

## 2026 National Development Series

### *Program Details and Calendar*

The following provides an outline of our 2026 National Development Series. This program has been revised to better meet the needs of athletes on our development pathway. Getting information out as quick as possible has been prioritized to support competition planning. **There may still be small revisions made to this program outline in the coming months.**

#### 1. Overview – What is the National Development Series?

The National Development Series is a pathway for development athletes to gain the skills and experience needed to progress from provincial draft-legal racing into successful continental racing. To achieve this, a program has been developed that begins with designated Provincial qualifiers, progresses into regional events where the Canadian program can be centralized, and finally into National Championships where the best development athletes in the country compete head-to-head.

#### 2. Scope – What is the scope of the National Development Series?

The National Development Series is targeting athletes in the Junior and U23 categories (ages 16-23). The range of skills, experience, and performances across these two categories is very broad. The Series program has been developed to provide meaningful opportunities and better direct individuals to their appropriate level of racing. An important part of this is recognizing that there are juniors at the bottom end of the spectrum who should be focusing on provincial draft-legal racing to build their skills, and U23 athletes at the top end of the spectrum who are beyond the scope of the National program and should be focusing on generating international points.

The National Development Series connects the provincial programs through to national and international racing.

- » Provincial Qualifiers provide Series points and are the first step in qualifying for National Championships.
- » Regional Championships are designed to drive deeper fields of athletes and more meaningful competitions. The use of Americas Cup events in Canada also provides an opportunity to start generating World Ranking points as part of the Series.
- » Junior/U23 National Championships is the pinnacle of the National Development Series. Athletes must meet an eligibility criterion based on National Development Series points and rankings to compete. This is meant to elevate the prestige of our National Championship events and ensure our best development athletes in the country have an opportunity to race head-to-head where performances can be directly compared.
- » International selection criteria now include NDS rankings as a factor (see below)

A Youth Series (Ages 11-15) has been designed to bring these athletes together and expose them to elite-style racing. **Youth athletes will NOT receive a ranking for 2026.** Designated youth events will be open to all athletes ages 11-15. Athletes will be selected through their PSO. Please contact your province directly for information on designated youth events.

#### 3. Targeted Athletes - Who Should be Racing this Series?

This Series is meant for Junior/U23 athletes that are preparing to move into continental racing or are inconsistently racing at the continental level. Determination of competition age will follow the World Triathlon (TRI) rules for Junior/U23, which is between the ages of 16 and 23 as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the competition year.

The following athletes should be targeting the Series:

- » Athletes who have achieved success in their provincial draft-legal competitions
- » Athletes who do not currently have a World Ranking
- » Athletes who are currently ranked over 300<sup>th</sup> in the world

Click here for current World Rankings: [https://triathlon.org/rankings/world\\_triathlon\\_rankings](https://triathlon.org/rankings/world_triathlon_rankings)

#### 4. Where can I get more information?

A virtual townhall for athletes and coaches targeting the National Development Series will be offered November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Triathlon Canada’s High-Performance team will provide additional context and answer questions. Registration information will be circulated prior through the PSOs and Provincial Coaches.

[Click Here](#) to register for the Webinar. The recording of the session will be posted here: <https://www.triathloncanada.com/publications/#nds>

#### 2026 National Development Series Schedule

EVENTS	LOCATION	DATE	DISTANCE	TIER/POINTS
<b>PROVINCIAL</b>				
<b>Triathlon Ontario</b> Draft-Legal Provincial Championships	Welland, ON	August 31, 2025*	Super Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Triathlon Quebec</b> Designated Provincial Qualifier	Laval, QC	June 6	Super Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Triathlon Alberta</b> Provincial Championships	TBD	TBD	Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Triathlon Saskatchewan</b> Provincial Championships	Echo Lake, SK	July 5	Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Triathlon BC</b> Designated Qualifier	Penticton, BC	July 18	Super Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Triathlon Maritimes</b> Provincial Championships	Summerside, PE	August 16	Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>REGIONAL</b>				
<b>Regional Championship #1 – Americas Cup</b> Magog	Magog, QC	July 11- 12	Sprint	2 – 15% Prem
<b>Regional Championship #1 – Magog</b> Draft-Legal Dev Race	Magog, QC	July 11- 12	Super Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>Regional Championship #2 – SuperTri</b> Toronto	Toronto, ON	July 26	Sprint	2 – 15% Prem
<b>Regional Championship #2 – Toronto</b> Draft-Legal Dev Race	Toronto, ON	July 26	Sprint	1 – Standard
<b>NATIONAL</b>				
<b>Junior/U23 National Championships</b>	Victoria, BC	August 22-23	Super Sprint	3 - 20% Prem
<b>U23 Mixed Team Relay National Championships</b>	Victoria, BC	August 22-23	Super Sprint	N/A

*\*To align with Triathlon Ontario’s provincial race schedule, we are transitioning to a new qualification model in which Ontario’s Provincial Qualifier takes place the year prior to Nationals. Beginning in 2025, the Provincial Championships will serve as the qualifying event for the 2026 National Championships. The 2026 season will function as a bridging year during this transition. Please contact Triathlon Ontario with any questions or concerns.*

Our Regional Championship events are aligned with international elite competitions (Americas Cup & SuperTri). The start lists for these events are restricted and follow the World Triathlon and SuperTri entry processes. Additional draft-legal races have been added to the program to accommodate any development athletes who are unable to get on the start list. Series standard points will apply to these races, but they will still count as having competed in a Canadian Regional Championship towards gaining eligibility for Elite National Championships.

SuperTri will be the same as PATCO. An elite international event and a draft-legal race sitting underneath for anyone who can't get on the start list.

### **Eligibility and Registration to Regional Championship (NEW):**

Triathlon Canada will pilot a new selection process for the National Development Series (NDS) Regional Championships at Magog and Toronto. While each event is delivered under a different governing body and therefore requires slight procedural differences, Triathlon Canada will manage the overall selection process as consistently as possible.

This approach aligns with Triathlon Canada's High Performance selection principles and is intended to help athletes prepare for international racing environments.

Start lists will be finalized 30 days prior each event.

#### **Regional Championship #1- Americas Cup Magog / Magog Draft Legal Dev Series Race**

Start list access for the Magog Regional Championship is governed by **World Triathlon entry procedures**, which prioritize athletes based on World Ranking. As many NDS athletes do not currently hold a World Ranking, Triathlon Canada will apply a structured selection process to ensure competitive and equitable start lists. To facilitate this, National Rankings from the previous season (2025) will be used to prioritize athlete submissions to the World Triathlon entry system. The National Rankings have been chosen as a metric for both regional championships because they capture the highest number of athletes eligible for an Americas Cup Start list.

To gain access to the Americas Cup Waitlist, athletes must:

1. Complete the Medical Pre Participation Exam
2. Purchase an International Competition Card (ICC)
3. Submit an EOI by May 27, 2026 (45 days prior to race)

#### **Regional Championship #2- SuperTri Toronto / Draft Legal Dev Series Race**

Start lists for Canadian athletes competing in the two races offered as part of the SuperTri Toronto event will be managed by Triathlon Canada.

There will be a single registration process running for both events in Toronto. Athletes must complete registration with the LOC 45 days before the event (**June 11, 2026**), to gain access to the waitlist. Triathlon Canada will roll athletes onto the start lists in priority order for both races. Please note that the SuperTri event will include international athletes, and space has been held to accommodate.

Please see the relevant selection policy (Continental Cup) on the Triathlon Canada website for full details. The Triathlon Canada High Performance Director will review rankings and National Championship results as needed. Click here for current event selection policies: [www.triathloncanada.com/publications/](http://www.triathloncanada.com/publications/)

### **Eligibility to Junior/U23 National Championships:**

The following criteria will be used to determine eligibility to National Championships\*:

- Must have a minimum of **2 scores** (*1 Provincial Qualifier, 1 Regional Championship*)
- Must have a minimum series points score of **450** (*top 15 at the provincial level\*\*, top 30 at regionals*)
- A **maximum of 3 scores** will be counted (*1 Provincial, 2 Regional*)

*\*Athletes with a World Ranking under 250 may bypass the entry criteria to race in Junior/U23 National Championships. If an athlete gains entry to Nationals in this manner, they will not be given a National Development Series Ranking. This is to allow access to National Championships to Junior/U23 athletes racing consistently beyond the scope of the National Series.*

*\*\*If a designated Provincial event has a quality of field points reduction applied because there are less than 15 athletes competing, the minimum placement to hit the required Series points score of 450 with the minimum of 2 scores is a top 11 (see Appendix A).*

### **Exemptions to Eligibility Criteria**

Exemptions to the eligibility criteria to attend National Championships may be considered under extenuating circumstances. Exemption requests must be approved and submitted by the athlete with support from their affiliated PSO. The submission must include a valid reason for being unable to compete in a required qualification event. In the event of an illness or injury, submission of a medical certificate is advised. Submissions must be received by Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director a minimum of 2-weeks prior to the qualifying race unless the request is related to sudden illness or cancellation of a qualifying race. **Exemption requests received more than 1-week after the required qualifying event, regardless of the circumstances, will not be considered.**

### **Series Points System**

The points system applied to the National Series mimics the World Triathlon (TRI) system. Standard series events (Provincial level) are allocated 1000 points with a reduction by place of 7.5%. This means the first-place finisher receives 1000 points and each place below is reduced by 7.5%. If a provincial qualifier has fewer than 15 athletes competing a depth of field reduction will be applied for a top score of 750.

The Regional and National Championship events both have premiums applied. For Regional Championships the first-place finisher will receive 1150 points for a premium of 15%. For National Championships the first-place finisher will receive 1200 points for a premium of 20%. The reduction rate by place remains 7.5%. See [Appendix A](#) for a breakdown of points by place for each event.

A maximum of four scores from the National Development Series will be counted towards a final Series Ranking:

- » 1 Provincial Qualifier (*best score*)
- » 2 Regional Championships
- » 1 National Championship

### **Available Titles & Rankings**

- » **National Champions:** These are the athletes who win their respective National Championships.
- » **National Development Series Champions:** These are the athletes who achieve the highest Series points score and are therefore the most consistent athletes on the National Development Series.
- » **National Development Series Ranking:** This is a ranked list of points achieved for all athletes competing on the National Development Series per the system outlined above.
- » **Overall National Ranking:** This is a comprehensive list of all Canadian athletes and is a combination of points received for provincial and national events as well as World Ranking as outlined below.

### **National Ranking System**

A new system for ranking Canadian athletes was developed in 2024. The intent is for athletes to be able to see where they fall within the full scope of the national athlete pool.

The World Triathlon points structure is used as the foundation for this system. We've taken the maximum points allocated for each level of World Triathlon racing and then extrapolated down to apply a scoring system to our

Development Series events. The Overall National Ranking is made up of a combination of these two-point scores. See [Appendix B](#) for a breakdown.

**The National Ranking will be updated on the first of every month OR after each National Development Series event. Requests for additional updates will not be accepted.**

The National Development Series Ranking and Overall National Ranking can be found on the Triathlon Canada website here: <https://www.triathloncanada.com/publications/#rankings>

**Why does Ranking matter?**

For Junior athletes (aged 16-19) and U23 athletes (aged 20-23), the National Development Series Ranking and Regional/National Championships may be used to select athletes to the Junior World Championships and other National Team Projects.

On top of providing a tangible way to measure progress within the Canadian high performance program, the ranking systems have been developed to help familiarize athletes and coaches with the World Triathlon model.

**Race selection to maximize points is a very important strategy to learn.** Developing a season plan that first promotes and protects health and then maximizes performances in a meaningful way is a critical skill.

**APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE OF POINTS BY PLACE & EVENT TYPE**

PLACE	Provincial Qualifier <15	Provincial Qualifier >15	Regional Championships	National Championships
	<i>Quality of Field Reduction</i>	<i>Standard Points</i>	<i>15% Premium</i>	<i>20% Premium</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1150</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>2</b>	694	925	1064	1110
<b>3</b>	642	856	984	1027
<b>4</b>	594	791	910	950
<b>5</b>	549	732	842	879
<b>6</b>	508	677	779	813
<b>7</b>	470	626	720	752
<b>8</b>	435	579	666	695
<b>9</b>	402	536	616	643

10	372	496	570	595
11	<b>344</b>	459	527	550
12	318	424	488	509
13	294	392	451	471
14	272	363	417	436
15	252	<b>336</b>	386	403
16	233	311	357	373
17	215	287	330	345
18	199	266	306	319
19	184	246	283	295
20	171	227	261	273
21	158	210	242	252
22	146	195	224	233
23	135	180	207	216
24	125	166	191	200
25	115	154	177	185
26	107	142	164	171
27	99	132	151	158
28	91	122	140	146
29	85	113	130	135
30	78	104	<b>120</b>	125
31	72	96	111	116
32	67	89	103	107
33	62	83	95	99
34	57	76	88	92
35	53	71	81	85

Points go beyond 35<sup>th</sup> place, this is an example only.

**APPENDIX B – OVERALL NATIONAL RANKING; POINT ATTRIBUTIONS**

COMPETITION	AVAILABLE POINTS
<b>WORLD TRIATHLON (TRI) POINTS SYSTEM</b>	
World Triathlon Grand Final	1250
World Triathlon Championship Series	1000
World Triathlon Cup	500
Continental Championships (PATCO)	400
Continental Cup (PATCO)	250
National Championships	50
<b>TRIATHLON CANADA POINTS SYSTEM</b>	
National Championships	300
Regional Championships*	150
Provincial Qualifier	50

*\*Regional championships that are the non-PATCO draft-legal events will be allocated the same points as a Provincial Qualifier.*

The “points” listed are the number of points the first place finisher receives. As above, points then reduce by 7.5% per place. “World Ranking” already calculates all the points athletes are eligible for under the TRI point system. World Ranking is combined with any points received under the Triathlon Canada points system.

- » National Championships has been given 300 points on top of the 50 TRI allocates to National Championship events.
- » Regional Championships that include an Americas Cup have been given 150 points on top of the 250 TRI allocates to Americas Cup events.
- » Provincial Qualifiers have been allocated 50 points.

The National Development Series is specifically targeting athletes who have a World Ranking higher than 300. These are athletes who are racing at or just below the Continental Cup (Americas Cup) level.

### **APPENDIX C – EXAMPLE OF OVERALL NATIONAL RANKING**

The 2025 National Rankings can be used as an example of how the ranking system works. Please see the Triathlon Canada website and select the file titles listed below.

- » <https://www.triathloncanada.com/publications/#rankings>
- » 2025 National Rankings – Women
- » 2025 National Rankings - Men

There are a few points of clarification as follows:

- » The National Championship points have been determined from combined overall results across the Junior and U23 categories.
- » Regional Championships will both be Americas Cup events in 2026. As events that are eligible for World Ranking points these scores will also be captured as part of the overall World Ranking (TRI) points.
- » The “National Points” are a combination of World Ranking (TRI) points and points generated from Provincial or National championships. The final “National Ranking” is based on these aggregate point scores.