

# **Basic Legislative Guidelines for NCAA Women's Triathlon**

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## **Emerging Sport for Women**

An emerging sport is a sport recognized by the NCAA that is intended to provide additional athletics opportunities to female student-athletes. Institutions are allowed to use emerging sports to help meet the NCAA minimum sport sponsorship requirements, minimum financial aid award requirements, and gender equity standards.

An institution may provide actual and necessary travel expenses (e.g., transportation, lodging, meals) to a student-athlete for participation in athletics competition, provided the student-athlete is representing the institution (competes in the uniform of the institution) and is eligible for intercollegiate competition.

## **Varsity Intercollegiate Sport**

A varsity intercollegiate sport is a sport that has been accorded that status by the institution's president or chancellor or committee responsible for intercollegiate athletics policy and that satisfied the following conditions:

- i. It is a sport that is administered by the department of intercollegiate athletics.
- ii. It is a sport for which the eligibility of the student-athletes is reviewed and certified by a staff member designated by the institution's president or chancellor or committee responsible for intercollegiate athletics policy.
- iii. It is a sport in which qualified participants receive the institution's official varsity awards.

## **Intercollegiate Competition**

Intercollegiate competition is considered to have occurred when a student-athlete in either a two-year or a four-year collegiate institution does any of the following:

- i. Represents the institution in any contest against outside competition, regardless of how the competition is classified or whether the student is enrolled in a minimum full-time program of studies.
- ii. Competes in the uniform of the institution, or, during the academic year, uses any apparel received from the institution that includes institutional identification. This excludes apparel no longer used by the institution.
- iii. Competes and receives expenses from the institution for the completion.

## NCAA Regulations

### PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASON

#### Length of Playing Season:

Women's Triathlon playing season shall be limited to a 144-day season.

#### Preseason Practice:

A member institution shall not commence practice sessions in triathlon prior to the date that permits a maximum of 21 opportunities prior to the first scheduled intercollegiate contest.

#### Earliest First Competition:

A member institution shall not engage in its first date of competition with outside competition in triathlon prior to September 1 or the preceding Friday if September 1 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday.

#### End of Regular Playing Season:

A member institution shall conclude all practice and competition in triathlon by the last date of final examinations for the regular academic year at the institution.

#### National Championship:

National Championships will occur on the Saturday of the first full week in November.

#### Conference Season:

Women's Triathlon will be a fall season sport.

#### Minimum Contests:

Member institution shall engage in at least four (4) intercollegiate contents.

#### Maximum Number of Competitions:

A member institution shall limit its total playing schedule with outside competition in triathlon during the institution's triathlon playing season to six (6) dates of competition except for those dates of competition excluded under Bylaws.

#### Minimum Number of Participants:

A member institution must have a minimum of three (3) participants in each contest that is counted toward meeting the minimum-contests requirement.

### FINANICAL AID LIMITS

#### Maximum Equivalency Limits:

There shall be a limit on the value (equivalency) of financial aid awards that an institution may provide in any academic year counters in women's triathlon as follows:

- i. 2015-2016: 4.5 equivalency scholarships
- ii. 2016-2017: 5.5 equivalency scholarships
- iii. 2017-2018: 6.5 equivalency scholarships

#### Equivalency Awards:

Once a student becomes a counter, the institution shall count all institution aid received for room, board, tuition, fees and books up to the value of a full grant-in-aid. The sum of all fractional and maximum awards received by counters in women's triathlon shall not exceed those limits provided above.

Financial awards may be established in a manner that best suits each member institution.

## **COACHING LIMITS**

### Head or Assistant Coach

There is a limit of two (2) head or assistant coaches for a women's triathlon program.

### Limit on Off-Campus Recruiters

There shall be a limit on the number of coaches who may be employed by an institution and who may contact or evaluate prospective student-athletes off campus in each sport.

There is a limit of two (2) off-campus recruiters for women's triathlon.

### Volunteer Coach

In women's triathlon, an institution may use the services of one volunteer coach for the swimming element, one volunteer coach for the cycling element, and one volunteer coach for the running element.

## **PLAYING RULES**

### Race Logistics

Women's triathlon will be a draft-legal sprint race consisting of a 750m Swim, 20k Bike, and a 5k Run.

Women's triathlon is a date-of-competition sport, and will follow all NCAA legislature regarding day-of-competition regulations.

Five (5) participants per team can race in the varsity draft-legal race. The top three (3) finishers will go towards scoring, with the remaining two (2) functioning as place holders against opponent's team scores.

Remaining participants can race in a non-draft legal race. Scoring will not go towards any national rankings.

A maximum of 75 athletes can compete in the draft-legal varsity race.

The swim leg of the race may take place in either an open body of water, or pool. Regional Qualifiers and National Championships must take place in an open body of water.

### Scoring

Scoring for Women's Triathlon will be modeled after cross country scoring, where lowest score wins.

All triathletes who finish will be given an overall finish place.

Team scoring will abide by the following process:

- i. All triathletes who finish will be given an overall finish place.
- ii. The top three (3) finishers from a team will have their overall finish place count towards the team scoring.

- iii. Team scoring shall be determined by total points of the first three finishing triathletes from each team.
- iv. The team scoring the lowest number of points shall be the winner.
- v. The fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) and fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) triathletes on a team do not score points towards their team total, but their places, if better than those of any of the first three (3) of an opposing team, serve to increase the team score of the opponents.

#### Qualification for National Championship

The 75 athlete field will abide by the following process for qualification for the National Championship:

- i. The top four (4) five-person teams from each Regional Qualifier (total 60 athletes)
- ii. The top five (5) individuals from each Regional Qualifier who are not on a qualifying team (total 15 athletes)
- iii. Any unclaimed team or individual spots will become wild card positions to be filled by the USAT working group.

#### Rules

Women's Triathlon adheres to the USA Triathlon Collegiate Draft Legal Race Rules and the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Draft Legal Race Rules.