

Triathletes with Disabilities (TWD)

Below is a quick snapshot of what happens when you have para-athletes or TWD's at the event you are officiating at.

Para Athlete

Para triathlon is ITU therefore, all ITU rules apply and is only for ITU events.

ITU Para triathlon rules are very exclusive, (require classification and many athletes don't meet minimum eligibility), specific (regarding the course), require large numbers of additional volunteers (swim exit handlers) and would rule out participation by most people with disabilities at most events, this is not what Triathlon Australia is all about.

Triathletes with Disabilities (TWD)

For all other events athletes compete under the TA RCRs, which means:

For National Championships there is a Para triathlon race (using mostly ITU rules) and a Triathlete with Disabilities (TWD) under TA's rules – which in simple terms means anyone with any impairment can compete. In consultation with the athlete and race director it's worked out the best way to have a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants (including everyone else in the race).

All other events are TA rules, not para triathlon, and adopt the principle of inclusion as long as it's safe and fair. It's very race by race and situation by situation – common sense and safety are the core – so if you are the TD for a race always ask if you have any competing who have special needs or a disability. Encourage RDs to have on their website when registering for a race to have the provision to put in the disability. The STT have the responsibility to communicate to the entire TO team prior to the race to ensure that all TWD feel included. It could be as simple as having the race briefing in writing for somebody who cannot hear, using hand signals in transition when giving instructions.

An example of this is Noosa.

This is not a para triathlon event; these athletes are competing as age groupers. If the event had a para triathlon wave (exclusive, ITU rules), and/or a TWD wave (TA RCR) are the two options otherwise they are age groupers and under the TA RCRs as age groupers.

Triathlon Australia encourages all including TWD to participate in events, what an incredibly special sport we are part of.