



Long Distance Triathlon Criteria 2017

British Triathlon does not currently have an elite race licence. Athletes who wish to race elite in Ironman and other long distance triathlon events may be asked by the organisers for an elite verification. These athletes should send an email to Mhairibillington@britishtriathlon.org outlining race results over the past 18 months which prove their ability to race at elite level based on the criteria below. These will be reviewed on a case by case basis and BTF will provide proof of elite status to the athlete if approved in the form of a letter which endorses their existing race licence. Please allow at least two weeks for consideration of elite status from submission of email to production of letter.

This system is not related to the selection to long distance ETU or ITU events, the selection policies for which can be found on the BTF website.

BTF reserve the right to alter these requirements in line with any changes brought in by the major event organisers which includes (but not is not exclusively) Ironman and Challenge branded events.

The first criteria is that athletes **must** be current members of one of the Home Nations Associations and eligible to race for Great Britain under ITU rules. Please include your membership number when applying. The further criteria under which a professional licence will be granted are outlined below:

- Be a current or ex-British Triathlon Federation Programme athlete (within two years of leaving the programme) moving up into long distance events from the Olympic programme or an athlete who has raced at the same elite level as such athletes. As a minimum the athletes should have been selected to represent GBR in a World Cup, European Championship or WTS race. Where such athletes have not previously competed over the longer distance, a qualified coach will be expected to verify their suitability to move up to the longer discipline OR
- Be an existing long distance professional who has been selected to race in the elite field of the Ironman World Long Distance Championships (Kona) or the World 70.3 Championships in the previous year OR
- Any athlete who has been selected by BTF for the elite ITU or ETU long distance or middle distance championships in the previous 18 months and obtained a top 8 (men) or top 5 (women) in the elite field OR
- An existing long distance professional athlete who has gained at least one result in an elite field of an international event (such as an Ironman, Challenge or ITU Long Distance Triathlon event) since the previous licence was granted (overall result by gender) as long as this result was within 8 % of the winner's time and was not more than 18 months ago. Any race considered not to be of a high enough standard may be discounted (see below). This is **overall** within the athlete's gender and includes the results of any non-pro athletes in the event. Athletes returning from injury who have not done a long distance event in the last 18 months need to submit a result over a shorter distance to show they are back to racing fitness and should submit older results that meet this standard OR

- Be an athlete without a pro status who has come within 8% of the winner's time in a recognised long distance triathlon event (such as Ironman, ITU long distance or Challenge event) in the last 18 months on at least **two** occasions. See below on standards of races accepted.

It is appreciated that athletes in the age group field may potentially be racing in difference circumstances to the elite field (e.g. larger swim fields or busier roads) or may not be able to get entries into international events. If an age group athlete cannot meet the standard above then an athlete may submit other results which in their opinion show the athlete is racing at an elite level. **Please note this criteria cannot be used by existing elite licence holders reapplying and they are expected to submit a race result obtained in an elite field.**

This has included in the past winners of high quality domestic long distance events and/or results in an Ironman or other international long distance events, within the last 18 months which would have placed the competitor well within the elite field. These will be considered on a **discretionary** basis only and BTF reserves the right to discount any event where it is considered the field was not of a high enough quality to show the position proves an ability to race at elite level. Applications will not be considered at all where the athlete's percentage time against the winner was more than 10% slower. As guidance, athletes should have as a minimum gained results which put them above the final 25% of finishers in the elite field (if there was one). Please note, any results are **overall** and not in the athlete's age group. The time taken over each individual discipline will also be considered as it is expected that pro athletes will be showing elite standards in all three elements. Single sport results in swimming, time trialling or running can be submitted as support to application but must be from events over verified distances.

Please note that Age-Group athletes will need to show at least one season of regular long distance racing at this standard. One off race results are highly unlikely to be accepted unless achieved in a very high quality field. Athletes who want to race pro at full Ironman (or equivalent) distance need to have reached the required standard over this distance and cannot submit just middle distance or standard distance results.

Athletes should also include details of which race they wish to enter. To help your application you need to enclose links to relevant race results or there may be a delay in replying.

Race standards

British Triathlon reserve the right to discount any race result if it is considered that the standard of the race or result does not prove an ability to race at elite level. As guidance, events with under 200 entrants or where the winners time was over 10 hours (for an ironman distance event) are very unlikely to be accepted unless the athlete's performance is considered extraordinary. Events without a pro field are also less likely to be considered as ideally athletes should compete in an event where a pro or elite wave has also taken part to show their comparative time against athletes already racing at pro standard. Therefore, for example, Ironman events without KPR points will carry less weight than those with.

Any elite status conferred only supports an athlete's application to race in an elite wave and does not guarantee a race entry. The race organisers have final jurisdiction and the proof does not take the place of the Home Nations Race licence provided with membership of Triathlon England, **triathlon**Scotland or Welsh Triathlon. Athletes should be aware of the elite programmes run by the various race organisers and that BTF has no jurisdiction over their selection criteria.

Racing professional for other multisport disciplines

If an athlete is requested to produce a professional licence to race at duathlon, cross triathlon, aquathlon or any other multisport discipline then they should follow the general principles as outlined above. Ideally therefore the athlete should submit a race result which shows they have come within 8% of the winning time overall in a high level event. More consideration will be given to results in relevant World or Continental championships and where the competition field is high in number. BTF reserve the right to only offer proof of pro status where, in their view only, the races submitted show the athlete is racing at elite level as determined by the current standard of the relevant discipline.