



**TRIATHLON**  

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**AUSTRALIA**

**SELECTION POLICY - ITU ELITE TEAM**

**ITU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES**  
**GRAND FINAL - 2009**

**(September 9 – 13, 2009  
Gold Coast, Australia)**

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

1. This Policy details the process and criteria by which Triathlon Australia (**TA**) will select athletes to be nominated to the ITU as part of TA's TEAM to compete at ITU World Championship Series Grand Final (**WCS Grand Final**).
2. The ITU determines eligibility criteria and competition rules for ITU WCS Grand Final. Under the current criteria and rules, entry to WCS Grand Final is accepted only through nomination from the National Federation.

Athletes cannot enter ITU WCS Grand Final other than through their NF.

3. This Policy can be amended at any time by TA if TA is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary for any of the following reasons:
  - as a result of any change in ITU eligibility criteria or rules;
  - as a result of any change in the rules governing a particular race/Event;
  - to give effect to the Policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight;
  - to clarify any ambiguity or otherwise give effect to the intended meaning of the Policy;
  - any other reason determined by TA to be in the best interests of TA.

TA shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

4. In 2009, the World Championship Series being conducted by the ITU will be significantly different from the format used by the ITU previously. The WCS Grand Final is the final Event in that Series. As a result, it may be that the ITU is forced to make scheduling and/or eligibility criteria changes at short notice. These changes may require TA to amend this Policy as set out in clause 3 immediately above. In those circumstances, TA will use its best endeavours to publicise any changes. Athletes and other stakeholders

should check the TA High Performance Website ([tahp.org.au](http://tahp.org.au)) and the ITU Website ([www.triathlon.org](http://www.triathlon.org)) on a regular basis for news affecting the Series or this Policy.

### ***Eligibility for Selection under this Policy***

5. Selection according to the terms of this Policy will not qualify an athlete for participation in a WCS Event if the athlete is not eligible according to the summary ITU Eligibility Rules set out at A8 below.
6. The summary ITU Eligibility Rules set out in A8 below are as interpreted by TA, according to the rules as they exist at the date of publication of this Policy.
7. In addition to qualifying according to all of the ITU Eligibility Rules, in order to be eligible for selection according to the terms of this Policy, an athlete must:
  - Be a current TA professional licence holder.
  - Be in good standing with TA.
  - Sign (when requested to do so) by the HPD, and comply with the terms of, The TA High Performance Squad Agreement (2009).

### ***ITU WCS Grand Final Eligibility Rules***

8. At the time of this Policy coming into effect applicable ITU competition and eligibility rules in relation to the WCS Grand Final are as follows:
  - 8.1 TA may nominate a maximum of six (6) male and six (6) female athletes to compete at the WCS Grand Final.

At the time of drafting this Policy, athletes in the 'Gold Group' are not included in a National Federation's quota. Therefore, if at any relevant time TA has an athlete, or athletes (maximum two (2)) in the 'Gold Group', TA will be able to nominate additional athletes to the ITU equivalent to the number(s) in the 'Gold Group' for either men or women.

- 8.2 The ITU only accepts nominations from National Federations (NF) and reviews the nominations against the ITU eligibility criteria.

- 8.3 Field sizes are normally restricted to as close to a maximum of seventy-five (75) as possible. In cases where more nominations are received for positions available the ITU may not accept some of the National Federation nominations
- 8.4 Athletes identified by the ITU as 'Gold Group' athletes will be moved to the start list.
- 8.5 The top twenty-five (25) athletes ranked from the 2009 ITU World Championship rankings, 30 days prior to the date of the first competition day, excluding those already on the start list, will be moved to the start list.
- 8.6 The top twenty (20) athletes from the current ITU points list, 30 days prior to the date of the first competition day, excluding those already on the start list will be moved to the start list. This number will increase to put sixty (60) athletes on the start list.
- 8.7 The top three (3) finishers of the last Continental Championships. If the athlete(s) are already qualified according to 8.5 or 8.6 the above spots will go back to the ITU points list.
- 8.8 The remaining athletes on the wait list will be ordered by their position on the current ITU points list.
- 8.9 If a NF withdraws athletes from the start list within 30 days prior to the first competition day, after every second withdrawal the country will be able to enter one less athlete to the following two WCS Events. The maximum quota of the NF will be adjusted accordingly.
- 8.10 Each NF will be allowed to substitute one athlete, per gender, communicating the names of the athletes involved in the substitution to the ITU. One extra substitution is allowed if the substituted athlete is entered in the U23 World Championship instead of the Grand Final. Substitutions are only allowed up to 14 days prior to the first competition day. There are no substitutions for athletes in the Gold Group. If the substitute athlete is ranked higher than the worse ranked athlete on the start list, the substitution doesn't affect the quota.

- 8.11 Athletes who withdraw within the last seven (7) days of the first competition day of a WCS Event will be removed from all start lists and wait lists for Events in which the athlete has been entered at the time of the athlete's withdrawal from the Event
- 8.12 Athletes who are not personally present at the Athlete's Briefing and have not provided prior notification to the Technical Delegate will be removed from all start lists and wait lists for the Events for which they have already been entered at the time of the briefing.
- 8.13 Athletes present at the Athlete's Briefing but are forced to withdraw from the competition due to last minute illness or injury, as proven by a certificate from a medical doctor, will remain on future start lists and wait lists of ITU Events.
- 8.14 All eligible athletes must also satisfy ITU rules regarding nationality and citizenship, which are based on the conditions laid down in the charter of the International Olympic Committee. In summary, athletes must:
- be a citizen or national of Australia; and
  - not have represented another country in the last three years.

## **B. TA SELECTION CRITERIA**

**ALL positions on the 2009 WCS Grand Final TEAM will be selected at the absolute discretion of the Triathlon Australia Elite Selection Committee ("TAESC") at any time between 1 April 2009 and 27 July 2009. This discretion is absolute and it need not be exercised.**

Without in any way limiting its discretion when considering any athlete for selection, the TAESC may consider any of the following factors, or any combination of those factors, together with other matter that is, in the opinion of TAESC consistent with the stated philosophy of TA's high performance program<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> TA's high performance selection philosophy for 2009 can be accessed by the TA high performance website at [www.ta hp.org.au ].

- Performances in 2009 ITU World Championship Series Events.
- ITU World Championship Series Eligibility Criteria.
- Ranking on current ITU Points List.
- Performances in the ITU World Championship and World Cup Races in 2008.
- Current form in races conducted over the Olympic Distance according to ITU rules.
- History of past performances in World Cup Races and ‘major’ Championship Races such as World Championships, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games run over the Olympic Distance according to ITU rules.
- Membership of the Australian Institute of Sport Program.
- Ability to take directions from the National Performance Director and/or Head Coach for the purpose of achieving the best possible result for TA in the particular Event.
- Compatibility with the specific demands of the course for any particular/relevant Event.
- Individual strengths that may enhance Australia’s medal potential at the WCS Grand Final.
- Overall TEAM balance given the other members selected according to this Policy.

For the purposes of clarity, it is the intended operation of this clause that the TAESC may give whatever ‘weight’ that it considers appropriate to any of the above matters, or any other matter that is in its opinion relevant and consistent with the stated philosophy of TA’s high performance program.

### **C. CONFIRMATION OF SELECTION**

1. Athletes selected for WCS Grand Final in 2009 must confirm with TA their

acceptance of the starting position of the relevant WCS Grand Final within 72 hours of notification according to the terms of this Policy. This needs to be done via email to the TA NPA.

Failure to do so, may, at the discretion of the NPD, result in the relevant athlete's starting position being forfeited in favour of the next eligible athlete selected according to the terms of this Policy.

2. Any athlete withdrawing from a WCS Grand Final once nominated to the ITU 30 days prior to the Event must contact the NPD directly and provide legitimate health or musculo-skeletal injury reasoning. The NPD reserves the right to request supporting evidence from Medical Practitioner to support an athlete's health or musculo-skeletal issue.

Athletes should note that according to current ITU rules, withdrawal from an ITU WCS Grand Final within the 30 days prior to the Event will attract penalties both on the athlete withdrawing and Triathlon Australia. The penalties are ineligibility for the athlete for the next two World Championship Series Events and a loss of a quota position (if it is the second withdrawal by TA athlete within the 30 day period) for the next two World Championship Series Events.

Any withdrawal by an athlete within 30 days prior to the Event may, at the discretion of TAESC, as sanctioned by the TA Board, result in a penalty to the athlete including ineligibility for additional World Championship Series Events (including World Championship Series Grand Final) in addition to any ineligibility imposed by the ITU on that athlete. In exercising its discretion in relation to penalty, the TAESC will consider written submissions made by the athlete as to any such withdrawal, and the implications following from the withdrawal including loss of any future quota positions by Triathlon Australia.

#### **D. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TEAM**

1. The TAESC in its absolute discretion may select athletes in the TEAM (for nomination to the ITU according to the terms of this Policy) at any time following endorsement of this Policy by the TA Board.

The NPD will inform the athlete(s) concerned, post the announcement on the TAHP website ([www.tahp.org.au](http://www.tahp.org.au)) and email the Elite Athlete Community to advise of such selection(s).

2. The final TEAM will be announced and posted on the TA website on or before 3 August 2009.

## **E. FURTHER REQUIREMENTS - MEDICAL AND FITNESS ASSESSMENT**

1. Following selection of the TEAM as set out in this Policy all members of the TEAM will be required to comply with the additional requirements set out in this section E.
2. Any Athlete in the TEAM who does not meet the requirements set out in this clause E to the satisfaction of the NPD is subject to exclusion from the TEAM at the discretion of the NPD
3. Any Athlete who is determined to be ill, injured or unfit as defined in subclauses E14 and E15 respectively is at the discretion of the NPD subject to exclusion from the TEAM.
4. All members of the TEAM will be required to sign an ASADA Drug Testing form distributed by Triathlon Australia within 14 days of announcement of their selection in the TEAM as set out in Section D.
5. All members of the TEAM are expected to meet minimum standards of behaviour for TEAM members whilst assembled, travelling, training and/or competing as part of the TEAM. Any TEAM member who does not meet that minimum standard of behaviour in the assessment of the NPD will, at the discretion of the NPD, be dismissed from the TEAM and therefore be ineligible to compete in 2009 WCS Grand Final.
6. All members of the TEAM must provide the name and contact details of all their relevant health care professionals (general practitioner, sports medical practitioner and physiotherapist) to the NPD within 14 days of the announcement of the TEAM.
7. Once named in the TEAM each TEAM member has a personal obligation to

maintain the level of fitness that will enable them to compete in 2009 WCS Grand Final to the standard at which they were selected.

8. All TEAM members must immediately inform the NPD (or his nominated representative) of any illness or injury that could reasonably impact on the Athlete's ability to perform at the level expected of the Athlete at the 2009 WCS Grand Final.
9. On request from the TA Medical Director or his/her nominee, a TEAM member must give permission to any one of their nominated health care professionals to discuss and/or disclose confidential information to the TA Medical Director in relation to their health or injury status as relevant to their performance in 2009 WCS Grand Final.
10. **Any** TEAM member may be required to submit to a medical examination if in the reasonably held opinion of the NPD there is any doubt as to the health or injury status of the relevant TEAM member which could impact on that TEAM member's ability to perform at the required standard at the 2009 WCS Grand Final.
11. If after any medical examination the TA Medical Director (or his/her nominee) considers that a TEAM member may be injured or ill (as defined in E14 below), then that Athlete may be required to undertake an illness/injury assessment at any time before the 2009 WCS Grand Final. The illness/injury assessment may include a fitness or physical trial to be determined by the NPD in consultation with the TA Medical Director.
12. Any TEAM member may be required to undergo a fitness assessment prior to 2009 WCS Grand Final. The fitness assessment will be at the absolute discretion of the NPD and may be a designated triathlon race or trial involving one or all three triathlon disciplines.
13. If at any time prior to the 2009 WCS Grand Final any TEAM member is assessed as injured, ill or unfit pursuant to the terms of this section E, that TEAM member may be withdrawn from the TEAM at the discretion of the NPD
14. For the purposes of this section E, a TEAM member will only be assessed as "injured or ill" if in the opinion of the TA Medical Director or his/her

nominee, the Athlete is injured or ill to such an extent that either of the following situations exist:

- the Athlete will not be capable of performing in the 2009 WCS Grand Final to a level at which the Athlete would be expected to perform if not affected by the illness or injury in question; or
  - by competing with the injury at the 2009 WCS Grand Final the Athlete may suffer significant short or long term medical complications.
15. For the purposes of this section E, a TEAM member will only be assessed as unfit for the 2009 WCS Grand Final if in the reasonably held opinion of the NPD, the Athlete's overall physical condition is such that the Athlete is not capable of performing to the level at which the Athlete qualified for, or was selected to, the TEAM pursuant to this Policy.
16. There is no right of appeal against any decision made by TA, the NPD or the TA Medical Director, pursuant to this section E.
17. TEAM members may be required to attend a WCS Grand Final Training Camp.
18. TEAM members will be required to meet all NATIONAL TEAM UNIFORM GUIDELINES as set out in the TA High Performance Squad Agreement.

## **F. APPEALS**

The appeal process applicable to selection for ITU WCS Grand Final (this Policy) is to be found on TA High Performance Website at [www.tahp.org.au](http://www.tahp.org.au).

Triathlon Australia

March, 2009