



July 1, 2019

## Dear Kids, Parents & Partners:

Congratulations on your involvement in what will be the **largest kids' triathlon ever held in New England**. That's right. We expect 1,105 athletes to finish the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Kids Triathlon. This is a great accomplishment for the entire region, and our Founding Partners the New England Patriots and M.I.T. deserve much of the credit. We hope you are looking forward to July 13 & 14 as much as we are. It should be a lot of fun!

With this in mind, we are working hard to make sure everyone is well-informed and prepared for the festivities. Part of this effort will be a series of 3 emails (starting with this one) that you will receive between now and race day. Please take the time to read all of the details below and feel free to get back to us with any additional questions, suggestions or concerns. If we do not answer your questions in this email, it is likely we will cover them in 1 of the next 2.

## It is Almost a Sellout!

We have been warning everyone for the past 45 days that registration was on pace for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive sellout. As of 8:00am on Monday morning (7/1), registration stood at 1,079 athletes. This means we have less than 26 spots left to reach our capacity of 1,105. The MIT Campus will once again make for a great atmosphere, and we are excited to have you as our partners. If you have a friend or neighbor who is still wanting to participate, they need to register immediately - or they can join our Official Wait List

by visiting our website.



## Volunteers Needed

While participation is full, we still need your help. More than 200 volunteers are required to keep everything running according to plan, and we only have about 80 at this time. If you know any co-workers, friends or neighbors who might be interested, please direct them to the Volunteer Section of our website.

If you are interested in putting together a group of volunteers, please give Chris a call at 904.448.2464. This is a great Community Project for high school cross-country, track and swim teams, and community service hours are available. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about how to become a New England Kids Triathlon volunteer.



## Meet the New England Patriots

While we are still waiting to get word on which specific Patriots and alumni players will participate in the 2019 New England Kids Triathlon, Pat the Patriot and the cheerleaders will definitely be there. The players (along with Pat and the cheerleaders) will be on-hand for photos and autographs, and they will also be out on the course with you while you race on Sunday.



## Bring Your Bike Saturday

Due to the record number of participants, we will once again open transition on Saturday. We will have transition open at 3:30pm sharp, and we will be ready for you to set-up your gear. This will help ease congestion on Sunday (making your race day much more enjoyable), and it will allow us to start the races on time. In addition, you will get your timing strap on Saturday. It is up to you not to lose it overnight and to bring it with you Sunday.

# Triathlon Age

For about half of our participants, your triathlon age will be different than your actual age on race day. This is due to the fact that your triathlon age for all of 2019 is your age as of 12/31/19 (NOT your age on race day). In other words, if you are currently 10 years old and turn 11 on August 1, 2019, you are an 11 year-old triathlete for all of 2019. **Please be aware.** This might affect your race distances.

Please take a minute to re-read the above paragraph. There has been confusion in the past, and we want to try to minimize it this year. It is not a big deal for kids turning 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 or 15 during 2019. However, for those of you turning 11 at any time during 2019 (even if you are only 10 on race day), you are now a Senior. You are now racing with the big kids at the longer distances. If you have any questions or concerns, please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact our Event Director right away.

## Course Talks

In an effort to help our first-timers get comfortable and everyone get familiar with the course, we are strongly encouraging every participant (and their parents) to attend one of our Course Talks during Packet Pick-Up on Saturday. They will start at 4:00pm; 5:00pm and 6:00pm, and our professional guide will explain how everything is going to work on race day; preview the pool and transition with you; and answer all of your questions. They will also discuss where you need to be at what times to take full advantage of everything going on. Please make this a part of your bike drop-off and packet pick-up plan!

## Equipment Guidelines

Over the past month, we have received a bunch of emails about the proper equipment for a triathlon and the rules governing what type of bikes you can ride. For safety and insurance purposes, our event is sanctioned by USA Triathlon. As a result, we need to follow their rules. While we will talk much more about what to bring with you on race day in subsequent emails, here are some of the most important equipment guidelines:

- No training wheels are allowed.
- No flotation devices will be allowed in the pool. The kids can grab onto the lane lines and rest at the end of each lap, but they cannot use any preservers, noodles or floaties.
- All participants must wear a helmet at all times when pushing or

- riding their bikes.
- No aerodynamic equipment is allowed. This includes no use of aero bars, no use of aero helmets and no use of full disc wheels.
  - We will supply every participant with a color-coded swim cap.



## Strong Team Response

As many of you know, one of the hallmarks of our event is our outreach effort to teams, schools and other organizations across New England. This year, we have 20 registered teams who will bring more than 426 kids to our event. In total, we look forward to donating more than \$4,000 back to the community through this program.

## Course Layout

The beautiful MIT Campus will play host to our event, and we believe the course will be ideal for a large number of participants and an even larger number of spectators. All elements of the course are designed to promote safety and to enhance the spectator experience. Most importantly, we will have more than 100 volunteers and 12 police officers placed throughout the course on Sunday to help guide and encourage the kids. Please take a few minutes to learn about the course and [CLICK HERE](#) to see the 2019 Course Maps.

## Thank You Sponsors

Everything we do (including this email) is possible because of the incredible support of our sponsors. Headlining the 2019 Sponsor Team is our Presenting Sponsor: The New England Patriots Charitable Foundation.

Also, we would like to recognize Boston Children's Hospital, Whole Foods, and WheelWorks as 2019 Sponsors. Please take a minute to visit the [Sponsor Page](#) on our website and to reach out to say thank you to each and every one of them. Of course, if you (or your company) would like to join us as a sponsor, please visit our website or give Shelda a call at 904.448.2114.



Once again, congratulations on your decision to be a part of the 2019 New England Kids Triathlon. We are proud to have you as a member of our family, and we sincerely appreciate your support. If you have any additional questions, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our website. If the questions are not answered there, follow the instructions to contact us directly.

Watch your email for our next update and get ready! **Race Day is only 13 days away!**

Sincerely,

The 2019 Organizing Committee

