

Project Goal

The primary objective of the scholarship programme is to identify and provide support, resources and expertise to athletes from emerging/developing National Federations to compete at World Cup, World Championship and Olympic level.

The primary objectives are:

- To increase the number of NF's and athletes coming from emerging/developing NF's competing at Continental Championships and ITU World Championships at U23 and Elite level.
- To increase the number of female athletes from emerging/developing NF's represented at Continental Championships and ITU World Championships at U23 and Elite level.

Project Outline

Athletes selected for the scholarship programme will be carefully 'placed' in a programme commensurate with their specific needs in the interest of their progressive development to an elite level. Placements will vary in duration and form depending on the specific outline of the programme developed by the NF in conjunction with the Director ITU Sport Development deemed to be conducive to the athlete's development needs.

Target Group

The target group will be athletes from emerging/developing National Federations who have already shown competence at a Continental Cup level and are looking to make the step up to top level training and racing but need the support in order to do so. These athletes should be seen as Olympic prospects (2012) by their National Federations. The athletes will be drawn primarily from U23 and Elite ranks.

Qualification Criteria

Athletes need to be registered with their National Federations and have shown the ability to race at a high standard in Continental Cup race or World Cup level competition. The athletes nominated should be committed to competing in the long term and have the Olympic Games as an ultimate objective.

The following criteria will be considered by the ITU Sport Development Director in the selection process:

- Top 5 placing at Continental Championship in U23 or in the Junior category in the past year.
- Top 8 placing at Continental Championship in the Elite Category in the past two years.
- Must be from a country regarded as an emerging/developing country. All applications will be considered in conjunction with a strong endorsement from the athlete's NF's and Continental Federations.
- National Federations applying for the grants must apply for Olympic Solidarity Funding under the 2012 London Athlete Scholarship Programme.

Time Line

Applications will be sent out each year to the National Federations by the last week of January and the applications should be submitted to the ITU Sport Development (libby@triathlon.org) no later than March 01, 2011. Successful applicants will be informed in the last week of March after which time the ITU Sport Development Director and appointed officers will coordinate the plans with the successful athletes and the NF.

PLEASE NOTE: All applications MUST be submitted by the National Federations.

Budget

Successful applicants will receive the following:

- An invitation to an ITU or Continental Camp or an EADP opportunity held under the auspices of the ITU.
- The amount of funding allocated to each athlete or coach will depend on the matching funds obtained by the NF from IOC Solidarity grants and to the programme outline submitted by the NF for each candidate.

Evaluation and Requirements of Recipients

The athletes selected will be tracked for the duration of the placement and monthly reports will be required from the candidates and their personal coaches.

Athletes who receive an ITU Scholarship will be required to compete in the Continental Championship and the ITU World Championship in the year of receiving the scholarship and the year after that and make themselves available for any other National Team Commitments as required by the National Federation.

All recipients must make themselves available (within reason and without interfering with the athletes training, racing and school commitments) for interviews and photo sessions to promote the programme in their own country and internationally.

All recipients must either organise or be involved in a Community or Youth Triathlon Project within their home NF within their scholarship year and submit a detailed report to ITU Sport Development within 2 weeks of the project taking place.

PLEASE NOTE: CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: TUESDAY MARCH 1st, 2011.

Definition and Explanation of National Federation Status:

For the purpose of the ITU Sport Development (Athlete and Coaching) we have categorized National Federations into three (3) categories:

Olympic NF's are those NF's who had representation at the Beijing Olympic Games through the standard qualification system (excluding universality slots).

Emerging NF's are those NF's who had no competitors at the Beijing Olympic Games but have had representation at the World Championships in the Elite, U23 or Junior Categories in the past two years.

Developing NF's are those NF's with no representation at the World Triathlon Championships in the Elite, U23 and Junior Categories in the past two years.

The ITU Athlete and Coaching Development Programme specifically targets Emerging and Developing NF's.