



Blithfield Olympic Distance Triathlon & Aquabike

Pre-race details

Sunday 16th August 2026

Blithfield Reservoir, Waters Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire WS15 3DU

Supported by:



Welcome to PMA Racing's "Blithfield Olympic Triathlon & Aquabike", which take place on Sunday 16th August 2026. Please read the race instructions below to ensure the event runs smoothly and you are well prepared beforehand and ensure that your race details are correct on the start list. Please note that we will be running a Sprint distance Aquathlon (Incorporating the English & British Championships) event in conjunction with the standard distance event.

Please note that our offices will be closed after 13th August.

The Venue

The event HQ will be based at Blithfield Sailing Club in rural Staffordshire off Seedcroft Lane, which is located on the B5014 near Abbots Bromley with good access from the A50 & A38. The Sailing Club is signposted at the Seedcroft Lane entrance. Please note that the site is on private land and so you will be unable to park at the Sailing Club nor run on part of the course prior to the event weekend.

The Sailing club address is:-

Blithfield Reservoir, Waters Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire WS15 3DU

See location map - <http://www.blithfield.org.uk/location/>

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Accommodation

<https://www.enjoystaffordshire.com/accommodation>

Camping

Unfortunately there is strictly **no** camping available on site this year at the request of the landowners due to the high risk of fires. Should you wish to camp there are a number of campsites nearby, with some of them listed below:-

The White Lodge site

Rugeley Riverside Camping

Forestside Farm

Car Parking

Competitor car parking will be in a field near to the left of the main Blithfield gates adjacent to the office building) and you will be directed by race marshals. Please arrive in plenty of time to avoid rushing around. Please do not park outside the office building. Follow directions for the short walk over the field to the PMA Registration tent (5 minute walk).

You will not be able to leave the site until the last cyclist is back to HQ, which we estimate to be around 10.30am. We welcome all supporters but please ensure that they arrive and park by the latest 7.30am otherwise the race will be in progress and vehicles will impede the event in progress.

Toilets

There will be a number of toilets (in the Sailing club house), and temporary toilets located near to the Transition area and these will be sign posted.

Changing/Showers

There will be changing facilities and hot showers available at the Sailing Club.

Drinks & Food

Hot drinks will be available in the Sailing Clubhouse from 6.30am and food will be available once the swim has started.

Dogs

Absolutely No Dogs are allowed (please don't put the event in jeopardy) and ensure you communicate this to family and friends. Please leave your dogs at home due to the presence of livestock, wildlife and ground-nesting birds within the protected SSSI.

Registration

Registration will take place on the Sunday morning from 5.30am to 6.45am in the PMA large marquee situated next to the Transition area, which will be clearly signposted. Additionally, you will be able to register between 5.00pm and 6.00pm on the Saturday evening.

The Race Pass (formerly Day Membership) is a British Triathlon membership product. All participants who enter a race at a permitted event must be a Core or Ultimate annual British Triathlon member or purchase a Race Pass. A Race Pass includes:

- A race licence
- Membership to the sport on the day of the event
- Third-party public liability insurance

Please show your digital British Triathlon membership licence if you have paid the reduced BTF member's fee. If BTF members cannot provide a valid licence be prepared to pay the £8 levy to ensure race day insurance and to purchase through the BTF portal prior to registration. If you paid for a Race Day Pass when entering, there is no need to pay again.

If you do need to purchase a new race pass day license you can purchase this through the QR code below: -



You will be issued with 2 race numbers, a timing chip, a swim hat, helmet sticker and a bike sticker that must be displayed on your bike to enter the transition area for security reasons. It is imperative that your timing chip is securely fastened to your left ankle.

Please be aware that any Unreturned timing chips will incur a fee of £50 each!

Race Briefing

There will be a mandatory race briefing near to the swim exit inflatable/transition area at 7.10am and will take approximately 10 mins.

Race Numbers

You will be issued with two numbers, which must be clearly visible on your back for the bike and your front for the run. Elastic belts for race numbers are permitted but ensure your numbers are clearly visible (numbers should be visible on the back during the bike section and visible on the front during the run section). Do not cut or fold these race numbers, as penalties will be issued for number mutilation. Relay Teams will be issued with 2 numbers with the cyclist wearing one number on their back and the runner wearing one number on their front.

Emergency & medical information should be provided on the back of 1 of the numbers in the event of an accident. You will also be issued with a bike sticker for your bike (to be attached to your seat pin).

Aquabike

The Aquabike (swim/bike) will complete the same Olympic distance swim & bike only with the time taken after T2 with your finisher time taken on the Bike In mat. Should you be unlucky with an injury and are unable to run then why not change to the Aquabike (you will need to do this before starting the race). You will then need to walk/run to the finish line out of T2 to the finish line (around 100M) to collect your finisher medal & drinks.

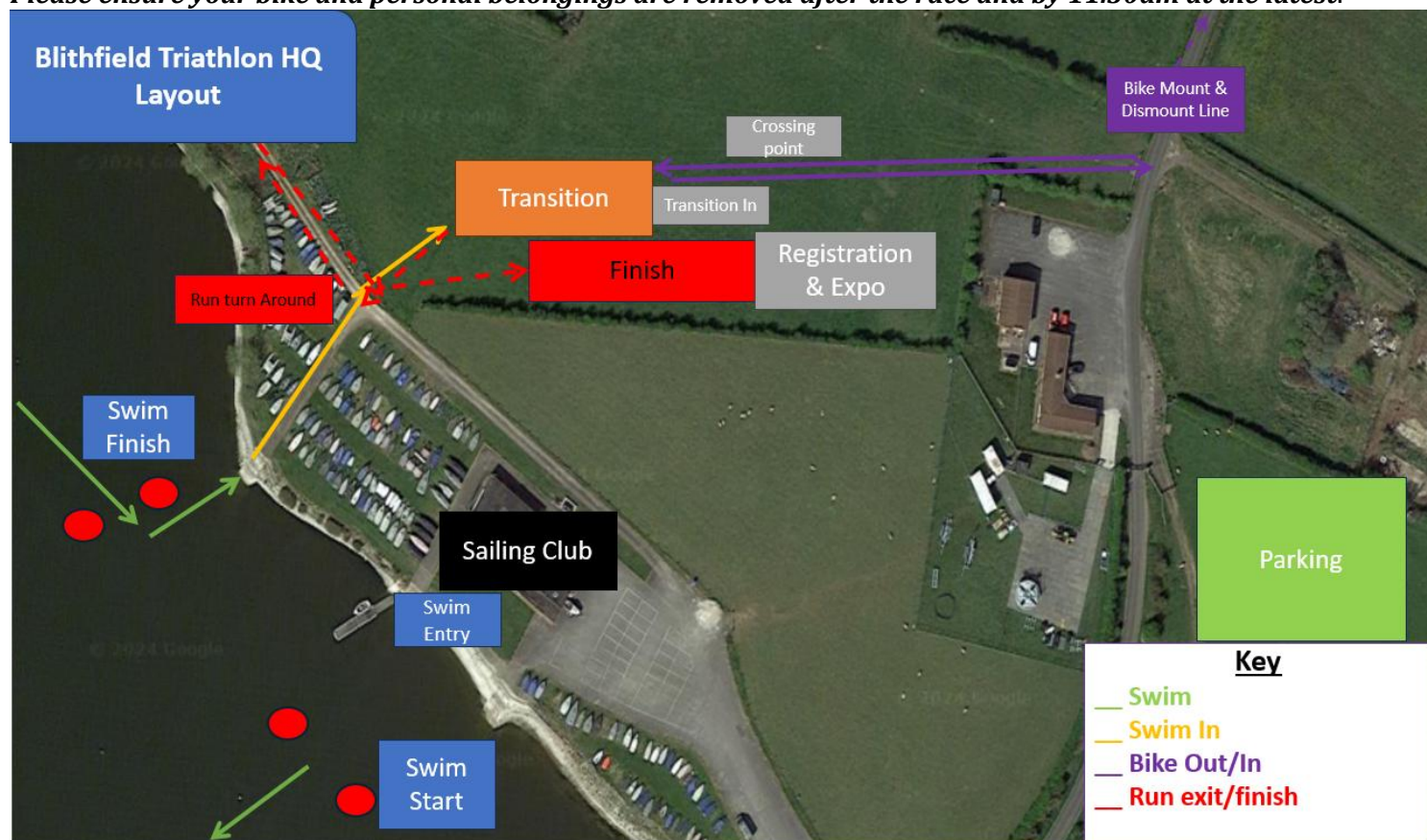
Transition

The transition area is located in the field adjacent to the Sailing Club. Racking of your equipment will only be allowed once registration has taken place and a bike sticker for security reasons is clearly displayed on your bike (seat post). Please ensure you have your helmet fastened up upon entering Transition with your helmet sticker race number clearly displayed on the front.

Baggage can be placed in the transition area prior to the race start (only on the perimeter of the fencing and not near your own area). The racking is numbered so please rack against your corresponding race number. Please ensure your bike is in a roadworthy condition and that you have an approved hard shell helmet that must be worn for the duration of the cycle section. No competitor will be able to leave the transition area without first securing their helmet and must not be unfastened until the bike has been racked. There is strictly no cycling in the transition area and bikes must be mounted/dismounted outside the area by instruction of a race official.

The transition area will open at 5.45am and close at 7.10am and you will not be allowed to remove personal belongings whilst the race is in progress. Evidence of your race number must be shown to gain access in and out of the transition area for security reasons. Your race number sticker must be clearly visible on your bike.

Please ensure your bike and personal belongings are removed after the race and by 11.30am at the latest.



Start Times

There will be 2 mass start waves: -

Wave 1 – 07:30 = All Females, Relays & Aquabike competitors (Purple swim hat)

Wave 2 – 07:38 = All Open competitors (Orange swim hats)

Swim - Standard Distance - 1500M Two Laps

The swim will start promptly depending on your wave in the water section to the left of the pontoon behind the Sailing clubhouse. Swimmers will be able to enter the water 10 minutes before the race start/immediately after the previous wave via the pontoon area **(DO NOT ENTER THE WATER AT ANY OTHER POINT)**.

The course is rectangular in shape and will be identifiable with large inflatable yellow swim buoys and you will be swimming in a clockwise direction. After completing 1 lap continue straight across to the first yellow buoy and repeat the lap. There will be a lead canoe and canoe safety cover located throughout the swim section.

All competitors please note: United Kingdom inland waters are not completely safe for swimming, although risk of disease are low and risks of serious infection are small, swimmers may be susceptible to infection through immune suppression, particularly if they are not in good health at the time of swimming. Therefore if you are unwell you should seriously consider the implications of racing.

The lake temperature is likely to be 18-22°C and wetsuits are likely to be optional. For weaker swimmers we suggest wearing a wetsuit for safety (and speed) reasons but we will operate in accordance with British Triathlon rules (see below) and measure the water temperature on race morning and communicate accordingly.

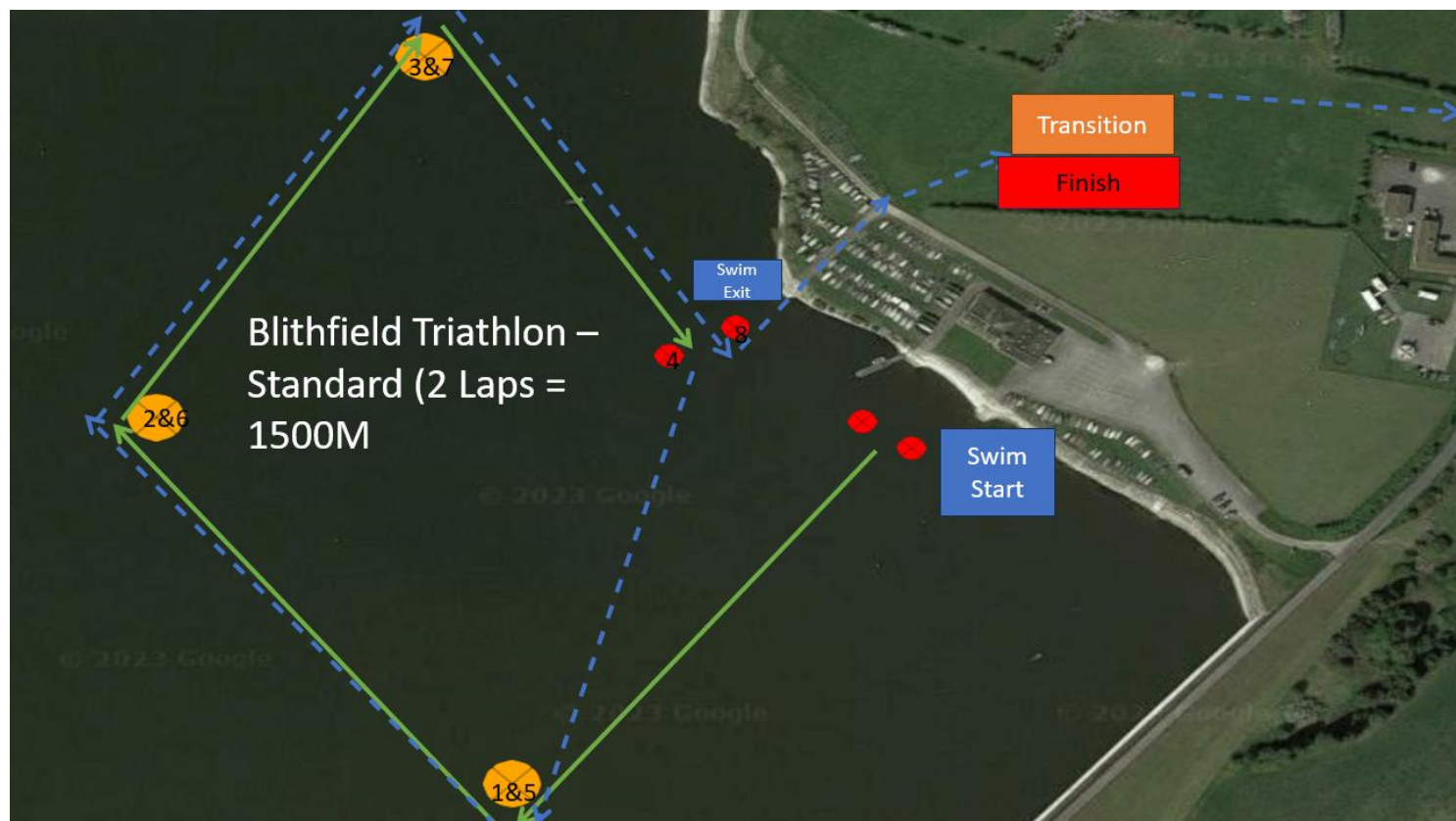
- a.) The use of wetsuits is forbidden or mandatory if the following combinations of distance and water temperature are attained:

Swim length	Age as at 31 December	Mandatory Below	Forbidden Above
Up to 1500m	up to and including age 59	15.9°C	22°C
Up to 1500m	age 60 and above	15.9°C	24.6°C
1501m and above	all ages	15.9°C	24.6°C

- b.) It is recommended that wetsuits are worn by all novices and Age-Groupers up to and including age 59 up to 22°C, and all novices and Age-Groupers age 60 and above up to 24.6°C;

Canoes will be on hand to guide you and provide safety cover. If you get into difficulty, turn on your back and raise one arm; a canoe will then escort you to the bank or one of the safety boats. If you appear to be struggling in the swim, or if

you have been in the water for a long time you may be pulled out. You will need to wear a swimming hat as part of your registration pack for safety reasons.



Bike - Standard Distance 39k Two Laps (355M elevation)

After leaving transition and mounting bike in the Sailing Club car park turn left to the end of the private road onto Waters Lane and head out of the Sailing Club.

At the junction turn right along Seedcroft Lane (note this is a single track road and caution should be used) until arriving at the main cross roads and turn left onto the main Lichfield Road (B5014), which takes you through the village of Abbots Bromley through the High Street & Baggott Street.

Please note that there are 3 sets of chicanes through the village.

Continue along Uttoxeter Road before making a left hand turn (signposted Rugely) onto the B5013 and over the main dam wall through the centre of Blithfield Reservoir and continue for approx.2 miles through Admaston and continue onto Colton Road (6 miles) before turning left onto Blithbury Road (7.5 miles). Continue on the windey lanes for 2.5 miles before turning left at Blithbury crossroads (note that there is a rough section of road just before the junction) and back onto Uttoxeter Road (B5014), which continues onto Lichfield Road.

Cyclists will continue on Lichfield Road past Seedcroft Lane and repeat the course for lap 2 (this will be signposted). After reaching Seedcroft Lane for the 2nd time on the main Lichfield Road turn left back up Seedcroft Lane towards the Sailing Club turning left down to Waters Road back into the Sailing Club.

All major junctions will be both signposted and marshalled but cyclists should familiarise themselves with the route prior to competing.

You are reminded that the cycle section is on open roads, so please ensure that you observe the rules of the road at all times. Any reported infringements, such as crossing white centre lines or failing to take due care will result in a DQ. Please ride on the left and overtake briefly on the right before returning to ride on the left.

The draft zone is a rectangle measuring **twelve** (12) metres long by **three** (3) metres wide which surrounds every cycle on the cycle course. The front edge of the front wheel defines the centre of the leading three (3) metre edge of the rectangle." Athletes will have 25 seconds to move through the draft zone with overtaken cyclists ensuring that they drop back outside the zone once overtaken.

Time penalties will be issued by the race referee for infringements and motorcycle draft busters will be on the course ensuring that the TE rules are enforced and also for safety cover.

Motorcycle referees will be in attendance to ensure the rules are adhered to.

Bike course Map is below:-

[Blithfield Standard Tri Bike | 38.6 km Cycling Route on Strava](#)

Blithfield Standard Tri Bike

Cycling Route

Save Share

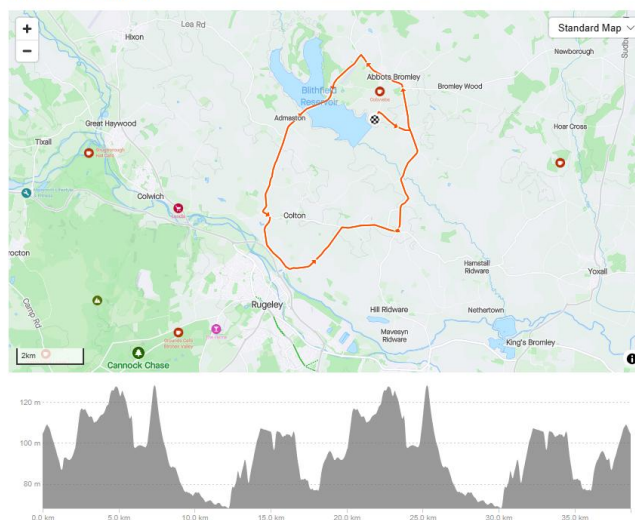
Details

38.69 km 355 m

CREATED BY
Jungle Jim
7 November 2022 · Public



Route and Elevation



[Run - Standard Distance 10k Two Laps](#)

Once racked exit T2 at the 'Run Out' and head out around the back of the field and towards the dam along the waters edge following the off road path and through the gate onto Watery Lane towards the causeway. At the end of the road turn left onto the dam wall and continue along the pavement turning around the cone $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way along the causeway and retrace steps back towards the finish area. The run turnaround will be just before the finish area and athletes will complete 2 laps. There will be a drinks station offering water & Active Root energy drink at the Watery Lane/Dam wall junction. There will therefore be a drinks station at 1.7K/3K/6.5K & 8.1K.

Upon completion of the 2nd lap athletes will finish along the finishing chute under the Finish Inflatable gantry near to the Transition area.

[Blithfield Standard Tri Run | 10.1 km Running Route on Strava](#)

There is a toilet located around 1K into the run should this be necessary.

Blithfield Standard Tri Run

Running Route

Save Edit

Details

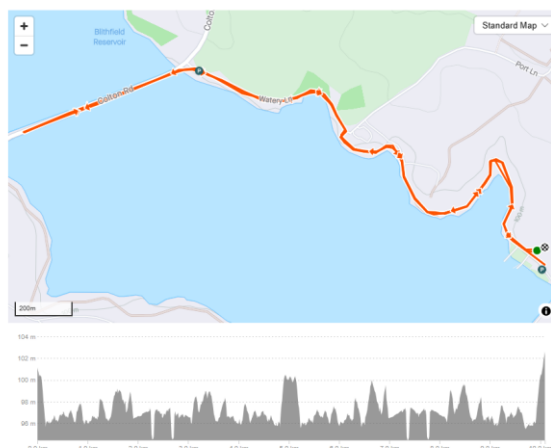
10.1 km 22 m

48:04

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Jungle Jim
7 November 2022 · Public



Route and Elevation



[Nutrition](#)

There will be several feedstations on the course (end of swim) and on the run with water and Active Root Energy drink as well as a finish line feedstation.

Medical Advice

If you have any known medical condition (such as diabetes, asthma, allergy to penicillin etc) please inform us prior to the race by letter. Please write all medical details on the back of your race number and put a small indelible red cross on the front of your race number. Whether you have a medical condition or not, if you feel unwell on race day – don't race!

Prizes and Presentation

The prize presentation will take place near the Transition area at approx. 11.30am for the Standard distance with a prize awarded to the main 5 year Age-Groups for the Triathlon, 1st Relay and 1st place in the Aquabike (Senior, Vet 40-49 & Supervet (50+)). All competitors will receive a finishers medal once they cross the line!!

Results

Results will be available on the PMA Racing website (www.pma-racing.co.uk) or on the Titanium race timing website [Titanium Race Timing](#)

Race Day Programme

0530 Registration Opens
0545 Transition Opens
0645 Registration Closes
0710 Mandatory Race Briefing
0715 Transition Closes
0730 Wave 1 – All Females, Relays & Aquabike competitors
0738 Wave 3 – All Open competitors
0750 First swimmer exits water
0820 Last swimmer arrives in T1
0850 First Cyclist finishes and starts run
0935 First finisher
1000 Last Cyclist finishes and starts run
1100 Last Finishers (approximate time)
1130 Transition Area broken down – bikes & equipment to be removed
1130 Prize Presentation

Acknowledgements PMA Racing would like to thank:

South Staffordshire Water PLC	Stafford Triathlon Club	Stafford Canoe Club
Blithfield Sailing Club	Huub	Peak Tri Store
British Triathlon Federation	Active Root Nutrition	

Contacts

Any problems nearer the date please contact: PMA Racing, Website: www.pma-racing.co.uk, Email: events@pma-racing.co.uk, Phone: 07512 476837

Social Media

Please follow us on Twitter/facebook/Instagram @pmaracing for the latest event updates.

Please provide us with any positive feedback via Race Check that you may have on the event to help improve the event for future years.

Best of luck and we hope you have an enjoyable race.

Email

Following the event an email will be sent out to all competitors sharing the results link and link to the FOC pictures.

Team PMA Racing