

Supporting the future champions

Rationale

The pathway to elite success requires structured exposure to high level races. This requires significant financial investments. Some of our future champions lack the financial support from their national federation or from private resources, which could limit their development as future elite athletes.

This project describes a strategy for how Europe Triathlon can support developing athletes in their growth to an elite level by funding race participation. To increase the impact of the financial resources, allocation of the funds will target athletes with the strongest prospects for success at the elite level.

This program is embedded in the Europe Triathlon Development Strategy:

- **Key development domain:** Performance: talent development and high performance
- **Core value:** Excellence in sport and education
- **Key Strategic pillar:** Develop the next generation

Criteria

The ETU Development Committee will award scholarships to developing athletes to support their participation in European Cups, based on an assessment of their potential of success and the need for financial support. The model is based on 3 pillars, as shown in the figure below.



- Individual junior and U23 athletes can apply for a scholarship to support European Cup and Development Regional Cup participation.
- Athletes need to submit a document with the following information (all information is mandatory):
 - ID information (name, DOB, federation, contact details)
 - Club and coaches (name, level of sport specific education, eg. Master of movement science, Triathlon coach level 2, etc.)
 - Description of training environment, including a weekly training plan
 - Most important race results in the last 2-4 years (max 3 results per season), please add the results link
 - Description of the performance pathway: what are the performance objectives for the next 2 (U23 athletes) to 6 years (junior athletes) in terms of race results at European Cups, WTCS, World Cups, European Championships, World Championships?
 - Description of the available financial resources (Federation, club, private) and financial needs.
- Deadline for submitting projects: 24. April 2026

The Europe Triathlon Development Committee (ETU DC) will provide a template that can be used by the Athletes/National Federations to submit this information.

Procedures

- ETU DC will receive applications until 24. April 2026
- ETU DC will evaluate the applications based on the available information.
 - Coaching support will be rated on a 5-point scale:
 - 1 = no coaching support.
 - 2 = Level 1 coach, minimal experience in high performance coaching in triathlon
 - 3 = Level 2 coach, some experience in high performance coaching in triathlon
 - 4 = Level 2 coach, with adequate experience in high performance coaching in triathlon
 - 5 = Experienced, Level 3 coach (or university degree in Movement sciences)
 - Available infrastructure will be rated on a 5-point scale:
 - 1 = Insufficient access to training infrastructure
 - 3 = Mostly sufficient availability of training infrastructure
 - 5 = Excellent training infrastructure

- Actual race performance and performance pathway will be scored on a 5-point scale according to this table (best performance counts):

Score	National championships	European Youth Festival	European Championships	TRIDevelopment Regional Cups	European Cup (Junior)	European Cup (Elite)	World Cup	WTCS	World Championship Final
5	-	Podium	Podium	-	2xP1-5	2xP1-5	Podium	P1-8	P1-8
4	-	P4-8	P4-8	-	P1-5	P1-5	P4-8	P9-12	P9-12
3	-	P9-12	P9-12	-	P6-8	P6-8	P9-16	P13-16	P13-16
2	-	-	P13-16	Podium	P9-12	P9-12	P17-24	P17-20	P17-20
1	Podium	-	Participation	P4-8	P13-20	P13-20	P25-30	Participation	Participation

- Athletes who achieve a performance in an older age group category are awarded with +1 point. Eg. Junior athlete that scores a P12 in a World Cup gets a score "4" (3 + 1).
- Athletes who achieve a performance level 2 or more times are awarded with +2 points. Eg. U23 athlete that has a P8 in a World Cup and a P8 at the European championships gets a score "6" (4 + 2)

- The ETU development committee will allocate the budget as follows:

- Priority 1: Athletes with a score ≥ 12 : max 2,000€.
- Priority 2: Athletes with a score $10 \leq \text{score} < 12$: max 1,000€
- Priority 3: Athletes with a score $8 < \text{score} < 10$: 500€
- The minimum budget that will be allocated is 500€.
- In case the budget is insufficient to support all athletes meeting the criteria above, the budget will be allocated in respect of the priority levels.

In case there is a budget left for supporting European cup races, the remainder of the budget can be either ...

- allocated to athletes of priority 1 or 2 for participation in Championship races or World Cups.
- transferred to the next season
- or used to support the coach education in coaches with a score ≤ 3 .

E.g. **Available budget 15,000€**, 3 athletes in priority level 1, 5 athletes in priority level 2, 6 athletes in priority level 3

Priority level	Number of athletes	Scholarship	Total budget allocated
1	3	2,000€	6,000€
2	5	1,000€	5,000€
3	6	500€	3,000€

The remaining 1,000€ can either be allocated to athletes of priority level 1 or 2 for participation in Championship races or World cups, transferred to next season or invested in coach education programs targeting coaches with a lower level of education/experience.

- The ETU development committee will inform all athletes and their federations about the allocation of the budget (approved, not approved).

Summary

This project describes a strategy for how Europe Triathlon can **support developing athletes** in their growth to the elite level by **funding race participation**. To increase the impact of the financial resources, allocation of the funds will target athletes with the strongest prospects for success at the elite level.

The procedure to allocate the funding will be performed **in collaboration with the national federations**.