



TRIATHLON AUSTRALIA
2010 SELECTION PHILOSOPHY
ITU WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES AND ITU WORLD CUPS

The primary objective for the Triathlon Australia High Performance Program (**TAHPP**) for the purposes of 2010-2012 period is - *“To further develop a sustainable High Performance environment that provides Elite Athletes and Coaches with the opportunity to be consistently successful at International competitions with a priority to ITU Olympic distance events”.*

This document sets out the philosophy upon which selection decisions will be made within the framework of its overall primary objective for all ITU Junior, U23 and Olympic distance elite teams in 2010.

2010 marks the start of the Olympic Qualification Process that determines the number of athletes a country can qualify for the 2012 Olympic Games. The qualification process runs for a period of 2 years and points are allocated on performances in World Championships Series (WCS) and World Cup (WC) events.

As the first year of the Olympic Qualification process, the TAHPP's goal is to optimise Australia's ability to qualify a maximum number of athletes capable of winning in 2012. The TAHPP, in 2010, will also begin to identify athletes with the potential to achieve this goal for Australia in London. In doing so, three events deemed to be similar to the London course have been identified as 'priority' events on the 2010 calendar. These events are: Hamburg WCS, London WCS and Budapest WCS-GF.

In 2010, the AIS/Elite National Squad will include two tiers. These tiers do not necessarily differentiate funding/service support, but rather identify athletes who are proven performers and allow those athletes a more flexible and individualized approach to their preparation.

In an effort to ensure Australia maximizes its opportunities across all levels, appropriate and timely planning is seen as critical. Athletes/coaches deemed to have inappropriate or lack of performance planning are likely to miss selection opportunities. Similarly, athletes wishing to be part of Triathlon Australia's Team for the WCSGF and other WCS Events *must* show a genuine commitment to competing in ITU World Championship Series Events and ITU World Cups with the intention of maintaining an ITU World Ranking that will qualify Australia the maximum quota positions for the London Olympic Games.

The requirement for planning by athletes and their coaches and the commitment to obtaining the maximum quota position for the London Olympic Games will be implemented formally into the High Performance Program from 2010. In order to be

eligible for funding through the Program, athletes will need to have their 2010 Competition Schedule approved by the Head Coach and signed off by the National Performance Director. Funding will be determined, and allocated, at the discretion of the National Performance Director as agreed within an athlete's approved Competition Schedule.

Funding will also be conditional on athletes entering into, and agreeing to be bound by the terms of a High Performance Program Agreement, to be known as the TA High Performance Squad Agreement. The Agreement will incorporate High Performance expectations including meticulous competition planning and commitment to the London Olympic Games quota positions. It will also include the rights and obligations of athletes as expressed in the past in World Championship Team Agreements.

TAHPP's selection process will continue to be directed at identifying, encouraging and supporting those athletes who have a winning mentality and who demonstrate that they can perform when it counts.

It is the belief of the TAHPP that the 2009 ITU WCS ranking was effective in ranking the best athletes in the sport over the year. As such, the TA National Performance Table will become obsolete as a means of ranking athletes.

TAHPP sees the single most important and prestigious competition in any four year cycle as the Olympic Games. With the WCS and the fact that Triathlon will not be part of the 2010 Commonwealth Games, TAHPP is faced with the challenge of achieving its goals at the 2012 London Olympic Games in the absence of a major single day championship event between the Beijing Olympics and the London Olympic Games.

In the absence of a 'true' one day World Championship Event, TAHPP identifies the ITU WCSGF as the single most important event for the calendar year of 2010. Further, TAHPP identifies the ITU World Championship Series as the key competition program underpinning the development of Australia's athletes who demonstrate potential to represent Australia at the 2012 Olympic Games. Discretionary selections for the WCSGF and other WCS Events will be directed at exposing those athletes who TAHPP has identified as potential 2012 Olympians to the experience of competing in these Events.

TAHPP will be selecting a **team** for the WCSGF. ITU rules will require athletes to wear a team uniform. TAHPP sees this year's Grand Final, and the Grand Final in successive years leading into 2012 as its only true opportunity to race and compete as a team, an opportunity that needs to be maximised in order to assist TAHPP with its goals for 2012. Accordingly, the Selectors will have the discretion to select an athlete or athletes to play a team role in the Grand Final. This discretion has been part of the selection process for elite teams for some years, particularly in 2006 and for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The ITU World Cups will be used by TAHPP to both create development opportunities for potential 2012 Olympians and to assist identified athletes to gain World Championship points for future selection into WCS Events.

Both the WCS and the ITU World Cups may, as opportunity presents, be used to extend opportunities to athletes the TAHPP identifies as having the potential to develop into 2016 Olympians.

Athletes, and all stakeholders, should understand that this Philosophy Statement does not form part of the selection criteria for WCS Events, the WCSGF or ITU World Cups. It has been produced as a guide to understanding the rationale behind selection decisions.

Summary

- 2010 marks the start of the Olympic Qualification process that will allow Australia to maximize its representation in London 2012. 2010 WCSGF is the single most important event for this year.
- Hamburg WCS, London WCS and Budapest WCS-GF will be considered 'priority' events in 2010 as they are deemed events most similar to the London Olympic Games course and conditions.
- Discretionary selections in WCS and ITU World Cups will continue to be directed at securing Australia maximum quota positions for the 2012 Olympic Games.
- Discretionary selections in WCS and ITU World Cups to be directed at exposing athletes identified as potential 2012 Olympians (and in some cases if the opportunity arises, athletes identified as potential 2016 Olympians).
- Discretionary selections based on a team role – achieving a desired outcome for Australia will continue to play a part in selection philosophy.
- TAHPP will focus on athletes and coaches who have the following priorities, elite performance, continuous improvement and the capacity to win designated major events