

# PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE MEMBERSHIP ADD-ON POLICY

## 1. Definitions and Interpretation

### 1.1 Definitions

In this policy, unless the context requires otherwise:

**Athlete** means a person who participates in the sport.

**AusTri** means AusTriathlon.

**Credential** means the athlete classification issued by AusTri that determines the race formats or categories in which an athlete is eligible to compete.

**JustGo** is the membership and registration platform used by AusTri.

**TTP** means Target Talent Program.

**SPP** means State Pathway Program.

**AG** means Age-Group.

### 1.2 Interpretation

#### 1.2.1 Credential Automatic Qualification Period

All events or conditions listed as Automatic Qualification options for the various credentials (**clause 6**) must have been attained in either the current or previous seasons.

## 2. Outline / Purpose

This policy sets out the framework for professional athlete credentialing and the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On. The document outlines:

- who this policy applies to;
- the credential types available;
- the eligibility criteria for each credential type;
- the process for applying for and receiving a credential;
- the membership add-on options and requirements; and
- the benefits and obligations that apply once the membership add-on is purchased.

Whilst related, a Professional Athlete **credential** and a Professional Athlete **membership add-on** are separate items. The **credential** distinguishes which event formats an athlete is eligible to compete in. The **membership add-on** activates the related benefits, including insurance, access to elite races and prize money eligibility.

The former Professional Development Athlete Membership Add-On is no longer offered. Credentials are now used to distinguish between different athlete types.

### 3. Scope

An Australian athlete requires an active Professional Athlete Membership Add-On if either of the following conditions are met:

1. They wish to compete in a Triathlon, Duathlon, Aquathlon, Cross Triathlon or any other Multi-Sport event/race with an overall prize purse (male & female combined) of \$10k AUD (exclusive of GST) or above; and/or
2. The event requires athletes to hold an active Professional Athlete Membership Add-On.

### 4. Credential and Membership Framework

The credentialing and membership add-on process operates as follows:

1. The athlete applies for the relevant credential (ensuring they already hold an active Standard or Premium AusTri membership).
2. AusTri assesses the application or otherwise determines the athlete's eligibility in accordance with this policy.
3. If approved, the credential is activated on the athlete's JustGo profile.
4. The athlete purchases the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On.
5. Once the membership add-on is purchased, the athlete may access the associated benefits within the scope of their credential.

### 5. Credential Types

The following credential types exist:

#### 5.1 Professional Drafting

- Athletes are eligible to race any domestic or international 'elite' event that is 'draft-legal'.
- There are both automatic and discretionary qualification options for this credential - administered by the AusTri High Performance team.

#### 5.2 Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport

- Athletes are eligible to race any domestic or international 'elite' event that is 'non-drafting' or 'multisport'.
- There is only an automatic qualification option for this credential - administered by the AusTri Sports Services team.

#### 5.3 Paratriathlon Non-Drafting/Multisport

- Athletes are eligible to race any domestic or international paratriathlon 'elite' event that is 'non-drafting'.

- There is no application process for this credential. Instead, they are assigned directly by the AusTri High Performance team prior to relevant events.

#### **5.4 Wildcard**

- Athletes are eligible to race any domestic 'elite' event that is 'draft-legal'.
- It is a fixed-term credential, expiring at 30 June each season – promoting athletes to satisfy either a Professional Drafting or Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credential in future seasons.
- There are both automatic and discretionary qualification options for this credential - administered by the AusTri High Performance team.

### **6. Credential Eligibility Criteria**

#### **6.1 Professional Drafting**

##### **6.1.1 Automatic Qualification – Elite / U23 / Junior**

To qualify using this method, the athlete must have satisfied one or more of the below criteria:

- Selection to a World Triathlon Championship Series or World Cup event
- Selection to U23 or Junior World Triathlon World Championships
- Top 10 at a Continental Cup, within 5% of winning time
- Top 15 at either Sprint or Standard Oceania Triathlon Championships
- Top 8 at Junior Oceania Triathlon Sprint Championships.

##### **6.1.2 Automatic Qualification – Age Group**

To qualify using this method, the athlete must have satisfied one or more of the below criteria:

- Top 5 overall AG/Open at Noosa Triathlon, within 10% of fastest elite time
- Top 3 at Australian Age Group Triathlon Championships (sprint or standard), within 2% of fastest AG time
- Top 5 at World Triathlon Age Group Championships (sprint or standard), within 3% of fastest AG time.

### 6.1.3 Discretionary Qualification

Athletes who do not meet the automatic qualification criteria may apply for discretionary consideration.

Applicants must provide:

- Full race results and links
- Overall placing and time comparisons
- Supporting performance data
- Proposed race calendar for upcoming season.

\*Age-Group and Junior athletes applying for a Professional Drafting credential for the first time must complete all three levels within the AusTri [Cycling Aptitude Standards](#) assessment and receive further general endorsement from AusTri.

## 6.2 Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport

### 6.2.1 Non-Drafting - Automatic Qualification: Elite

To qualify using this method, the athlete must have satisfied the below criteria:

- Automatic qualification for the Professional Drafting credential.

### 6.2.2 Non-Drafting - Automatic Qualification: Age Group

To qualify using this method, the athlete must have satisfied one or more of the below criteria:

- Top 5 overall AG/Open result at Noosa Triathlon, within 8% of fastest overall AG/Open time
- Top 3 overall AG result in the following Australian Age Group events:
  - Mooloolaba Triathlon
  - Ironman Asia Pacific Championships
  - Australian Long Distance Triathlon Championships
- Top 5 overall AG result in the following International Age Group Championship events, within 5% of fastest AG time:
  - World Triathlon Sprint Triathlon Championships
  - World Triathlon Standard Triathlon Championships
  - World Triathlon Long Distance Triathlon Championships
- 1st overall AG results in the following events, within 5% of fastest Elite time\*
  - Ironman Triathlon
  - 70.3 Triathlon
  - Challenge Triathlon
  - T100 Triathlon

\*Automatic qualification does not apply where there is no elite/pro field.

### 6.2.3 Multisport – Discretionary Qualification

Athletes who do not meet the automatic qualification criteria may apply for discretionary consideration.

Applicants must provide:

- Full race results and links
- Overall placing and time comparisons
- Supporting performance data
- Proposed race calendar for upcoming season

### **6.3 Paratriathlon Non-Drafting/Multisport**

There is no athlete application process for the Paratriathlon Non-Drafting/Multisport credential. Eligibility is determined and managed by AusTri High Performance.

### **6.4 Wildcard**

#### **6.4.1 Automatic Qualification**

To qualify using this method, the athlete must:

1. Be a current member of either of the following AusTri pathway programs:
  - Aspire Program
  - Target Talent Program\*
2. Not already hold either a Professional Drafting or Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credential.

\*Target Talent Program athletes must also complete Levels 1–3 of AusTri's [Cycling Aptitude Standards](#), witnessed by an AusTri-accredited coach (Development level or higher).

#### **6.4.2 Discretionary Qualification**

AusTri has full discretion to select athletes deemed to warrant the opportunity to compete in higher levels of domestic competition.

## **7. Applications Process**

### **7.1 Step 1 – Submit an Application**

Athletes must apply for the relevant credential using the below links:

- Professional Drafting: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Professional Non-Drafting / Multisport: [CLICK HERE](#)

### **7.2 Step 2 – Application Assessment**

Applications are generally reviewed within 3 to 4 weeks.

AusTri may request additional information before making a decision.

### **7.3 Step 3 – Outcome Notification**

Applications may be approved or declined. Athletes will be notified whether their application has been approved or declined. Reasons need not be given if an application is declined.

If approved, the athlete will receive instructions on how to access and purchase their respective membership add-on.

## 8. Membership Add-On Types

### 8.1 Professional Athlete

The Professional Athlete Membership Add-On is the paid membership product that activates the below benefits for eligible credential holders.

Junior athletes (16-19yrs old) are eligible for a 50% discount on this product.

Once an athlete holds the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On, they may access the following benefits, subject to the scope of their credential:

- access to 'elite' categories at domestic and international events;
- international travel insurance coverage, including racing and training cover, subject to the applicable policy terms; and
- eligibility to receive prize money, where permitted by the event and applicable rules.

**Please Note:** Athletes may only compete in events that fall within the scope of their credential. Further, upon holding this membership add-on, you forgo your AG eligibility.

### 8.2 Wildcard Athlete

The Wildcard Membership Add-On is a free membership product that activates the below benefits.

It is intended to support developing athletes (i.e. Junior/U23) by providing access to elite domestic race opportunities across the current season without giving up existing age group eligibility.

Once an athlete holds the Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On, they may access the following benefits:

- access to 'elite' categories at domestic events;
- domestic racing and training insurance coverage, subject to the applicable policy terms; and
- maintain age-group eligibility

## 9. Membership Requirements

### 9.1 Eligibility to Purchase Membership Add-On

To purchase a Professional Athlete Membership, athletes must hold:

- a current AusTriathlon Standard or Premium Membership
- an active Professional Athlete Credential (various types outlined in clause 6).

### 9.2 Membership Duration

The Professional Athlete Membership Add-On and Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On remain valid until 30 June each season. On expiry, athletes must purchase a new membership add-on for the following season to maintain coverage and eligibility.

### 9.3 Credential Duration

Once approved, credentials do not expire\*. AusTri reserves the right to review, suspend or remove a credential at any time.

\*As discussed in clause 5.4, the Wildcard credential expires at 30 June of each season.

## 10. Athlete Requirements and Obligations

All credentialed athletes and all athletes holding the Professional Athlete or Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On must understand and comply with the following policies, requirements and obligations:

- [AusTriathlon Code of Conduct](#)
- National Integrity Framework
  - [Anti-Doping Policy](#)
  - [Improper Use of Drugs and Medicine Policy](#)
  - [Competition Manipulation and Sports Wagering Policy](#)
  - [Member Protection Policy](#)
  - [Child and Young People Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [AusTriathlon Athlete Categorisation Guidelines](#)
- ALL relevant [Selection & Appeals Policies](#)

## 11. Appeals, Governance and Discretion

There is no appeals process through, by or under this policy.

AusTri reserves the right to:

- refuse, suspend, revoke or remove an application for a credential or membership add-on;
- review athlete eligibility at any time;
- request further information to assess eligibility or ongoing compliance; and
- exercise full discretion to assign respective credentials to any athlete it deems to be at an adequate standard, in situations where the athlete has not met the automatic qualification criteria.

Nothing in this policy limits AusTri's discretion where action is required to protect the integrity, safety or effective administration of the sport.

## 12. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I race Noosa Triathlon with a Professional Drafting credential?**

No. You may only compete in an elite category when the event aligns with the scope of your credential. Noosa Triathlon is a non-drafting event; therefore, you must hold the Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credential.

### **Do I receive benefits if I only hold a credential?**

No. A credential determines eligibility, but the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On activates the associated benefits unless otherwise stated in this policy.

### **Can I purchase the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On without a credential?**

No. You must first hold an active credential on your JustGo profile.

### **Once I hold a Professional Athlete Membership Add-On, can I continue racing local AG events?**

No. Once you purchase the Professional Athlete Membership Add-On, you forgo eligibility to compete in any Age Group (AG) categories at events, both domestically and internationally.

### **Can you hold multiple credentials?**

Yes.

- An able-bodied athlete may hold both the Professional Drafting and Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credentials simultaneously.
- A paratriathlon guide may hold the Paratriathlon Non-Drafting/Multisport, Professional Drafting, and Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credentials simultaneously.
- A Wildcard-credentialed athlete who later satisfies the requirements for either the Professional Drafting or Professional Non-Drafting/Multisport credential, and purchases the corresponding Professional Athlete Membership Add-On, must relinquish their Wildcard credential and Wildcard Membership Add-On. This also means relinquishing eligibility to compete in AG categories.

### **I'm a TTP athlete; am I eligible to race an Oceania *Elite* event within Australia, and what's the process?**

Yes. TTP athletes automatically qualify for a Wildcard Credential and the corresponding Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On. AusTri will add both items to your JustGo profile upon your selection into the respective programs, enabling you to compete in eligible domestic elite events.

### **I'm a SPP athlete; do I require a Professional Athlete Membership Add-On to race Oceania *Junior* Championships if it's held in Australia?**

A Professional Athlete Membership Add-On is only required if specified by the event organiser. If not required, you must hold a Standard or Premium AusTri membership and follow the nomination and registration processes specific to that event.

**I'm a SPP athlete; do I require a Professional Athlete Membership Add-On to race Oceania *Junior* Championships if it's held outside Australia?**

A Professional Athlete Membership Add-On is only required if specified by the event organiser. If not required, if you're seeking additional insurance for international racing, AusTri offers a single-trip international membership upgrade for Standard or Premium members. More information can be found [HERE](#).

**If I hold a Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On, can I compete in international *Elite* event?**

No. The Wildcard Athlete Membership Add-On only permits competition in domestic *Elite* events. You'd be required to hold a Professional Athlete Membership Add-On if specified by an international event.