



December 22, 2009

Dear member,

Following a review and consultation with numerous industry bodies, Triathlon Australia has dissolved the existing Challenge Series format in favour of established races.

The new Board, elected at last month's Annual General Meeting, is determined to adopt a unified and cooperative approach for the betterment of the sport and to that end we sought immediate input from our state associations, previous participants and the TA high performance unit to assist in an external review conducted by experienced event director, Garth Prowd.

It was clear from the review that the Challenge Series had failed to meet the previous Board's expectations and deliver on its original objectives. The series, in its existing format, was not financially viable at this stage and faced significant logistical hurdles, so the Board decided to withdraw from the series now in order to protect the interests of its members and the sport.

This decision has led to four races in the 2010 calendar being cancelled. The cancelled races are Geelong on January 17, Hobart on February 14, Sydney on March 7 and Adelaide on March 20-21. Arrangements are already being made to advise those who have entered these races of the changes and to refund their entry fees.

Races in Canberra (January 24) will still go ahead on this date, though it will now be known as the Canberra Capital Triathlon and run by Triathlon ACT. Those who entered Canberra Challenge races will receive a full refund and will need to re-enter races in the Canberra Capital Triathlon. Please visit [www.triathlonact.com.au](http://www.triathlonact.com.au) for details and entry.

For those athletes wanting to qualify for the Australian age group team at the 2010 World Championships in Budapest, alternate selection races have already been identified. All other races previously nominated as selection races will continue as selection races, while Challenge Series qualifying races have been replaced by a number of established and locally run races in other states. [Click here](#) for a full list of selection races for both Sprint and Olympic Distance qualification.

The Australian championship races, which were to be held as part of the races in Adelaide have been reallocated, with the Age Group Olympic Distance Championships to be held as part of the Canberra Capital Triathlon on January 24. An announcement will be made shortly to confirm the locations of the Australian Age Group Sprint Distance Championships and Australian Age Group Duathlon Championships that were to also be held as part of the Adelaide Challenge.

Races in the 2XU Australian Junior Triathlon Series remain unchanged in Canberra and Wellington, while Hobart has been cancelled and an alternate race will be advised. The open elite series is now under review. The race in Queensland's Raby Bay (February 28) is confirmed; however, the Hobart (February 14) and Sydney (March 7) races have been cancelled.

These changes have not been made lightly and having now relieved itself of the Challenge Series, Triathlon Australia is free to implement pro-active initiatives that will lift the profile of the sport and its athletes, facilitate delivery of a unified race calendar, and improve services to our members.

We regret that these changes will disrupt those athletes who have already entered the cancelled events. TA will reimburse entry fees in full and endeavour to assist these athletes to enter an alternate qualifying race should they have difficulty submitting entries at this late stage.

The Board is confident this initiative is in the long term interests of the sport. We plan to work closely with our state associations, experienced race directors, our athletes and members to develop a collaborative approach and clear direction for a high profile national series in 2011 and beyond.

[Click here](#) for a list of Frequently Asked Questions in relation to this decision and any ramifications it may have on you.

Regards,

Peter Hedge

President  
Triathlon Australia