

Professional License Information

Context

As the governing body for triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and other disciplines in the 'triathlon' family, Triathlon New Zealand is required to adjudicate athletes' capability to race in Elite and/or Pro fields, for external bodies such as ITU, Challenge, Ironman, Xterra, etc.

While not operating a 'professional license' scheme as such, Tri NZ believes it has a responsibility to ensure that athletes racing in such fields are of credible standard, and therefore bases its adjudication of Elite and/or Pro status on the criteria described in this Policy.

This Policy applies to all athletes seeking endorsement as Elite and/or Pro for international races¹, including all distances and formats, whether drafting or non-drafting. This Policy is applied by the Tri NZ High Performance Programme. Further Policies may also apply for entry in to specific races - such as the various tiers of ITU events and/or Championships – which should be read in conjunction with this Policy once Elite/Pro status has been endorsed.

Criteria for Endorsement

The criteria for endorsement cover 34 aspects, all of which must be satisfied:

1. Nationality
2. Credible standard
3. Anti-doping

Nationality

To apply for endorsement, athletes must first establish their eligibility to compete in the relevant event under the banner of Tri NZ. In the absence of clear nationality criteria from the event's accrediting body, eligibility will be established using ITU rules². Ordinarily this will require the athlete to submit a copy of their NZ passport or duration of residency along with proof of Tri NZ (TRIBE) membership.

Credible Standard

It is considered a general principle that Elite and/or Pro athletes typically finish ahead of even the best Age Groupers of their gender. Basic research of long distance events indicates this is at a time gap of approx. 10% from the gender winner. Therefore a time gap of 12% from the gender winner is taken as demonstration of credible standard for Pro Endorsement – i.e. criteria for demonstrating credible standard is to finish within 12% of the Elite and/or Pro gender winner's time in a

race recognised by an international accrediting body (e.g. ITU, Challenge, Ironman, Xterra, etc).

Note: For entries in ITU racing, the standard of within 12% of the Elite and/or Pro gender winner's time in a race recognised by an international accrediting body establishes credible standard to race in ITU Continental Cups with further specific criteria applying for higher tiers of racing such as World Cups and World Triathlon Series.

Anti-Doping

Tri NZ is firmly committed to drug free sport. In partnership with DFSNZ, Tri NZ therefore requires all athletes racing under its banner internationally as Elite and/or Pro to be educated in drug free sport on an annual basis. If not able to show evidence of such education from another DFSNZ (or equivalent) source (e.g. High Performance workshop), athletes applying for Elite/Pro Endorsement must complete the DFSNZ on-line seminar and submit evidence of 'passing'.

Duration

Pro Endorsement applies for a calendar year, based on results in the current and previous calendar years (i.e. Endorsement applied for during 2015 for 2016 can be based on results from 2015 and 2014). In exceptional circumstances, Endorsement can be applied for based on results further back-dated, but this would typically require previous podium success as an Elite or Pro.

Process of Application

Based on the above criteria, athletes applying for Elite and/or Pro Endorsement should submit the following to the High Performance Administrator (hpadmin@triathlon.kiwi):

1. Proof of eligible nationality – typically NZ passport and Tri NZ membership
 2. Evidence of credible standard – typically finishing with 12% of the gender winner in an 'accredited' international race during the current and/or previous year
 3. Name and date of birth, which Tri NZ will submit to DFSNZ to activate the on-line drug free education process – athletes will be notified by email from DFSNZ that the workshop is ready, and should then submit evidence of 'passing' to HP Admin
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Appeals

An athlete may appeal to Tri NZ against their Endorsement or non-Endorsement in accord with the Tri NZ High Performance Selection Appeal Policy. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Chief Executive within 2 days of the athlete being notified.

Revocation

In being Endorsed, the athlete will be representing Tri NZ on the world stage. Endorsement can therefore be revoked at any time, should the athlete:

1. Fail to maintain good standing as a member of Tri NZ;
2. Act in a manner to bring the athlete, the sport, Tri NZ or triathlon in general into public disrepute; and/or
3. To Tri NZ's knowledge use or administer any substance which, if detected as being present in the athlete's body tissue or fluids, would constitute doping, or use any prohibited method or commit any other doping offence as defined in Tri NZ's, DFSNZ's or WADA's anti-doping rules or bylaws.