

MEDIA RELEASE

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TRIATHLON'S HALL OF FAME TO BE LAUNCHED ON GOLD COAST

Three legends of the sport will become the inaugural inductees of triathlon's Hall of Fame when the concept is launched as part of the ITU World Championships Grand Final on the Gold Coast next month.

The announcement will be made in front of more than 800 people on Wednesday, September 9, at an event that will combine a race suit presentation to Australia's elite team, along with the traditional Australian age group team dinner.

Triathlon Australia President Ken Bonham said the Hall of Fame was a concept that had been worked on for some time.

"A world championship on home soil represents the perfect opportunity to launch this prestigious and exclusive club," Mr Bonham said. "A Nominations Committee, made up of experienced and respected media representatives and sports administrators, along with select members of the TA Board, was established last year and it recently recommended three inaugural Hall of Fame inductees.

"Although triathlon is a relatively young sport, Australia has enjoyed incredible success on the world stage. This year marks the 20th year of official world championships and in that time Australia has failed to supply either a male or female champion in only five of those years. Of course, we've also had great success at other events and in other disciplines within the sport, having provided four World Ironman champions, an Olympic champion and two Commonwealth Games champions.

"Given Australia's enviable record in the sport, in naming our inaugural Hall of Fame inductees we will at least be assured of two things – that those honoured richly deserve such recognition, and that the committee's decision will spark plenty of healthy debate!"

With the Hall of Fame to be an on-going concept and with inductions planned every few years, it was decided that early performances would be initially considered. A points system was introduced to aid this and future inductions, with Olympic Games medals garnering the most points ahead of success at events such as the world championships, World Cups, Australian and Oceania championships. It was decided that outside elements such as an athlete's contribution to the sport on and off the field of play would also be considered.

The subsequent three inductees will be honoured and interviewed at the Hall of Fame & Australian Age Group Team Dinner. Race suits for the grand final of the Dextro Energy Triathlon ITU World Championship Series will be formally presented to the open elite squad, and the Junior and Under 23 representatives will be recognised.

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