

RACING UP AN AGE GROUP POLICY

Racing up an age group occurs when a Tristar 3 athlete races a youth event or a youth athlete races in a junior event.

The principles applied for racing up an age group will be considered (but not limited to) elite youth and junior races, British Youth & Junior Super Series events and international events where BTF make the entries.

Athletes should be put forward, in writing, for consideration by the BTF Performance Pathway Manager (PPM).

This is a 2 part policy and while athletes will be considered if they meet the Performance Standards outlined in Part A achieving these standards **DOES NOT** guarantee Racing Up and Age Group.

If agreed, Racing Up an Age Group will be advised on a **race by race basis** by the PPM.

Part A Performance Criteria

Athletes will be considered who meet the performance standards detailed below

Tristar 3 racing a youth event (must meet all criteria)

1. A letter of competence in group riding ability from RHC/HN Coach or British Cycling Coach.
2. Evidence of outstanding ability demonstrated in a Triathlon event - outstanding ability is normally considered to be dominating each discipline in a draft legal event.
3. Be of Gold Plus standard from the BTF points tables based on Power of 10 and British Swimming individual best times or evidenced and certified by RHC/HN Coach from Academy trials.

No athlete will be permitted to race up an age at the Inter-Regional Championships

Youth racing a junior event (normally expected to meet two of the four criteria)

1. Athletes who finished in the top three of the youth age group in the British Youth & Junior Super Series from the previous season.
2. Athletes selected to represent Great Britain at the European Youth Championships.
3. Youths who finished in the top two in the previous British Youth & Junior Super Series race before the one they wish to be considered to race up for.
4. Youth athletes who have achieved podium places at significant Junior events e.g. ETU Junior Cups and/or Junior Championship Trial events where the Quality of Field is considered high enough.

Email contact for application to race up an age group is: dansalcedo@britishtriathlon.org

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PART B - Rationale

British Triathlon acknowledges that in certain circumstances it may be beneficial for an athlete to race up an age group. This policy outlines the guiding principles and process by which athletes may be permitted to race up an age group in events in which British Triathlon have an interest.

- Alongside the standards outlined in **Part A** British Triathlon will also consider other factors e.g. physical maturation, coping skills, in race decision making, technical ability as well as the athlete's long term development before granting permission to Race Up and Age Group.
- At application the athlete, their parent/guardian and coach, if relevant, should evidence their careful consideration of the athlete's wellbeing in Racing Up - both physical and emotional. Physically in terms of the increased capacity/effort required to compete at an age group above; this relates both to increased race distances and speeds at which the race operates. Emotionally and psychologically in terms of the athletes coping skills and decision making abilities in what is likely a much less forgiving racing environment.
- Two weeks prior to the respective event, athletes who have been granted permission must provide written confirmation from themselves and their parent or guardian that they are fit and well and able to compete to the standard on which the decision to grant permission was based. British Triathlon reserves the right to withdraw any permission granted to an athlete under this policy if in its reasonable opinion it feels this to be in the best interests of the athlete.
- Athletes may only race up one age group, i.e. from Tristar 3 to youth or from youth to junior.
- British Triathlon will only consider performances in the races stipulated in **Part A** above when deciding whether or not to grant permission except in exceptional circumstances agreed by the PPM.
- Athletes may only earn points towards the British Triathlon Youth & Junior Super Series in the age group for which their date of birth qualifies them for. If an athlete races out of age group then they are not eligible for any points towards the British Triathlon Youth & Junior Super Series in that event.
- Once approval is granted the athlete should contact the race organiser directly and enter the correct age group as approved. British Triathlon will also contact and advise the race organiser of athletes approved to race up for that event. It remains at the sole discretion of the race organiser whether or not to accept any individual athlete into the requested age group.
- Athletes may only race in one age group at any event, i.e. race up with approval OR race their own age group and NOT both.
- All issues regarding race entry and fees are between the athlete and the event organiser.

11 March 2019

ENDS