

ELITE STATUS: CRITERIA and PROCEDURES

PREAMBLE

The purpose of an Elite license is to give recognition to excellence and thereby to enable Elite athletes to compete for the highest honours. To continuously improve the standard of competition of athletes competing in the Elite category of TSA sanctioned races. TSA would prefer to see athletes commit to racing in this category throughout the season, rather than changing categories from race to race. To increase the numbers of athletes competing in the Elite category, to enable more athletes to compete internationally and to raise the standard of triathlon in South Africa, TSA has introduced a second category of elite status (for triathlon athletes only), namely Continental Elite. This status refers to senior athletes competing in the standard (Olympic) triathlon distance. The previous status of Elite athletes (triathlon standard distance) is henceforth referred to as Elite International. With regard to triathlon (long distance), duathlon, and u/23 athletes the present status remains.

GENERAL

- (a) Qualifying for an Elite license in one discipline DOES NOT mean the athlete has qualified in another discipline
- (b) .An athlete may qualify for an Elite license in triathlon and/or duathlon, however qualification as an Elite in triathlon automatically qualify the athlete to enter duathlon as an Elite.
- (c) Once an athlete has decided to race Elite, (except Continental Elite) the athlete must compete in the Elite category (if there is one in the race) of that discipline for the validity period of the Elite license. For example, if the athlete has an Elite licence for triathlon, the athlete must compete as Elite in every triathlon event the athlete enter (provided there is an Elite category in the race). The athlete may however enter duathlon as an age group or Elite athlete.
- (d) If the race does not indicate that there is a separate Elite category, then the athlete competes in the same category as all the other (age group) athletes.
- (e) An athlete with Continental Elite status will be entitled to compete in either the Elite or Age Group category at the SA National Triathlon Championships.

- (f) Senior athletes qualifying for International Elite and Elite u/23 status may participate in the Elite wave of any ITU / TSA sanctioned long distance triathlon event. (The same principle applies to duathlon.)
- (g) If an athlete was injured, ill or did not compete (or complete) or for any other reason could not meet the qualifying standard, such athlete can apply for Elite status (temporary or otherwise), to the committee.
- (h) Athletes that compete at age group level need to be provided with an opportunity to qualify for an Elite license. Therefore the first overall age grouper (male and female) at the National Championships will automatically qualify, along with any other athlete that finishes within 2% of this time.
- (i) Junior Elite athletes and u/23 Elite athletes do not automatically carry their Elite status over to the u/23 Elite or senior Elite category and will have to qualify for such status in the new category. As a bridging mechanism such athlete may race in the step up category with an automatically granted provisional license which expires on 31 August of the step up year.
- (j) Elite status will at all times be subject to the athlete being in good standing and registered with Triathlon SA.
- (k) If the performance of any Elite athlete drop to the point where non-licensed athletes post faster times or the committee is of the opinion that the Elite athlete does not deserve the status, such status may be withdrawn and the athlete must return his/her Elite License Card to TSA.
- (l) All Elite athletes wishing to compete in events in a foreign country must first obtain the written permission from TSA. Such permission must be routed via the athlete's province. Applications must be received by TSA at least four weeks prior to departure.
- (m) All Elite athletes wishing to compete in ATU/ITU events must be entered for the event by TSA. Requests for entry must be received by TSA at least four weeks prior to the event.
- (n) Once TSA issue an Elite License Card to an eligible athlete, such athlete must present that card at all events entered and at any time so requested by TSA or race official.
- (o) Any athlete in the Junior Elite category may apply to the committee for permission to compete once off in the u/23 Elite category at any event (provided the Junior Athlete is at least 18 years old).
- (p) An athlete holding an International Elite license (including Junior and u/23 Elite), if not selected in the Elite category for the Triathlon World Championships, automatically qualify for a slot to compete at the ITU World Triathlon Championships (Age Group).
- (q) An athlete holding a Continental Elite license will automatically qualify for a slot to compete at the ITU World Triathlon Championships (Age Group).
- (r) The administrative process of all Elite licenses for all disciplines will be self regulatory. By entering in the Elite category as an Elite

athlete, the athlete will do so with full knowledge and in compliance of the Elite Declarator (see below).

Qualifying Criteria: Triathlon

1. International Elite (senior and u/23)
(Standard distance)
 - 1.1 Qualifying criteria
 - 1.1.1 Finish within 5% of the first South African male and 8% of the first South African female at the SA National Triathlon Championships (Elite category).
 - 1.1.2 Finish within 5% of the first South African male and 8% of the first South African female at the Continental Triathlon Championships (Elite category) (provided same is staged in South Africa).
 - 1.1.3 Finish within 5% of the first South African male and 8% of the first South African female at a selected draft event. In a selected, non-draft event the percentage is 8% and 10% respectively.
 - 1.2 Entry to qualify
 - 1.2.1 Entry to SA National Triathlon Championships (both senior Elite, and u/23 Elite) is open to all Provincial athletes (age 20+) so entered by their Province (subject to TSA entry rules if any). (Ad 1.1.1)
 - 1.2.2 With the approval of the committee any athlete (age 20+) may enter the Elite category at the Continental Triathlon Championships (provided same is staged in South Africa). (Ad 1.1.2)
 - 1.2.3 TSA/ATU/ITU events selected/approved by the committee based on the standard of competition (e.g. ATU African Cup, etc.). (Ad 1.1.3)

2. Continental Elite (senior)
(Standard distance)

2.1 Qualifying criteria

- 2.1.1 Finish between 5,01% and 8% of the first South African senior male and 8,01% and 10% of the first South African senior female at the SA National Triathlon Championships (Elite category).
- 2.1.2 Finish in the top 20 of overall finishers at the South African National Triathlon Championships (senior age group categories).
- 2.1.3 Finish within 5,01% and 8% of the first South African male and 8,01% and 10% of the first South African female at selected drafting events.

2.2 Qualify to enter

- 2.2.1 Entry to SA National Triathlon Championships (both senior Elite, and age group category) is open to all Provincial athletes so entered by their Province (subject to specific TSA entry rules if any). (Ad 2.1.1 and 2.1.2)
- 2.2.2 TSA/ATU events selected/approved by the committee based on the standard of competition. (Ad 2.1.3)

3. Junior Elite License:

The athlete must have finished within 5% of the first South African male and 8% of the first South African female in the Junior 16 – 19 categories of the following selected events:

- (1) All Africa Tri Championships
- (2) SA Tri Championships
- (3) Other ITU/TSA sanctioned events may be considered from time to time based on the number of athletes competing and the level of competition.

- 1- Upon request, athletes in the 16 - 19 year age group may be granted Temporary Junior Elite licences. This will permit the athlete to race in the Elite wave of non-championship events in half standard in distance (sprint) or less
- 2- Junior Elite athletes may be granted permission to race in the Elite category of the National Sprint Championships. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis with the athlete requesting permission in writing at least four weeks before the event.

4. Long Distance

To qualify for an Elite licence in LONG DISTANCE TRIATHLON the athlete must finish within 8% of the first South African male and 10% of the first South African female of the following selected non-drafting long distance (course) events:

- (1) SA Long Distance (Course) Triathlon Championships
- (2) SA Long Distance Team Selection Race (unless ruled otherwise by TSA)
- (3) Other ITU / TSA sanctioned events may be considered from time to time based on the number of athletes competing and the level of competition.

N.B: Athletes qualifying for a Long Distance Elite Licence that do not hold a Standard Distance International Elite or Elite u/23 license, may not participate in the Elite wave of the Standard Distance drafting events

Qualifying Criteria – Duathlon

Senior and u/23 Elite (Standard distance)

5. The principles referred to in 1 above apply.

Junior Elite

6. The principles referred to in 3 above apply.

Long distance

7. The principles referred to in 4 above apply.

N.B: Athletes qualifying for a Long Distance Elite License that do not hold a Standard Distance International Elite or Elite u/23 license, may not participate in the Elite wave of the Standard Distance drafting events

License validity

All Elite licenses (other than a provisional license which shall be valid for a particular race or a limited period only) will be valid up to 31 August the year following qualification.

Request for Provisional Elite Status

Any TSA registered athlete in good standing, not eligible for an Elite license in terms of the above, may apply to the committee for the grant of Elite status (temporary or otherwise). Such application must be directed through the athlete's province and must be supported by recent performance information to justify the grant of such status.

ELITE STATUS DECLARATOR

An athlete eligible for elite status, will enter and compete in the elite category of such entered race subject to and in compliance with the elite status procedures and criteria of TSA (as published on the TSA website) with which the athlete is deemed fully acquainted with. Entry in the Elite category will constitute acceptance hereof.

An elite athlete will at all times compete in compliance with and adhere to the race rules of the event and race rules of TSA, in a sportsmanlike manner.

An elite athlete shall at all times remain in good standing and duly registered with TSA. Such athlete further acknowledges that breach of any of the elite status procedures and criteria could result in the withdrawal by TSA of such elite status.