Long Distance Triathlon Professional/Elite Criteria & Procedures

Updated May 2021

The purpose of this criteria is to enable athletes of the appropriate level to compete in the professional/elite fields of Ironman, Ironman 70.3, Challenge and other elite long distance triathlon events.

British Triathlon (BT) does not currently have an elite licence system in place, therefore a BT-signed letter verifying an athlete's professional/elite status will be provided to athletes who are successful in achieving the criteria detailed below. Athletes can send this letter on to the race organisers when entering a race in the professional/elite field. If athletes are found to be entering Ironman, Ironman 70.3 or Challenge races as a professional without following the process detailed below then they may be ineligible to receive this letter for the following 12 months.

This system does not relate to long/middle distance ITU or ETU events, the selection policies for which can be found on the BT website HERE.

To apply, please complete the relevant application form using this policy as reference:
New athletes: https://forms.gle/brjehKqYm5z9y75A9
Returning pros*: https://forms.gle/YUg2uoWaNq6eXSdp7
Please email francescabolt@britishtriathlon.org with any further supporting evidence.

**Athletes that were pro/elite in the year 2020 will not need to complete this process. Please email francescabolt@britishtriathlon.org to update your licence for 2021.*

1.0 ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Athletes must be eligible to represent Great Britain under ITU rules and must be current members in good standing with a Home Nation Triathlon Association, which is a member of BT.

1.2 Athletes must be compliant with British Triathlon's anti-doping policy and hence be available for out-of-competition testing at all times. If required to do so by UKAD, they must maintain a record of their whereabouts using the ADAMs system.

2.0 AUTOMATIC QUALIFICATION

2.1 Athletes will automatically qualify for professional/elite status if they meet the following criteria (subject to following the application procedure detailed in point 6.0):

- 2.1.1 Current or former BT World Class Performance Programme athlete (within three years of leaving the programme).
- 2.1.2 Raced at ITU orld Triathlon Series, World Cup or Championship/Major Games level (including the U23 category) in the previous three years.
- 2.1.3 Been selected by BT for the elite ITU or ETU long or middle-distance Championships in the previous three years, provided a finishing time within 8.0% of the elite winner was achieved at the event.
- 2.1.4 Finished in the top 25 in the elite field of the Ironman World Long Distance Championships (Kona) or the Ironman World 70.3 Championships, in any year.
- 2.1.5 Competed in the professional/elite field of the Ironman World Championships (Kona) or the Ironman World 70.3 Championships in the previous year, or finished in the top 10 in The Challenge Championship in the previous year.

3.0 QUALIFICATION VIA RESULTS

3.1 Athletes are eligible to apply for professional/elite status if they achieve any of the criteria listed below (subject to following the application procedure detailed in point 6.0):

3.1.1 Achieve the required number of results within the specified standard detailed in the table below, in Ironman, Ironman 70.3, Challenge or ITU branded events, within the previous 12 months of applying.

	Prize Money *Total amount of prize money awarded (USD)*			**Performances** *Percentage behind the elite/pro winner**	
Race Band	**MIN**		**MAX**	**ONCE**	**TWICE**
1	$150,000	-	upwards	10.0%	12.0%
2	$75,000	-	$149,999	7.0%	9.0%
3	$30,000	-	$74,999	5.0%	8.0%
4	$0	-	$29,999	4.0%	7.0%

3.1.1.1 The prize money for each Ironman event can be found HERE.

3.1.1.2 The prize money for each Challenge event can be found HERE.

3.1.1.3 If prize money is awarded in a different currency it will be converted to USD using the exchange rate from the day of the race.

3.1.2 Achieve a result at an ITU Senior Continental Cup (sprint or standard distance) within 3.0% of the winner in the previous 12 months.

** Races without a professional field will NOT contribute towards qualifying for a professional licence when qualifying at point 3.1.1. This point is still valid when a professional field is removed from the original programme of events at short notice.*

4.0 GATEWAY EVENTS

4.1 Athletes are eligible to apply for professional/elite status with the following specified race results (subject to following the application procedure detailed in point 6.0):

4.2 The age group winner (across all age groups) at Ironman World Championships, Ironman 70.3 World Championships and The Challenge Championship.

4.3 The first male and first female athlete to finish on the podium in the following races, who is NOT already a current professional/elite athlete, providing they are within 4.0% of the overall male or female winner

4.3.1 Outlaw Half, Nottingham – Sunday 16th May 2021

4.3.2 PTO supported event at Dorney Triathlon, Eton – 13th June 2021

4.3.3 Ironman UK, Bolton – Sunday 4th July 2021

4.3.4 Outlaw Triathlon, Nottingham – Sunday 25th July 2021

4.3.5 British Middle Distance Championships, Aberfeldy – 21st & 22nd August 2021

4.3.6 Outlaw Half, Holkham – Sunday 4th July 2021

4.4 Professional/elite status will not be awarded to any athletes outside of the top three overall finishing positions in the events listed at 4.3, regardless of how many professional/elite athletes are within the field.
4.5 The events listed in 4.3 will only apply if they have been issued a British Triathlon Event Permit and are held in full without modifications, for example due to weather, water quality etc.
4.6 Athletes wishing to qualify at a Gateway Event must enter the race directly through the event organiser. Event organisers have sole discretion for all matters concerning race entries, cancellations, and refunds.
4.7 Any appeals against decisions taken by Technical Officials must be done in accordance with section 13 of the British Triathlon competition rules.

To ensure adequate domestic opportunity, Ironman UK has been added to the Gateway events due to there being no pro field for 2021. If/when a Pro field is reintroduced, they will be removed and results from these races will contribute to 3.0.

5.0 RETURNING PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES

5.1 Athletes that had professional/elite status for the year 2020 can roll their licence over to 2021 without providing race results. Please contact francescabolt@britishtriathlon.org.
5.2 Previous long distance professional athletes who are unable to compete for an extended period of time (longer than 12 months) must do the following:
  5.2.1 Provide sufficient evidence for reasoning behind being unable to compete.
  5.2.2 Provide details of historic results which meet the criteria at any of points 2.0 – 5.1.
  5.2.3 Provide sufficient evidence of return to fitness.
  5.2.4 The decision to award professional/elite status for a further 12 months will be made by BT on an entirely discretionary, case-by-case basis.

6.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

6.1 To apply, please complete the relevant application form:
New athletes: https://forms.gle/brjehKqYm5z9y75A9
Returning pros: https://forms.gle/YUg2uoWaNq6eXSdp7
6.2 Please email francescabolt@britishtriathlon.org with any further supporting evidence.
6.3 If successful, athletes will gain professional/elite status for the remainder of the calendar year that they applied in. To renew for the following year, please see point 5.0.
6.4 Please allow up to two weeks processing time from the application form submission date. Incomplete or incorrect application forms will cause a delay in response, as will not including links to race results.
6.5 Confirmation of elite status from BT only supports an athlete's application to race and does not guarantee a race entry. Athletes should be aware that the independent race organisers have final jurisdiction over their selection to their professional/elite races, not BT.
6.6 Athletes have the right to appeal decisions about their own applications, through British Triathlon's Selection Review Policy which can be found HERE.