

## Self Funded Technical Officials (SFTO) Program

### *International Events Outside of Canada*

#### WHAT IS THE SFTO PROGRAM?

The SFTO program is run by World Triathlon (TRI). It provides an opportunity for technical officials with appropriate credentials to apply to serve as a technical official internationally to gain further experience and knowledge. An official applying to this program is required to fund all expenses incurred to take part. An exception is World Championships where accommodation is provided to all TOs. Applications to the program are run through the National Federations.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Technical officials who have obtained a certification level of “National Technical Official (NTO)” or higher are eligible to apply to the SFTO program.

#### PROCESS OF APPLYING

If you are interested in self-funding to an international event outside Canada, please email [officials@triathloncanada.com](mailto:officials@triathloncanada.com) and clearly state which event(s) you are interested in. This also applies for events TRI announces in their newsletter. Triathlon Canada will enter you into the TRI database once that event has been opened for the SFTO program. Most events are opened in December for the following year.

The deadline to enter your name for any event is 75 days prior to that event. The exception is World Championships that have earlier deadlines. These are typically announced in the TRI newsletter. The number of spots TRI reserves for SFTOs per event depends on the event and changes from year to year. In general, it is more likely to be accepted into a World Cup or Continental Cup than into a World Championship Series or World Championships.

Throughout the application process, all communication must go through Triathlon Canada. This includes inquiries regarding the status of your application or any role you might be selected for. If you have not heard if you have been accepted two months before the event, please send an email to [officials@triathloncanada.com](mailto:officials@triathloncanada.com). The technical committee will inquire on your behalf to sort out any issues. Please note that for early season events (February/March), World Triathlon usually sends out notifications of acceptance less than two month prior to an event.

Communication outside of the official channels is not appreciated by TRI or our continental federation (PATCO). This reflects poorly on the Canadian TO program and can have an impact on the number of assignments Canadian officials are accepted to. Please ensure you are following the process.

#### PROGRAM RULES

As stipulated by TRI:

- The limit to work as an SFTO outside of the affiliated continent (for Canadians this is PATCO) is two events.
- If the number of applications received by TRI is higher than the number of SFTO spots available, TOs will be selected by TRI through a competitive process. The maximum overall number of events an SFTO will be selected for by TRI is three per calendar year.

Asking Triathlon Canada to enter you into the TRI database for an event as an SFTO comes with a commitment to attend the requested event should you be selected. You may apply for more than the number of events outlined above if you think there is a high likelihood you will not be accepted to an event. However, if you are accepted the obligation to attend remains regardless of the order in which invitations are received. It is therefore very important to consider your applications carefully and only apply for events you are interested in attending.

Triathlon Canada will place officials onto SFTO lists as requested. There is a significant amount of administration required to manage these lists, and our goal is to maximize assignments for Canadian officials. To manage the program effectively, the following rules have been implemented:

1. If an official requests to be removed from an SFTO list, this official is no longer eligible to be re-added to the list for that event for the remainder of the season.
2. If an SFTO assignment is turned down once assigned by PATCO or TRI, the official will not be nominated to another event for the remainder of the season. The official may appeal to the Triathlon Canada Technical Committee in extenuating circumstances (medical, family emergency, etc).

## TRAVEL

Selection to the SFTO program is not guaranteed. TRI usually decides two months before an event which SFTOs are invited, so it is highly recommended to hold off booking any travel until you have received confirmation from TRI or PATCO.

There is no financial support from Triathlon Canada if you self-fund to an international event outside of Canada, however, you may want to inquire with your PSO. It is your responsibility to fulfill all visa requirements, if there are any, when travelling.

We advise you to get travel insurance including, but not limited to, trip cancellation and health insurance. While working at an event as a technical official you are covered by the Event's insurance policy, however, having insurance when travelling to and from the event is your responsibility.

## OFFICIATING IN THE USA

If you officiate in the USA, please note USA Triathlon (USAT) is obligated to follow the Safe Sport training requirements mandated by their federal government. They are not able to recognize the training offered in Canada. If you have accepted a position at a USAT event, ensure you are informed and up to speed on the courses you need to complete well in advance of your planned travel.

## SFTO OPPORTUNITIES

World Triathlon publishes a list of current SFTO opportunities ("Self Funded Technical Officials' Opportunities") on their website here:

<https://triathlon.org/development/technical-officials>