triathlon Cups. Although all placings are the same (10<sup>th</sup>), the position score varies significantly between races. This difference is due to the quality of the field in each race; a higher position score in a race with more competitive participants reflects a higher level of competition. For example, in the 2023 World Triathlon Cup in Tiszaujvaros, Athlete A achieved a position score of 3.691765, while in the 2023 World Triathlon Cup in Yeongdo, Athlete B scored 2.948648 for the same 10th placing. This indicates that the competition in Tiszaujvaros was tougher, resulting in a higher position score for the same rank. Thus, even within the same race category, the score for a given placing can vary depending on the performance of other competitors.

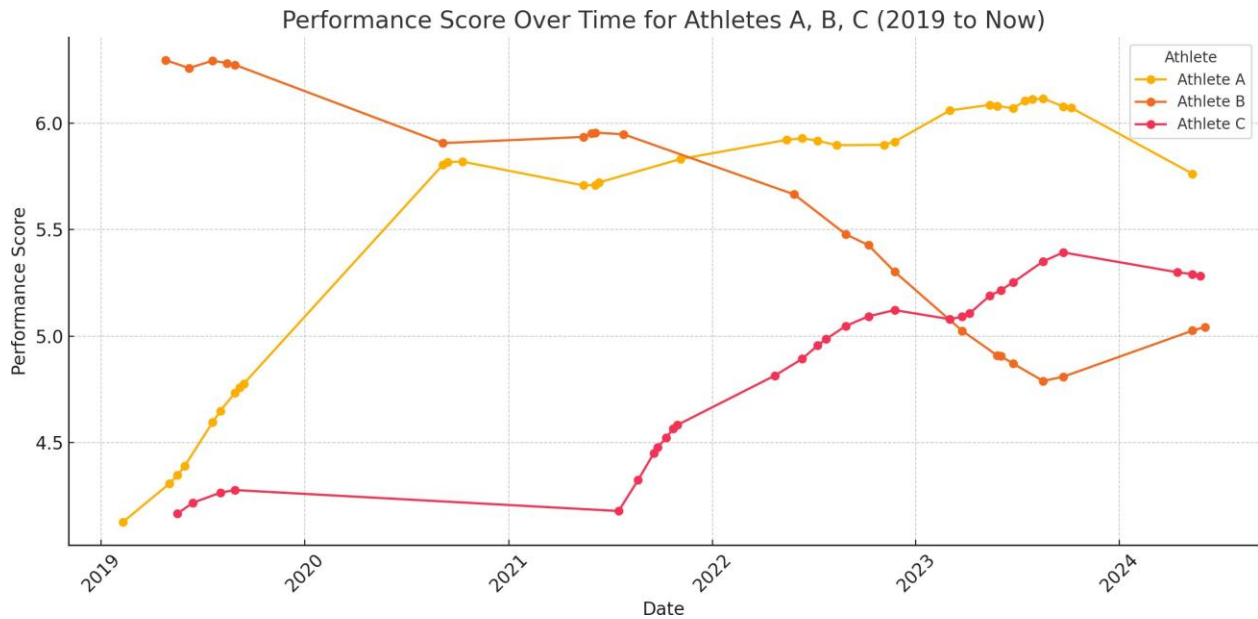
Race Name	Position Score	Position	Performance Score	Athlete
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tiszaujvaros	3.691765	10	3.789154	A
2023 World Triathlon Cup Yeongdo	2.948648	10	2.878972	B
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tongyeong	3.462770	10	4.123066	C
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tangerang	4.107320	10	4.175800	D
2024 World Triathlon Cup Hong Kong	4.073045	10	4.007698	E
2024 World Triathlon Cup Wollongong	3.498246	10	3.772439	F
2024 World Triathlon Cup Huatulco	3.311146	10	3.310101	G
2023 World Triathlon Cup Weihai	2.843895	10	2.964460	H
2024 World Triathlon Cup Chengdu	3.620499	10	3.999556	I

### Analysis Over Time

The chart below tracks the performance score over time for Athlete A, B and C from the 2019 season to 2024.

- Athlete A shows a significant improvement in performance score from around 4.5 in early 2019 to over 6.0 by mid-2020, followed by fluctuations and a slight decline towards the end of 2024.
- Athlete B exhibits a high and consistent performance score around 6.0 initially, with a gradual decline starting from mid-2020, reaching below 5.5 by 2024.
- Athlete C starts with a performance score below 5.0 in early 2019, shows a brief improvement, and then declines until early 2021. From mid-2021 onwards, Athlete C demonstrates a steady increase in performance, peaking at over 5.5 by late 2023.





This visualization highlights the different performance trajectories of each athlete, with Athlete A showing strong initial improvement, Athlete B experiencing a gradual decline, and Athlete C demonstrating a significant recovery and improvement over the observed period.

**CONCLUSION**

This statistical model provides a robust framework for estimating and updating the capability levels of athletes in competitive sports like triathlon. Its probabilistic nature allows for a more nuanced understanding of performance differences and offers predictive capabilities for future races, ensuring a fair and objective comparison of athletes.