

COLUMBIA KIDS TRIATHLON

Frequently Asked Questions

For additional information, please reference the race website:

<https://www.trisignup.com/Race/MD/Columbia/2022ColumbiaAssociationKIDSTriathlon>

General FAQs

1. Do I need to go to Athlete Check In the day before or on race morning?

Yes. It is very important that each athlete go to athlete check in either the day before the race or the morning of. It is here that each participant will receive their race numbers and other important information about the event. This is a mandatory activity.

2. Is everyone really fast? How serious is this race?

Athletes of all speeds and abilities participate in triathlon. You can expect to see participants that are racing to win the race, participants that are experiencing their first triathlon and everyone in between.

3. How early should I show up for my first race?

This is a common question from first-time racers, and we usually recommend 90 minutes. You'll have to go to the bathroom, warm-up and stretch, and unlike a single sport event like running, multisport racing requires you to stage your gear (in transition). Also, since it is your first time, there are bound to be questions you will have and things you will forget to do. After a race or two, you will have the drill down and can modify that time.

4. What do I do with my bike while I am swimming and running?

The center of activity for any multisport race is the transition area. This is an area, usually surrounded by a fence of some kind, that contains enough bike racks for all of the competitors in the race. At this race, you will be assigned a specific transition spot. When you finish the swim leg, you will come to this spot and retrieve your bike. When you finish the bike ride, you will return it to the exact same spot on the bike racks and begin your run. After the race is finished, you can return to your transition spot and reclaim your bike.

5. How does a transition area work?

Be sure to wear your PINK or BLUE wrist band. This is your all access pass to enter and exit the transition area before, during and after the race. If you forget your wristband on race morning, go to Athlete Check In and get a new bracelet. Once you enter the transition area, locate your spot for your bike. You must "rack" your bike at your assigned spot. Next, lay out a towel on the ground beside your bike, being careful not to invade the space of your neighbor.

Lay out your bike shoes (if you use them), bike helmet, run shoes, shirt and shorts, sunglasses, gloves, or whatever else you may need during the race onto your towel. Once your gear is in place, double check your bike to make sure it is in the appropriate gear for starting the bike ride.

Next, take a walk through the transition area. Find the entrance where you will come in after the swim, and make sure you can quickly locate your bike.

6. What is body marking?

Athletes will need to have a volunteer body mark their arms with their racer number. Please do not do this yourself prior to race morning. Body marking will be in the transition area on race morning prior to the start of the race. Volunteers will use sharpie permanent marker and will write your race number on both arms.

7. When do I receive my timing chip?

Prior to the race start (after you rack your bike) and before you walk to the pool, be sure to pick up your timing chip. This chip is held in place around your LEFT ankle. The timing chip tent is located inside the transition area. Athletes will need to show their race bib number to pick their timing chip. Do this BEFORE you go to swim start.

SWIM FAQS

1. Do I have to wear a swim cap during the swim?

Participants will not be issued a swim cap for this race. Wearing a swim cap is optional but recommended if you have long hair or you typically train with a swim cap.

2. Do I need to wear a wetsuit?

Wet suits are not permitted for this race.

3. What if I cannot continue swimming? What are my options?

If during the swim portion of this race you are unable to continue swimming, please stop at the end of the pool. You may exit the pool, but you will need to let officials know that you will not be completing the swim. Race management will take your timing chip from you and you will be permitted to complete the rest of the race (bike and run courses).

4. How does the swim start?

All participants need to be on the pool deck at 7:45 AM. At this time, race management will provide race instruction and begin to line up swimmers for the swim start. This race will use a time trail start (participants will start one person at a time). Please refer to the swim course maps on the race website.

BIKE FAQs

1. Do I have to wear a helmet?

Absolutely!! It must be in good shape (no cracks). Buckle your helmet anytime you are on your bike. You will be disqualified if you are on your bike without your helmet buckled anywhere on the course. If you are in transition, you will be assessed a variable time penalty.

2. Why do I need bar end plugs?

So you don't give yourself or someone else a nasty impalement. Not having openings on your bike solidly plugged is a DQ! Most bikes come with bar end plugs already affixed to the bike. 99% of participants will not need to worry about this.

3. Do I need to wear my bib number on the bike course?

No. You are only required to wear your bib number on the run course; however, your bike adhesive number must be on your bike at all times.

4. How far to the right must I ride?

Stay as far to the right as possible, but generally about the width of a standard bike lane – about a meter. Pass on the left, and then return to the right.

5. Can I pass on the right?

No, pass on the left. If someone is blocking you, ask (loudly!) this person to move to the right, so that you may pass.

6. If I'm passed, do I have to wait 15 seconds before I can re-pass?

No, but you must drop back completely out of the draft zone. Do not attempt to "catch up" by getting up out of the saddle and pedaling fast. You will be called for an overtaken penalty.

7. Can I ride in transition?

No. There is no riding of bicycles in the transition area. If there is a mount/dismount line you must observe it.

8. Can I drop my water bottle or gel packs anywhere?

No. Toss trash in a receptacle, or in the drop zone within sight of an aid station, or you may be cited for abandoned equipment.

9. Can I accept help?

Only accept help from race organizers or official volunteers. Accepting it from others is considered unauthorized assistance, and you may be penalized.

10. Can I put my bike anywhere I want?

No. Rack your bike and put all of your gear in the space race management has designated for you. Rack with your "front wheel down" on the side of your assigned space.

11. What if I go off course?

You must re-enter the course at the same spot you left it.

12. May I wear my head set or earbuds?

No. Headsets, radios, head phones and personal audio devices are prohibited.

RUN FAQs

1. May I wear my head set or earbuds?

No. Headsets, radios, head phones and personal audio devices are prohibited.

2. Can someone pace me?

No. Pacing is illegal if they are not in the race. You may have someone provide you with split times.

3. Do I have to wear a number?

Yes, you must wear your number and it must be visible from the front.

4. May I carry my own water bottle?

Yes, but it must not be a glass container