



2008/2009 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)

Guidelines for Selection of Athlete Recipients

1.0 General

The **BC Athlete Assistance Program** (BC AAP) is an athlete-centred program of financial assistance funded and administered by the Sport and Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. BC AAP seeks to recognize and support BC high performance athletes striving to represent the Province and Canada in athletic competition. Athletes who have demonstrated the potential and commitment to attain this level of excellence can qualify for different levels of financial support based on relative levels of development and competition achieved within the overall limits of funds available.

The program seeks to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs when participating in provincial, national and international sport events. The Sport and Recreation Branch intends that BC AAP focus on those athletes who are in the position to compete for Team BC and are just below those receiving Sport Canada funding. This financial assistance will ensure a continuum of support for the development of national and international class BC athletes.

In summary, the overall AAP philosophy of Triathlon BC is to award the allocated funds to help defray costs for athletes who meet the selection criteria listed in Section 5.0 of this document.

2.0 Administration of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

The Selection Committee: The Triathlon BC AAP Selection Committee is responsible for the identification, nomination and ranking of athletes for funding assistance through the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Applications: All applicant must meet the Triathlon BC selection criteria as identified in Section 5.0

Note: The application by an athlete does not guarantee that the athlete will receive BC AAP funding.

Equitable: Athletes at differing levels of excellence will receive commensurate levels of financial support, based on the selection criteria and rankings established by Triathlon BC (see Section 5.0). This process will give consideration to any educational or working environment of the athlete, the required time and financial commitment of the athlete to excel in the sport of Triathlon, and the overall limits of funds available.

3.0 Eligibility Requirements for the Athlete Assistance Program

Citizenship and Residency: To be eligible for an award, an athlete must be a Canadian citizen or be of landed immigrant status, and a resident of British Columbia for at least one year prior to his/her date of nomination.

Use of Banned Substances and Methods: *BC's Policy on Sport and Physical Activity* clearly outlines the "ethical pursuit of excellence" – which includes competing without the use of banned substances – as one of its pillars of support to sport. The Province of British Columbia and Triathlon BC strongly opposes the use of prohibited substances and methods as they are contrary to the ethics of sport and may be harmful to the health of athletes. Athletes who are suspended by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and/or the International Triathlon Union and/or Triathlon Canada for any anti-doping rule violation, will be declared permanently ineligible for BC Athlete Assistance.

Coaching: To be eligible for funding assistance, athletes should be regularly coached by individuals who meet the established coaching qualification criteria as outlined by Triathlon BC.

Commitment to Triathlon BC: Any athlete receiving financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia must be available for provincial team selections and if selected, commit to train and represent British Columbia and the sport of Triathlon in the applicable competition.

Membership: Athletes receiving financial assistance must be registered members of Triathlon BC (annual membership) at the time the assistance is awarded, and during the competitive year in which the funding is based. They are also expected to make themselves available to contribute to athlete development and coaching development programs delivered by Triathlon BC.

Federally Carded Athletes: Athletes in receipt of Sport Canada funding in a particular fiscal year are not eligible for the AAP funding distributed by Triathlon BC. This is to maintain consistency with one of the stated objectives of the program which is to provide funding for those athletes who are in the position to compete for Team BC and are just below those receiving Sport Canada funding.

Athlete Selection: Athlete selection will be made according to the criteria set out in Section 5.0 of this document, with preference given to developing high performance athletes.

Selection Criteria: Triathlon BC is responsible for developing and publishing the selection criteria and standards that will be utilized in the identification, ranking and selection of athletes. It is the responsibility of the Selection Committee to ensure fair, equitable and consistent application of these standards.

Funding Level: Consideration by the Selection Committee will be given to the required time and financial commitment required to excel in the sport, and the educational or working environment of the athlete. A minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$3500 can be awarded per athlete.

Athletes Training Outside BC: Athletes leaving the province will only be considered for AAP funding support in the following cases:

1. pursuit of specialized program of studies not offered in B.C.
2. participation with a (Canadian) National Sport Centre outside of B.C.
3. a suitable athlete development program that is currently unavailable in B.C.
4. BC athletes training outside of BC will only be considered for funding if there is a demonstrated commitment to provincial teams and other athlete development activities.

4.0 Appeal Process

Appeals: Any appeals to the APP Selection Committee must be made in writing and submitted to the Selection Committee, care of Triathlon BC office, PO Box 34098 Station D, Vancouver, BC, V6J 4M1 within 14 days of the Athlete Assistance Program roster release for any given year.

Appeals which are faxed or emailed will not be accepted.

Appeals Committee: The Appeals Committee will be formed of three people, all members of Triathlon BC, with preferably one member of the Executive. In order to avoid the potential for conflict of interest, (e.g. the parent of a nominated athlete being on the appeals committee), the membership of the Committee will be selected by the Board.

Obligations of Triathlon BC

- a. publish the BC AAP ranking and selection criteria, procedures, and the selected BC AAP calendar outline to athletes and coaches before the beginning of the nomination process.
- b. publish the Appeal Process to athletes and coaches before the beginning of the nomination process.
- c. inform their athletes and coaches as to their list of nominated athletes.

After the final nomination lists have been approved, Triathlon BC will publish a list of their funded athletes on the Triathlon BC website, magazine and through the eNews newsletter, with acknowledgment of the Ministry's contribution for the support of the athletes.

5.0 Triathlon BC AAP Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria is based on, but not limited to, the following:

- I. Athletes meet all eligibility requirements.
- II. Athletes have performed well in the past year.
- III. Athletes must demonstrate a continued commitment to training and racing.
- IV. Athletes must demonstrate excellence in performance or potential for improvement.
- V. Athletes must demonstrate dedication to their sport other than training.
- VI. Athletes must contribute to the development of their sport.

5.1 Specifically, applicant athletes must be:

- a. Canadian citizen; BC resident for the past year (you must include a photocopy of your BC MSP card with your application)
- b. A minimum of 16 years of age as of Dec.31, 2008
- c. Member in good standing of Triathlon BC at time of application
- d. Preference given to those Under 23 years of age**
- e. Preference given to those listed on the Canada Summer Games shortlist.

5.2 Performance Criteria (in descending order of importance)

- a. 2008 Provincial Short Course Triathlon Championships
- b. 2008 Senior or Junior National Triathlon Championships
- c. 2008 ITU World Triathlon Championships
- d. 2008 Provincial Race Series standing
- e. Named to National Development Team or National Junior Team
- f. 2008 Provincial and/or National Duathlon Championships
- g. Other significant triathlon/duathlon events (World Cup, ITU Points races, etc.)

5.3 Service to the Sport Criteria (Triathlon)

- a. Triathlon Coaching Certification
- b. Triathlon Officials Certification
- c. Triathlon Coaching - club, clinic, seminar
- d. Volunteering at TRI BC Sanctioned events
- e. Speaking at seminars or in schools
- f. Contributing articles to The Word newsletter

5.4 Financial Need

- a. Employment status.
- b. Educational commitment.
- c. Full-time athlete
- d. Athlete will be disqualified from consideration if they have received \$24,000 CAD or more in prize money during the 2008 season, onus is on the athlete to prove they have met this criteria if it is in question.