



Welsh Triathlon: Senior Performance Squad Selection Policy

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this document is to explain the purpose of the Welsh Triathlon Senior Performance Squad (WSPS) and the process by which athletes will be selected onto the WSPS.

PURPOSE

The WSPS will provide additional support for Welsh athletes who have shown the potential to be nominated to represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games and/or to progress onto the BTF World Class Programme

Subject to availability, WSPS athletes will be able to access support in a number of areas, including:

- Access to Welsh Triathlon Performance Staff, for the following:
 - To be a Lead Program Coach or as support to current coaching set up
 - To support in planning race schedules and/or qualification campaigns
- Access to the National Triathlon Performance Centre Wales (NTPCW)
- Invitation to WSPS camps both abroad and domestically
- Invitation to Welsh Triathlon Performance Programme (WTPP) weekends with follow-up support from Sport Wales Institute staff
- International and domestic race support
- Eligibility to be nominated for Talent Cymru funding

The above is an overview of the support offered by the WSPS. Welsh Triathlon recognise that athletes may be able to access appropriate coaching, training and support services through their existing daily training environments (DTEs), therefore the objective of the WSPS is not to replace this, but to provide additional value and support where required in order to assist athletes in achieving their potential. Further support may be made available subject to a needs analysis between the athlete and the programme.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to be part of the Welsh Senior Performance Squad, athletes must:

1. Be eligible to represent Wales at the Commonwealth Games **AND**

2. Be aged 19 or over as of 31st December 2018 **AND**
3. Not currently be receiving any British Triathlon/UK Sport World Class Programme funding

SELECTION & TIERING

The selection criteria below are based on developing and supporting athletes who have the potential to represent Wales with distinction in future Commonwealth Games.

Nominated athletes who meet the below performance criteria, will be invited to a meeting with the Welsh Triathlon Performance Coach and Pathway Manager to review their season, discuss their future plans and objectives and determine their suitability for the WSPS.

Welsh Triathlon will **consider** all athletes who meet the identified performance standards, however this **does not guarantee** selection to the programme. In order to ensure that support and resources are allocated appropriately to maximise the potential of all athletes and the programme as a whole, the following areas (in addition to performance) will be considered in the meeting, including:

- Commitment to their continued development in line with the BTF Athlete Development Framework (ADF)
- Engagement with the Performance Programme in the preceding year
- Suitability of their daily training environment (DTE) and competition plans
- The athlete's potential to contribute positively to the performance and environment of the WSPS
- Whether the WSPS is the best placed 'resource' to support the athlete's performance development, and the opportunity for the WSPS to add appropriate value above and beyond their existing DTE
- A mutually agreed progress update and feedback process

There will be three tiers of the Senior Performance Squad:

1. Commonwealth Campaign - athletes who have:
 - i. Evidenced performances at or above the level required for individual nomination for the next Commonwealth Games
2. Commonwealth Potential - athletes who have:
 - i. Evidenced performances at or above the minimum trajectory projected to achieve individual nomination for future Commonwealth Games events, **OR**
 - ii. Achieved performances that evidence the potential to be selected to the British Triathlon World Class Performance Programme (WCPP) in the future
3. Team Relay - additional athletes who have:
 - i. Been specifically identified as having the potential to be nominated for the next Commonwealth Games as a relay team member

Notes:

- Resources such as support services and funding will be prioritised by tier between the three levels of the programme

- Athletes may move to a higher level of the programme during the course of a year, by delivering performances that trigger the criteria for that level, and following a review with the Welsh Triathlon Performance Coach/Pathway Manager
- At the discretion of the WT Performance Coach/Pathway Manager, athletes at **Tier 3: Team Relay** may be prioritised at or above the same level as athletes at **Tier 2: Commonwealth Potential** in the year of, and/or the year immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games.
- Athletes who, due to a period of injury or illness, have been unable to meet criteria at a given performance level, may be maintained at their previous level at the sole discretion of the WT Performance Coach/Pathway Manager and will be subject to review.

CRITERIA

Tier 1: Commonwealth Campaign

This level of the programme is for athletes who have proven the performance level required to be nominated for the Commonwealth Games team as an individual athlete. There are no age-grades at this level.

1. Achieve one or more performances that meet identified Individual Top-6 Commonwealth Games benchmarks.
 - i. Performances can be achieved at either ITU recognised sprint or standard distance events.
 - ii. The benchmarking data is available for discussion with the WT Performance Coach if required.

Tier 2: Commonwealth Potential

This level of the programme is for athletes who have demonstrated the potential to achieve individual Commonwealth Games nomination for future events, or to have the potential to move onto the British Triathlon World Class Performance Programme. Criteria at this level are purposefully age-graded in increasingly higher levels, to evidence the minimum performance trajectory required to achieve these objectives.

For 2017/18, the criteria are based on athletes' age at 31st December 2017

The below performance levels are for guideline only:

1. Athletes' performances in relation to their suitability for this level of the programme will be assessed by the WTPP team based on their expertise and understanding of:
 - i. Quality of field at a given event
 - ii. Individual discipline performances in triathlon competition
 - iii. Performance level required to achieve future Commonwealth Games nominations
2. Equivalent performances in international ITU-recognised events will be accepted at the discretion of the WTPP team

19 [Final-year Junior]

1. Trigger BTF Junior Gateway policy, by finishing within 105% of winner's time at either the May or September Junior Gateway events

20 [First-year U23]

1. Selection for an ETU U23 European Championships, ITU U23 World Championships or ITU World Cup event
2. Top-25 finish in an ETU European Cup or ITU Continental Cup of appropriate level
3. Top-5 finish in a domestic elite race of an appropriate level

21 [Second-year U23]

1. Selection for an ETU U23 European Championships, ITU U23 World Championships or ITU World Cup event
2. Top-15 finish in an ETU European Cup or ITU Continental Cup of appropriate level
3. Top-3 finish in a domestic elite race of an appropriate level

22-23 [Upper U23]

1. Top-12 finish at ETU U23 European Championships or Top-20 finish at ITU U23 World Championships
2. Top-20 finish in an ITU World Cup
3. Top-8 finish in an ETU European Cup or ITU Continental Cup of appropriate level

24+ [Senior]

1. Top-15 finish in an ITU World Cup
2. Top-5 finish in an ETU European Cup or ITU Continental Cup of appropriate level

Tier 3: Team Relay

This level of the programme is for athletes who have been identified as having the potential to be nominated for the next Commonwealth Games event as a relay team member. Whilst there are no specific criteria for this level of the programme, for 2017/18 selection for this level will be based on performances at the following event:

1. Welsh Triathlon Commonwealth Games Relay Trial, Aberavon: 23rd August 2017

ATHLETE APPEARANCES

In line with the Welsh Triathlon Performance Programme strategic objective of 'inspiring the athletes of the future through exceptional performance and engagement', Welsh Triathlon are requesting that athletes selected for the WSPS undertake a minimum of three 'athlete appearances' over the course of the year.

The purpose of these appearances are to connect our high-performing athletes to local clubs and communities, such as by visiting local schools or clubs. Athlete appearances can be arranged by the athlete directly or through Welsh Triathlon.

NEXT STEPS

Athletes who wish to be considered for selection onto the WSPS, please contact Luke Watson, Welsh Triathlon Performance Coach at lukewatson@welshtriathlon.org, detailing the level of the programme you wish to be considered for, and the evidence that supports your performance at this level against the above criteria. Applications for 2017-18 must be received on or before **20th October 2017**.

INFORMATION AND QUERIES

Any queries or requests for further information relating to the WSPS should be directed to Luke Watson at lukewatson@welshtriathlon.org.