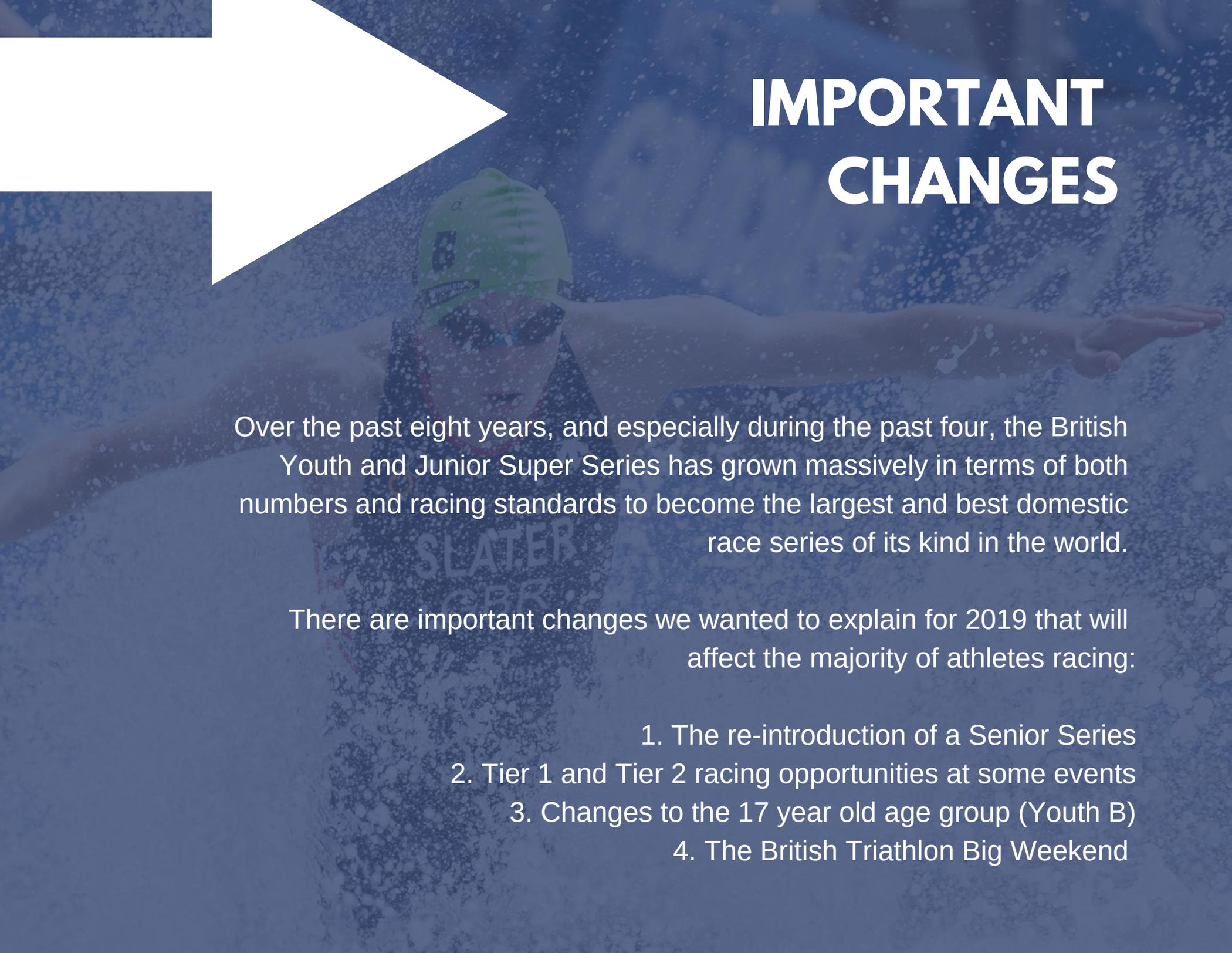




**BRITISH
TRIATHLON**

MOVING THE SUPER SERIES FORWARDS



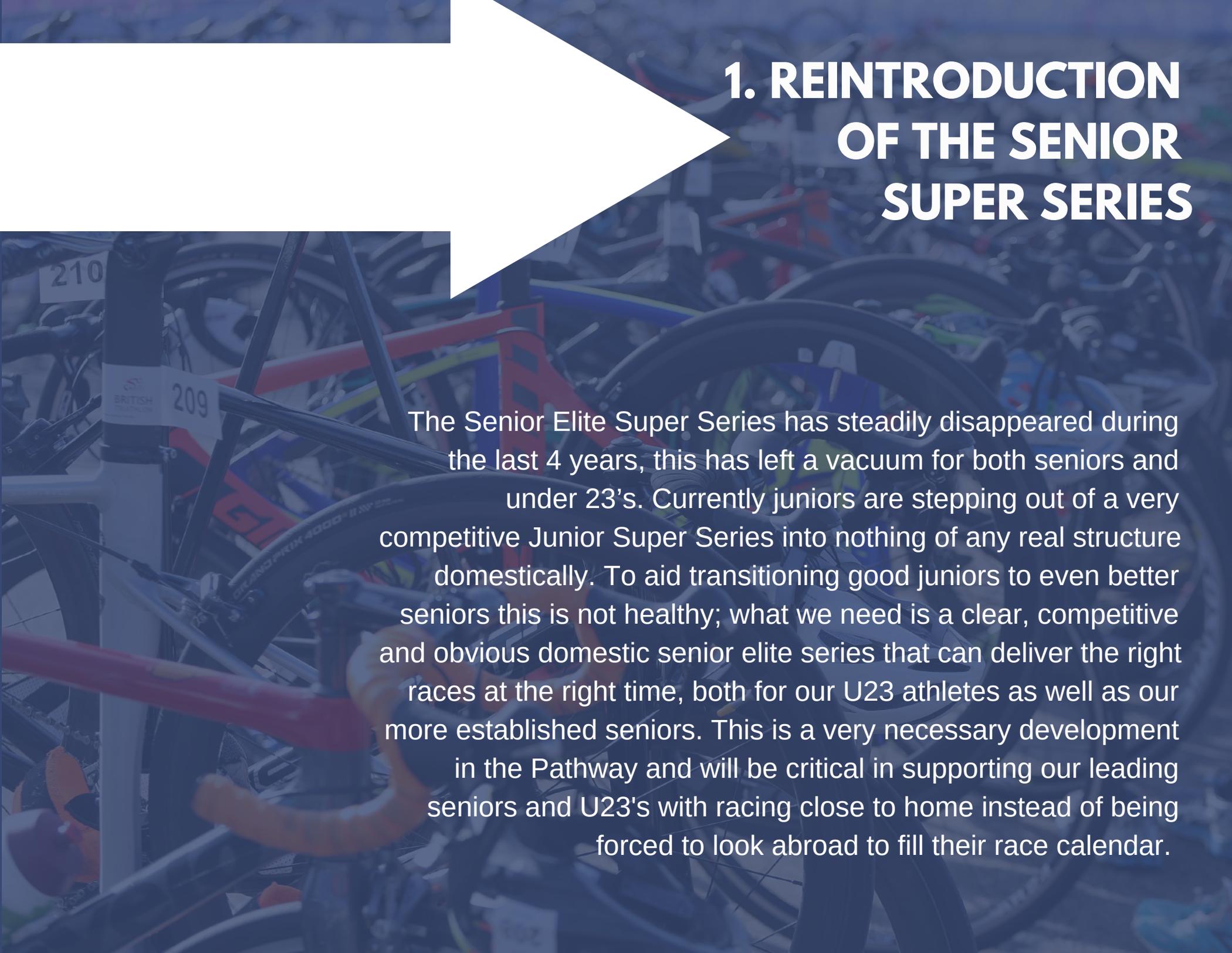
A swimmer in a pool, wearing a green swim cap and goggles, is shown in a swimming stroke. The background is a blue-tinted image of water with bubbles. A large white arrow points from the left side of the frame towards the right, partially overlapping the swimmer's head and the text area.

IMPORTANT CHANGES

Over the past eight years, and especially during the past four, the British Youth and Junior Super Series has grown massively in terms of both numbers and racing standards to become the largest and best domestic race series of its kind in the world.

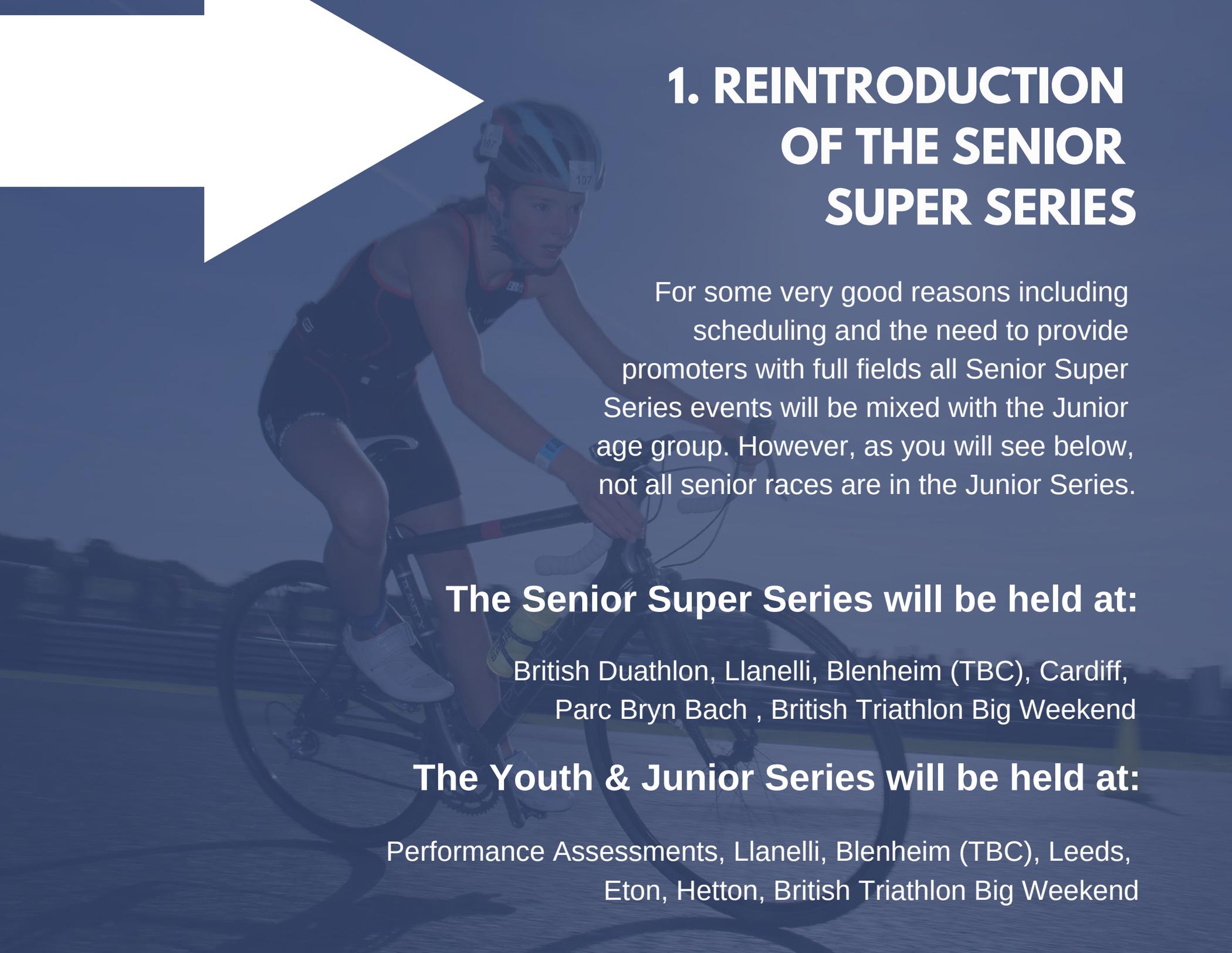
There are important changes we wanted to explain for 2019 that will affect the majority of athletes racing:

1. The re-introduction of a Senior Series
2. Tier 1 and Tier 2 racing opportunities at some events
3. Changes to the 17 year old age group (Youth B)
4. The British Triathlon Big Weekend



1. REINTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR SUPER SERIES

The Senior Elite Super Series has steadily disappeared during the last 4 years, this has left a vacuum for both seniors and under 23's. Currently juniors are stepping out of a very competitive Junior Super Series into nothing of any real structure domestically. To aid transitioning good juniors to even better seniors this is not healthy; what we need is a clear, competitive and obvious domestic senior elite series that can deliver the right races at the right time, both for our U23 athletes as well as our more established seniors. This is a very necessary development in the Pathway and will be critical in supporting our leading seniors and U23's with racing close to home instead of being forced to look abroad to fill their race calendar.

A cyclist in a black triathlon suit and helmet is riding a road bike on a track. The cyclist is wearing a helmet with the number 107 and a wristband. The background is a blurred track with a white arrow pointing right.

1. REINTRODUCTION OF THE SENIOR SUPER SERIES

For some very good reasons including scheduling and the need to provide promoters with full fields all Senior Super Series events will be mixed with the Junior age group. However, as you will see below, not all senior races are in the Junior Series.

The Senior Super Series will be held at:

British Duathlon, Llanelli, Blenheim (TBC), Cardiff,
Parc Bryn Bach , British Triathlon Big Weekend

The Youth & Junior Series will be held at:

Performance Assessments, Llanelli, Blenheim (TBC), Leeds,
Eton, Hetton, British Triathlon Big Weekend

2. MALE TIER 1 & TIER 2 & FEMALE START NUMBERS

The racing pool for junior and youth male athletes is now considerable with over 110 athletes in each age group, the competition this has created has moved standards forward considerably. The top 80 athletes in each age group are now at the same level as the best 50 in 2017 and the best 40 in 2016; in terms of numbers and standards both age groups have outgrown a single Tier of racing.

After successful trials in 2018, for 2019 we are moving to create more Tier 2 opportunities for both male youths and juniors, these are listed below. In addition the Performance Assessments, Hetton Super Sprints and Blenheim (if confirmed) offer well above standard capacities for both genders.

Llanelli – Youth and Junior Male Tier 1 and Tier 2

Leeds – Youth Male Tier 1 and Tier 2

British Triathlon Big Weekend - Youth and Junior Male Tier 1 and Tier 2

Junior Tier 1 events at Llanelli/Big Weekend will be mixed Jnr/Snr.

Exams for English/Welsh athletes mean a lack of Jnr demand at Leeds so there will be one Jnr tier only

2. MALE TIER 1 & TIER 2 & FEMALE START NUMBERS

More information on how point scoring and tiers will work can be found [here](#) in the Super Series Explained document. It is essential that those athletes in the Tier 2 space use these opportunities and we fill events or promoters will not be willing to run them - draft legal racing is not profitable!

On the female side the racing pool, while growing, is considerably smaller with around 70 Youth and 35 Juniors currently competing. Such numbers do not allow for an additional tier. However, field spread at the first buoy (a key determinant for start numbers) is greater than in male racing; successful trials last year have led to us permanently increasing start numbers in youth female events.

3. CHANGES TO THE 17 YEAR OLD AGE GROUP (YOUTH B)

We have chosen to make changes to how our age grouping works. Firstly as most will know GBR and ITU/ETU age groups at Youth age do not match. Internationally Youths are considered to be 15/16/17 yrs old (in the year of competition) while domestically youths are 15/16 and 17 year olds have until now raced as Juniors. International race distances also differ for these age groups with Youths competing over what is effectively super sprint and Juniors sprint distance.

Secondly with the addition of Senior athletes into some of the Junior Super Series events we have to carefully consider if an athlete who is 17 in the year of competition (and might in fact be 16 throughout the whole of the race season) should be racing against senior athletes.

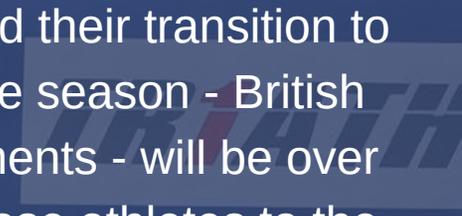
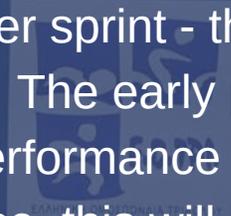
Thirdly jumping from Youth to Junior racing sees a large increase in race distance which a lot of 17(16) year olds find very challenging.

3. CHANGES TO THE 17 YEAR OLD GROUP (YOUTH B)

While we could simply fall into line with Europe and the rest of the world we don't believe that this best serves this year group. So, given all of the reasons outlined above, and because our focus is firmly on athlete learning and development, for 2019 we will have a separate 17 yr old age group (or Youth B) in the British Youth and Junior Super Series. The Youth B's will have dual focus over both sprint and super sprint - that will aid their transition to full sprint racing. The early part of the season - British Duathlon and Performance Assessments - will be over sprint distance, this will help expose athletes to the distance, before dropping back to super sprint racing for Llanelli, Blenheim (with Youth A) and Leeds (with Juniors) which leads nicely into the European Youth Champs.

TRIATHLON YOUTH
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FE
LOUTRAKI 2018
ETU

n
lon
nion



3. CHANGES TO THE 17 YEAR OLD GROUP (YOUTH B)

The final part of the season will see Youth B's racing fully over sprint distance, with Juniors only at Eton to start with, before taking on the challenge of racing with Seniors at Bryn Bach Parc and Mallory (Tier 1 only). By the time they come to race against Seniors they will have had 3 opportunities to explore the distance. This combined with race craft developed from 4 super sprints (Hetton included), where they are really able to compete and manage the race distance, will support them with the most effective transition to the longer distance. A separate Super Series for Youth B's will also provide this age group with more identity and help them not to get lost amongst much older Juniors and Seniors

More information detailing how this will all work will be found in the Super Series Explained document and Youth B Competition Map which are located [here](#)

4. THE BRITISH TRIATHLON BIG WEEKEND

The final change for 2019 will be the British Triathlon Big Weekend. What was formally known as the Under 20's Festival will continue to play that role, with British Championships for Juniors and Youths and the Youth and Junior Super Series finale, along with the Inter Regional Championships (IRC) for Tristar 2 & 3. Similar to the ITU Grand Final as the Super Series finale the Big Weekend will carry Super Series points and a quarter for all age groups.

In addition, on the Saturday, it will welcome the British Championships for Elites and Under 23's as well as being the (Senior) Super Series finale too.

The Sunday will have a mixed relay focus. After a successful trial last season mixed relay races for Youths, Juniors and IRC athletes will continue at the Big Weekend with the Mixed Relay Cup added to the schedule. After having taken place in Nottingham in 2017 and London in 2018 this event is coming to Mallory Park in 2019 and will see Britain's leading Triathlon training centres compete against each other.

So, an awfully big weekend indeed! One that has clearly outgrown it's previous title to become Britain's biggest annual celebration of draft legal racing.