

# 2026 Major Event Bid Document



## Introduction

Triathlon Ireland's Major Events celebrate the very best of our sport, bringing together performance, participation, and community.

These races go beyond competition: they create memorable experiences for athletes of all abilities, engage local communities, and inspire the next generation.

Each Major Event plays a vital role in showcasing triathlon at its highest standard while contributing to the long-term growth of the sport in Ireland.

This document provides clear guidance for organisers on the bidding process, selection criteria, and the benefits of hosting.

Our goal is to ensure that applications are transparent, fair, and accessible for all interested organisers.



# Why Host an Age-Group Major Event?

## Increased Participation & Competitive Fields

Major Events attract Ireland's most dedicated athletes, from ambitious age groupers to clubs chasing team success. Bigger fields create a vibrant, high-energy atmosphere that elevates the race day experience for everyone.

## Economic & Community Benefits

Hosting a Major Event delivers lasting value to the local area through:

- Boosted bookings for accommodation, food and tourism.
- Engagement of local volunteers and other sports and community clubs.
- A legacy of fitness, wellbeing and community pride.

## National Recognition and Standards

Your event becomes a benchmark of best practice, meeting Triathlon Ireland's high standards for safety, delivery, and athlete experience. This recognition builds your reputation and keeps participants coming back year after year.

## Branding , Sponsorship & Storytelling

Event hosts unlock access to Triathlon Ireland's marketing, media and sponsor network, including:

- Branding and signage support
- Co-branded content opportunities
- Sponsor engagement toolkits
- Photo and video coverage through Triathlon Ireland's media channels to showcase your race and community.

## Visibility and Promotion

Your event will be featured across Triathlon Ireland's most influential channels, reaching the widest triathlon audience in the country.

- Email newsletter: Monthly email to 35k subscribers
- Facebook: 35k+ followers
- Instagram: 19.7k+ followers
- TikTok (new): 1.1k followers, 12k likes
- X (Twitter): 12.9k + followers

## Inspiring Future Athletes

A Major Event is more than a competition - it sparks participation, sets new standards and positions your Event as a landmark in Triathlon on the island of Ireland.

*"Hosting a Triathlon Ireland Major Event puts your race at the heart of Irish triathlon, giving your local event national prestige, increased participation, and a chance to make a lasting impact on your community."*

*Darren Coombes, CEO Triathlon Ireland*

# Major Events Athlete Ranking

## Integration with My Tri Ranking

Through the integration of MyTri Ranking, Major Events also benefit from increased visibility across Triathlon Ireland's digital platforms.

Rankings, race previews, national highlights, and promotional campaigns all showcase your event to a wider audience, driving engagement and participation





# What Age Group National Events are available?

## National Series Events

### Duathlon National Series

A competitive platform for both experienced and emerging athletes. Rankings are based on the best two results plus the Duathlon National Championships.



### Youth Series

Aligned with our 2021–2028 Strategic Plan, the Youth Series, supported by AIG aims to grow youth participation by offering fun, accessible, and development-focused racing. Following World Triathlon guidance, the focus is on experience, enjoyment, and progression building towards competitive readiness and long-term engagement. Includes race categories for athletes aged 11 – 17.



### Triathlon National Series

Ireland's largest triathlon competition with nearly 10,000 entries annually. Athletes compete across Sprint, Standard, and Middle Distance events. Rankings are based on an athlete's top four results, including at least one Sprint and one Standard race, within five-year age bands.



### Club Series

National Series results also count toward the Club Championships (Male, Female, Mixed). Each category is made up of the top six athletes from a club. Mixed scores are based on three male and three female athletes.

# What Age Group National Events are available?

## Mixed Team Relay

The Mixed Relay is fast-paced, inclusive, and highly engaging. Teams of four (two men, two women) race a super-sprint course: 200m swim, 5km bike, 1.5km run. The format is fixed (Female–Male–Female–Male). All team members must be part of the same TI affiliated club and at least 16 years old. The first team to finish wins simple, exciting, and one of the most enjoyable formats in triathlon.

## Draft Legal Events

Draft legal races are the highest standard of domestic competition and a key development pathway for future high performance athletes. They replicate international race formats, offering a fast, tactical racing environment that prepares athletes for global competition. These events aren't just exciting to watch, they're a cornerstone for nurturing talent and raising the standard of triathlon in Ireland.





# Major Events Summary

Below is a summary of the major events available for 2026. Distances and formats should follow Triathlon Ireland and World Triathlon guidelines.

Triathlon Championships		Series Events		Min. Capacity
Event	Min. Capacity	Event		
Draft Legal Sprint Distance Championship <small>Includes Age Group NC &amp; Junior NC 16-19)</small>	450	Triathlon National Series		200
National Standard Distance Championship	350	Duathlon National Series Event		100
National Middle Distance Championship	300	Youth Series Event <small>(per age group 11-12/13-14/15-16 &amp; 17)</small>		40
National Long Distance Championship	50			
National Para Sprint Championship	15			
Multisport and Other Championships		Youth and Schools Events		Min. Capacity
Event	Min. Capacity	Event		
Mixed Team Relay Club Championship	100	Youth Triathlon <small>(selection race eligible, ideally draft legal)</small>		50
Cross Triathlon Championship	80	National Post Primary Schools Championship <small>(Sept-May)</small>		50
Aquathlon Championship	100	Children's National Festival <small>(age 11 &amp; under, participation only)</small>		No set minimum
Aquabike Championship	100			
Duathlon Championship (optional draft legal)	100			

# Major Events Host Contract Agreement



The Major Events Host Contract Agreement is an essential guide for all prospective hosts. It outlines key responsibilities and standards required to deliver a safe, professional, and successful event – covering everything including:

- Goals & Objectives
- Event Information
- Insurance
- Technical & Motorcycle Officials
- Local Organising Committee (LOC) requirements
- Media & Marketing requirements
- Activation and Media
- Race Coverage
- Branding
- Anti Doping Requirements
- Safeguarding
- Prize Fund
- Race Results

Reviewing this agreement ensures that organisers fully understand what's involved in hosting a Triathlon Ireland Major Event and are set up for success from the very start.

[Access the Major Events Host Contract here](#)



Table of Contents	
1. Agreement Overview	3
2. Goals & Objectives	3
3. Event Information	4
Insurance	4
Technical & Motorcycle Officials	4
4. Major Event LOC requirements	4
4.1. Media & Marketing requirements	4
Activation and Media	4
Race Coverage	4
Branding	4
4.2. Anti Doping Requirements	6
5. Safeguarding	6
6. Prize Fund	7
7. Race Results	8
8. Agreements	8



# Applying for Major Event Bidding and Deadline



## 2026 Major Event Bid Application

### How to Apply

If you're ready to elevate your event and partner with Triathlon Ireland, we'd love to hear from you. All applications must be submitted electronically using the form provided:

[Access the 2026 Major-Events Bidding Form](#)

You may apply for more than one Major Event title, just select all relevant options in your submission.

**Deadline for applications: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (11.59pm)**

All applicants will be notified in early November 2025 of the outcome with full list revealed at the Triathlon Ireland Awards evening on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

### Get in touch

If you have questions during the process, please contact us via email [events@triathlonireland.com](mailto:events@triathlonireland.com).

# What to include in your bid

Strong applications give us a clear sense of your event's potential, uniqueness, and alignment with Triathlon Ireland's goals.

Here's what to cover:

## Event Description

Tell us what makes your race stand out.

- Describe the course: is it flat and fast, technical, scenic, or iconic?
- What kind of race day experience can athletes expect?
- Bullet points welcome for clarity.

## Event Overview

Be honest and transparent about what your event offers and where you may need support. We're not expecting a "yes" to every question, just a clear picture of your current capabilities.

## Marketing & Promotion

How do you attract athletes and engage your community?

- Share examples of your marketing activity and reach.
- Include social media handles and website links.

## Unique Selling Points

What makes your event different?

- Location, scenery, race atmosphere, history, or community involvement?
- Any awards, recognition, or standout features?

## Why Your Event?

Explain why your event deserves Major Event status.

Highlight your entry journey, race-day atmosphere, environmental practices, and local offering (e.g. tourism, accommodation, amenities).

## Under-18 Participation

All events seeking appointment as a major event must accommodate under-18 participants where they are eligible to compete. Appropriate safeguarding measures must be in place to support their participation. If your event includes Youth Series, junior categories, or is open to participants under 18(sprint or standard distance), please provide confirmation in your bid.

## Long Term Vision

How do you plan to grow your event in future years?

We're especially interested in organisers with ambitions to host international events aligned with Triathlon Ireland's Strategic Plan 2021-28.

[Strategic Plan 2021- 28](#)



# Major event bid assessment

All bids will be reviewed and scored by Triathlon Ireland staff and the Events Committee against the criteria below.

## Selection Considerations

When assessing bids, we will look at the following areas (this list is not exhaustive):

- **Event timing** – how the proposed date fits into the national calendar and avoids clashes.
- **Location** – ensuring an even spread of events across Ireland.
- **Previous delivery** – quality of past events, Technical Official feedback, and permitting record (if applicable).
- **Strength of the proposal** – including:
  - Overall athlete, volunteer and spectator experience
  - Promotion and communications plans
  - Alignment with Triathlon Ireland priorities (e.g. Youth & Junior development, draft-legal capability, inclusivity)

Extra consideration will be given to events able to host a Youth Series race alongside the Major Event.

# Successful applications

## Host Contract Agreement

Triathlon Ireland will issue a formal Host Contract outlining the responsibilities of both parties.

This contract must be signed and returned before your event is confirmed on the official race calendar.

A draft version of the *2026 Major Events Host Contract Agreement* is available for review, and applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with it prior to submitting an application.

## Race Request Form

All Major Events must also complete and submit a separate Race Request Form via the official Triathlon Ireland process.

## Major Event Fee

The Major Event Fee must be paid in full **before the event is published** on Triathlon Ireland's race calendar.

**Please note:** Your race will not appear on the Triathlon Ireland calendar until both the signed Host Contract and the Race Request Form are received and approved.



# Frequently asked questions



## How do we work with Technical officials?

For age-group Major Events, the appointment of the Technical Delegate is managed separately by Triathlon Ireland. If your event is selected, a suitably qualified Technical Delegate will be assigned to work with you and your team.

## What marketing support will be provided?

Hosts receive event management guidance, marketing support and access to Triathlon Ireland's sponsor and media network.

## How are Event bids assessed?

Submissions will be reviewed after 20th October - Selection is based on a number of criteria including event timing, location, previous delivery, safety, governance, facilities, community engagement, and potential to deliver a high-quality athlete experience. Extra consideration will be given to events able to host a Youth Series race alongside other events.

## Where can I find out more information?

The 2026 Major Events Contract document contains key information on requirements around setting up a local organising committee (LOC), anti-doping, safeguarding, prize giving and more.

## Are there any dates to avoid when planning a Major Event?

Triathlon Ireland will make every effort to avoid scheduling clashes with other Major Events, but this may not always be possible. Event organisers are strongly advised to review known World Triathlon and Europe Triathlon Championship dates and, where possible, select alternative dates. Avoiding these clashes helps maximise athlete participation and engagement from the triathlon community.

Please provide us with at least one alternative date for your event, so that during the selection process we can map the season with as few overlaps as possible.

## What if our Major Event bid is not successful?

While not every bid can be selected, Triathlon Ireland will provide constructive feedback and guidance to help strengthen future applications and ensure your club remains firmly on a pathway to hosting a Major Event.



## Be part of the legacy

Hosting a Triathlon Ireland Major Event is your chance to bring world-class sport to your community, inspire athletes of all levels and showcase your Club on a national stage. Triathlon Ireland are here to help you create an unforgettable event and a legacy that lasts well beyond race day.





