

### **Introduction**

This policy details the process and criteria by which Triathlon Victoria (TV) will select members of the 2021-2022 Development Program (TVDP). The TVDP provides a pathway to high-performance training/competition and Australian Youth/Junior/Age Group selection.

### **TVDP Mission Statement**

To provide a nurturing and supportive environment for the development of athletes aged 13 to 23 years, achieved by engaging with the 'network' of athletes, parents and home coaches to support each individual to achieve personal excellence in training and competition.

### **Objectives**

The TVDP will

- assist athlete to enhance their skills to participate and compete at state and national events
- provide athletes with an avenue to pursue State and National representation
- provide athletes with personal development and education to complement the physical development provided by home coaches
- provide a team environment and foster a team spirit at State and National races

All activities delivered in the TVDP will align with Triathlon Australia (TA) high performance pathway objectives, priorities and formats.

### **Activities of focus for Development Programs**

- Training activities including a mix of weekend camps (outside of peak racing times in season) and regular training days; and an increased focus in activities (camps particularly) on Mixed Team Relay formats.
- Regular sessions covering the 'health' and psychology pillars of performance.
- Continuation of 'TVDP team tours' for interstate group travel to Australian Junior Triathlon Events (currently Runaway Bay, Canberra, Devonport and other events TBD).
- Connection to the TA High Performance Centres (selected athletes only).
- Regular access to the TVDP Manager & National Talent Development Coach to seek guidance on your performance journey.

### *Summary of benefits & access for each tier within the program (athletes selected to a tier).*

<b>Tier</b>	access to Victorian Performance Centre*	Access TVDP Manager TA Development coach	Interstate group travel	TVDP Training activities	Sponsor offers	Athlete Travel Grant subsidy
<b>Talent (inc. U23)</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Development</b>		X	X	X	X	
<b>Next Generation</b>				X	X	

\*The establishment of the Victorian National Performance Centre is awaiting funding confirmation.

### **Eligibility**

1. Athletes must be at least 14 years of age and no older than 23 years of age at 31/12/2022 and thus eligible to race in the following racing categories: (\*World Triathlon (WT) formerly the International Triathlon Union)
  1. WT\* Youth: 14-15 years of age as at 31/12/2022
  2. WT\* Junior: 16 - 19 years of age as at 31/12/2022
  3. WT\* U23: 18-23 years as at the 31/12/2022
2. Athletes must be eligible to represent Australia if required.
3. Athletes must be in good standing with both Triathlon Victoria and Triathlon Australia.
4. Athletes must hold a valid Triathlon Australia standard or premium membership.
5. Athletes should have a coach, who is 'accredited' by Triathlon Australia and holds a current coach membership (athletes who don't have a coach are still eligible to nominate, noting that the program encourages athletes to have engagement with a coach. TV will assist families/athletes with this.)

### **Timeline** (detailed dates and timelines are provided separately)

- Athletes are invited to apply via the advertised means.
- Nominating athletes may be invited to a Training Day for evaluation & testing.
- Athletes are assessed against the TVDP selection criteria and recommended to the relevant program tier.
- A formal recommendation is made to the Selection committee.
- All athletes are notified of selection outcomes by email, and letter of offer to successful applicants.
- Athletes are required to formally accept the offer and pay any associated levy.

### **Squad selection discretion and review**

Selection and review is the responsibility of the Selection Committee (TV Board member, TV Executive Director (or delegate) and TV Athlete Pathway Manager) and communicated to the athlete, parents, and personal coach in a timely and respectful manner in line with our values.

Athletes may move between squads at any point in the season. Movement between the squads is at Selection Committee discretion in line with the selection criteria and any other available information including athlete performances (racing and training) and their fulfilment (or non-fulfilment) of the requirements detailed in the athlete agreement (provided with the selection offer).

### **Selection Criteria**

The TVDP comprises three (3) tiers to cater for athletes at each level of the pathway. The numbers within each tier are determined by the selection criteria and the available resources, and thus may vary from year to year. The three tiers are described in brief and the selection criteria are detailed below.

#### *Paratriathlon*

Special consideration and selection discretion is available for athletes categorised or eligible under the Triathlon Australia paratriathlon program.

### **Overarching selection criteria**

The TA athlete pathway strategy identifies the pillars for long term triathlon development including areas such as: health, grit/psychological robustness and skills. Accordingly, selection will prioritise demonstration of these pillars.

Athletes nominating for TVDP selection will be asked in their application to respond to questions like:

- In a sentence, what does “a healthy athlete” mean to you?
- Can you provide (in 100 words or less) an example of when you overcame adversity in sport or life?
- What (technical & tactical) skills do you possess that can contribute to your triathlon performance?
- What is a triathlon, swimming, cycling or running achievement that you are most proud of?
- Provide up to five of your triathlon, swimming, cycling or running achievements (can be times, positions or anything else you deem an achievement). *Please provide weblink where appropriate.*

### **Results-related criteria**

Whilst results form a smaller part of the overall athlete assessment, the table below is a **guide** for ‘results’ alignment to the program tiers. (Results are considered at the selection committee’s discretion after considering the athletes responses (questions above)).

*Note: any result submitted as part of the application should be verifiable.*

<b>Talent Squad (inc. U23)</b>	<b>Development Squad</b>	<b>Next Generation Squads</b>
<p><i>From "do triathlon" to learning how to be a triathlete. Single discipline performances a strong consideration. Local competition and some National Level triathlon competition expected.</i></p>	<p><i>Do triathlon. Introduction to basic elements of triathlon. Local (state level) short format, technical competition. Immerse in education tied to competition as well as TA driven theory (health, psychology)</i></p>	
<p><i>Experienced in draft-legal racing and significant results at national / local triathlon and single discipline competitions.</i></p>	<p><i>Building skills in 'draft legal' racing and demonstrating athletic potential (including showing signs of developing a performance mindset)</i></p>	<p><i>Athletes who display sport specific skills and show interest in the sport of triathlon</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 10 result 2020-21 Australian Junior/ Youth National Series (single race)</li> <li>• Top 5 result in the Australian Junior/Youth National Series (Final standings)</li> <li>• Top 5 result 2021 Australian School Triathlon Championships - (**<u>cancelled COVID-19**</u>)</li> <li>• Results from local Victorian races 2020-21</li> <li>• Talent transfer from single discipline (swim, bike, run) high-performance environments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in 2020-21 Australian Junior/ Youth National Series (single race)</li> <li>• 2021 School Sport Victoria Team selection</li> <li>• Notable performances at local events, camps, training days, coach-ability, etc.</li> <li>• Talent transfer from single discipline (swim, bike, run) high-performance environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in triathlon competition</li> <li>• Talent transfer from a single discipline (swim, bike, run) high-performance environments</li> <li>• The "Next Gen squad" focuses on learning triathlon skills, with a strong emphasis on enjoying the race day environment.</li> <li>• There are multiple Next Gen squads located across metro Melbourne and Regional Victoria.</li> </ul>