

TRIATHLON - BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES

The Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) is a non-profit organisation that assists young athletes to achieve sporting excellence. WRAS supports athlete development in a holistic manner and recognises the value of education. WRAS expects athletes to be attending school or tertiary education, meaningfully employed or undertaking other educational or training opportunities.

The WRAS triathlon program is endorsed by Triathlon NSW. The program provides development opportunities for athletes in areas of technical skills, education, strength and conditioning and personal development to prepare athletes for the next level of elite sport representation. The program sits between local representative triathlon clubs and Triathlon NSW Emergency Talent Squad. Athletes in the Triathlon NSW U23 development squad or Triathlon NSW Emerging Talent Squad are ineligible to trial for the WRAS program.

Who can nominate for the WRAS 2022/23 Triathlon program?

- Athletes must be between 13 and 19 years of age as at 31 December 2023 (i.e. born in years 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005 or 2004).
- Athletes must reside or attend school in the WRAS catchment area.
- Athletes must be a current registered member of their local association and Triathlon NSW.
- Athletes must be committed to progressing to higher levels of representation within the sport of Triathlon.
- If selected, athletes are required to be a financial member of Triathlon Australia at the time they accept the offer.
- Athletes must be (or will work to become) draft legally endorsed through Triathlon Australia.

Proposed Program of Events – guide only

The WRAS triathlon program will run from September 2022 to April 2023 with presentation in August 2023. The program will include several compulsory races from the Billigence Pathway Championship Series, as well as races from the local inter-club series which are to be confirmed. Other Events include Orientation, Academy Games, Awards night, Monthly WRAS training days and an Inter-academy Triathlon camp. A rough outline of the program is provided below.

September 2022 – Induction, testing and training day	4 th Feb 2023 – Penrith Billigence Race
October 2022 – WRAS squad training day	February 2023 – Orange Interclub race / WRAS training day (TBC)
29 October 2022 – Canberra Billigence Race	Feb 2023 – NSW All Schools (TBC)
12/13 November – WRAS Orientation	March 2023 – Dubbo Interclub Race (TBC)
25/26 November – Orange Billigence Race	Early April 2023 – WRAS Training Day
November 2022 – Mudgee Interclub (TBC)	21-23 April – Academy Games Wagga Wagga
December 2022 – WRAS training Day	August 2023 – WRAS Awards Evening
26 January 2023 – Bathurst Interclub Race	Inter-Academy Camp date and location TBA

How are selections made?

- Triathlon athletes wishing to be considered for the WRAS program must complete the WRAS nomination form before the closing date on the 14th August 2022.
- Being part of a previous WRAS program does not guarantee selection.
- Each applicant is assessed on their application. WRAS may contact relevant sports associations to verify sporting results.
- A list of selected athletes is placed on the WRAS website, and all nominating athletes are advised by email.
- Offers must be accepted by the due date or it may be withdrawn and may be offered to another athlete.

What is expected of an athlete?

- If selected in a squad WRAS expects that this is the athlete's primary sport of participation
- Attendance at ALL activities in the WRAS program (including presentation evening). WRAS avoids clashes with higher level events run by the State Sporting Organisation. In certain circumstances exemptions can be applied for – please review the athlete attendance policy on our website.
- Athletes are expected to adhere to the WRAS Code of Behaviour policy, participate to the best of their ability, display exemplary behaviour, show enthusiasm and maintain high dress standards.
- WRAS athletes are expected to commit to improving their physical profile and should be aware that this includes undertaking physical activities and testing.

What does the WRAS program cost?

Athlete levy (note the athlete levy does not include race entry fees)	\$270
Compulsory uniform for athletes (WRAS polo, socks, training singlet, hoodie, competition Tri-suit) – Note returning athletes do not have to purchase a new tri-suit but may be required to purchase some uniform items	\$378
Total cost for those NEW to WRAS	\$648
Total cost for RETURNING athletes	\$304
Each athlete will need to pay race entry fees – WRAS will reimburse up to \$200 per athlete after the completion of the event Each athlete can claim a \$34 uniform subsidy for the Aceit uniform	

All selected athletes will be able to apply for financial assistance from funding received from some of the Central West ClubsNSW member clubs. All athletes will be advised how they can offset their WRAS program costs by seeking personal sponsorships through the 'Friends of the Academy' program.