

2026 Baltimore Triathlon Athlete Guide



Welcome To The 2026 Baltimore Triathlon

Welcome to the 2026 Baltimore Triathlon at Gunpowder Falls State Park! With our various multisport offerings, we are bringing multisport families together and giving the future triathletes a great new event is our goal!

As always, safety is the most important aspect of the event and we have made the necessary arrangements to ensure that you can compete in the safest environment possible. USAT officials, lifeguards, police, race staff, and EMS personnel are on site to protect you (sometimes from yourself), so be sure to follow their instructions at all times. **Please review this guide carefully as it contains important information about the event** – if you have any questions please e-mail us at info@Rev3Tri.com. If you are new to the sport of triathlon, welcome! I highly encourage you to attend the Athlete Q&A session at 5:30 PM during Friday's packet pickup.

This event would not be possible without the support of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Gunpowder State Park Staff, Baltimore County Police Department, the communities of Oliver Beach and Bay Country, and countless volunteers. Please be sure to thank these groups for their time as you see them on the course.

Welcome to the family!!!

Jason Chance - Race Director



Rules of the road

You are racing under the USAT Competitive Rules. In order to minimize misunderstandings on race day, I hope you will take the time to read the following summary of the Position Violations, which you know as the drafting rules.

I have reduced the Position Rules to the following concepts, which everyone can remember:

Ride on the right side of your lane.

Keep five bike lengths between yourself and the cyclist in front of you.

Pass on the left of the cyclist in front, never on the right.

Complete your pass within 15 seconds.

If passed, you must drop completely out of the zone, to the rear, before attempting to re-pass. Remember you are racing in a USA Triathlon sanctioned event and there are USAT certified referees on the course to ensure fairness in the competition. There will be **NO WARNINGS** if you commit a foul during competition. Triathlon is an individual event and you must take personal responsibility to understand the rules and avoid penalties. At the end of the race all citations by the marshals are reviewed by the Head Referee who then decides if a penalty should be assessed. The Head Referee's ruling is final in the case of Position Violations and there are no protests or appeals of Position penalties. Marshals commonly cite the following violations:

Position– riding on the left side of the lane without passing.

Blocking – left side riding and impeding the forward progress of another competitor

Illegal Pass – passing on the right.

Overtaken - failing to drop back three bike lengths before re-passing

Drafting – following a leading cyclist closer than three bike lengths and failing to pass within 15 seconds.

Though Position Violations carry a time penalty for first offense, two citations will result in an additional penalty and if you are cited for three violations, you will be disqualified. Be sure to check the penalty sheet before you leave the race site and have a chat with the Head Referee if you have any questions.

Make sure your helmet is a CPSC approved model. All helmets legally sold in the US are CPSC approved but if you purchased your helmet in a different country it might be illegal for use in sanctioned events.

While on your bike, always have your chinstrap securely fastened - before, during and after the event! The chin strap rule is easy to follow, so don't forget – that's a DQ!

Wear your race numbers, don't leave your trash on the course, and don't carry or use any portable audio devices. Remember to treat other athletes, volunteers, and officials with courtesy and consideration. Failure to do so is called Unsportsmanlike Conduct and you will be disqualified.



Race Weekend Schedule

Race Location: Hammerman Area of Gunpowder State Park, 7200 Graces Quarters Road, Chase, MD 21027

Friday, October 2nd

- 3:00 PM – Packet Pickup Opens (Athlete Village in Gunpowder State Park)
- 5:45 PM – Race Briefing in Transition (Optional – recommended for first-time triathletes)
- 6:00 PM – Packet Pickup Closes

Saturday, October 3rd Youth and Women's Race

- 6:00 AM – Gunpowder State Park Opens For Athletes
- 6:05 AM – Packet Pickup & Transition Open (Athlete Village in Gunpowder State Park)
- 7:30 AM – Mandatory Pre-Race Meeting (Athlete Village)
- 7:50 AM – Transition Area Closes
- 8:00 AM – Youth Race Begins
- 8:30 AM - Women's Sprint Race Begins (Time Trial Start)
- 10:15 AM – All Cyclists Must Be Off The Road
- 10:30 AM – Awards Ceremony (approximate start time)
- 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Men's Packet Pickup

Sunday, October 4th Non-Binary, Men and Co-Ed Relays

- 6:00 AM – Gunpowder State Park Opens For Athletes
- 6:05 AM – Packet Pickup & Transition Open (Athlete Village in Gunpowder State Park)
- 7:30 AM – Mandatory Pre-Race Meeting (Athlete Village)
- 7:50 AM – Transition Area Closes
- 8:00 AM – Sprint Race Begins (Time Trial Start – Green Swim Caps)
- 10:00 AM – All Cyclists Must Be Off The Road
- 10:30 AM – Awards Ceremony (approximate start time)

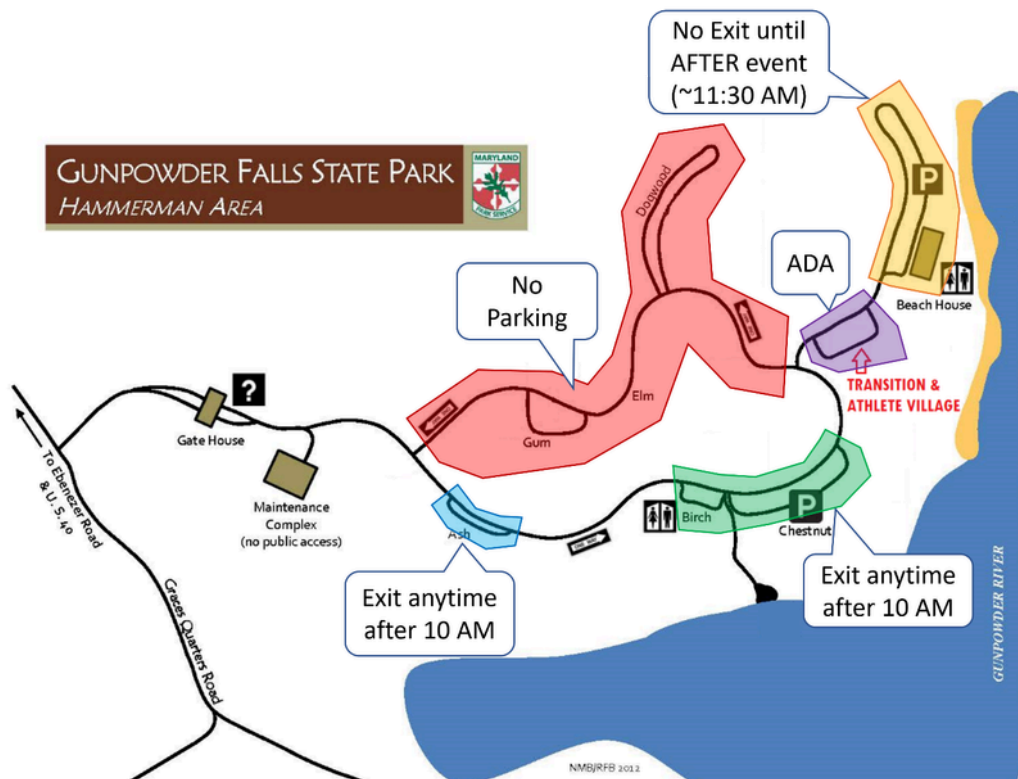


Race Day Instructions

Parking

Athlete parking is available inside Gunpowder State Park within a short walk of the transition area and the Athlete Village. To ensure a smooth arrival process on race day, parking attendants will be onsite to guide vehicles where they need to go. Parts of the Beach House Lot are used on the run course and are coned and marked accordingly, so follow the guidance of event staff and park only where instructed to! **NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BEACH LOT UNTIL THE EVENT IS COMPLETE.** If you plan to leave before the event is over (roughly 11:30 AM), you must notify the parking attendant(s) and park in the Ash or Chestnut Lots.

Please remember that per USAT rules, helmets must be on and straps fastened any time you are on your bike before, during, and after the race (i.e. if you ride to or from your car to transition). Failure to obey this rule results in a DQ. Wear your helmet!



Inclement Weather Policy

Athlete safety is paramount, and inclement weather or other local emergencies can threaten to interrupt the regular race-day schedule. Every effort will be made to continue as planned, but should the need arise, the race director reserves the right to alter the course or remove race segments based on recommendations from USAT Officials, police, emergency medical personnel, or park rangers. Any changes will be communicated via e-mails to participants, posts to the [Baltimore Triathlon Facebook Page](#), and/or announcements on race day.

Packet Pickup

Participants have the following opportunities to pick up race packets:

- (1) On Friday, October 2nd from 3-6 PM in the Athlete Village at Gunpowder State Park (Women's and Youth Race)
- (2) On Saturday, October 3rd from 6:05 – 7:45 AM in the Athlete Village (Women's and Youth Race)
- (3) On Saturday, October 3rd from 12:00pm - 2:00pm in the Athlete Village (Men's Race)
- (4) On Sunday, October 4th from 6:05 – 7:45 AM in the Athlete Village (Men's Race)

You do not need to pay the park entrance fee Friday through Sunday. Athletes must show photo identification (and USA Triathlon membership card if applicable) to pick up the race packet, and packets WILL NOT be released to a friend, family member, spouse, etc. If you are a USA Triathlon member, you must show your membership card (card, keychain, USAT App) when you pick up your packet. If you are not able to produce proof of membership you will be required to pay for a one-day license (\$15.00). Cell service onsite at the park is spotty at best, so if you are a USAT member be sure to screenshot your USAT membership card prior to arriving or have your physical card on hand. We strongly recommend picking up your packet on Friday if possible – you get to sleep in a little longer and the rush is minimized on race day.

In your packet you will receive:

- (1) Swim cap corresponding to your race
- (2) Bib number (required for the run only)
- (3) Bike/Helmet sticker sheet
- (4) Race Shirt

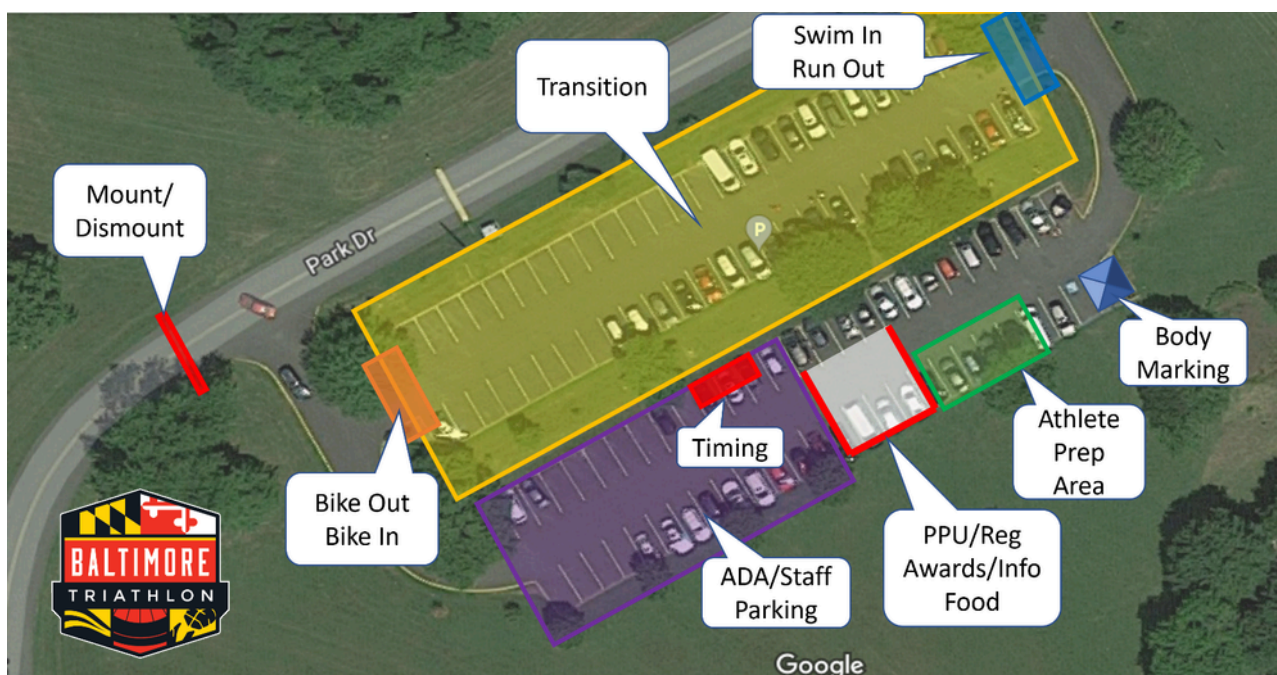
****You will receive your timing strap on the MORNING of your race at Transition. These chips are NOT disposable, as in years past.**



Relays – Each person on your relay team must come to packet pickup to check in and show photo identification (and USAT card if applicable). The swim leg will receive the swim cap and timing chip (with Velcro strap for transfer), the bike leg will receive a wristband and bike/helmet stickers, and the run leg will receive a wristband and the bib number.

Athlete Village

The Athlete Village is the heart of your race-day experience, and includes the transition area, pre-race activities such as packet pickup and body marking, and post-race amenities like food and awards. Make note of the Body Marking and Athlete Prep areas located in the lower lot. The Athlete Prep area is a space reserved for you to apply your bike number, transition wristbands, and prepare for body marking prior to entering transition. This area will also have space and equipment to rack your bike temporarily.



Transition

In order to access transition you **MUST** pick up your packet first to obtain your wristband and bike sticker. Nobody will be allowed to enter transition without a wristband on, and bikes **MUST** have the bike number sticker attached before being brought in. There is no glass permitted inside the transition area for any reason. **TRANSITION SECURITY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED!**



Body Marking

All athletes will be marked with their bib number and age on the morning of the race. Body marking will take place next to the large white packet pickup tent next to transition. Please see below for where you will be marked and insure these areas are accessible when you are ready to be marked. All relay team members must be marked, regardless of what leg they are completing. Please wait to apply sunscreen or Vaseline until **after** you have been marked.



Fluid Station

Water and **Gatorade** will be available in coolers inside of the transition area. Please dispose of any trash in the receptacle provided. Remember – discarding any trash on the course is a violation of USAT race rules and subject to a penalty.



Bike Racking

Bike racking will take place on race day only. Racking is first come, first served. IF there are specialty areas (Tri Clubs with enough members) they will be designated as such.

Your transition gear should be set up next to the front wheel. USAT officials and race staff will be present inside transition checking to make sure that bikes are racked correctly, all bikes have bar end plugs, and answering any questions you may have.

Wetsuits & Water Temperature

Historically, water temperatures at Hammerman Beach have hovered at or just below 70 degrees at the beginning of October, and we fully anticipate that the swim will be wetsuit legal. Per USAT rules, wetsuits are permitted (but not required) for water temperatures up to 78 degrees, and cannot have a thickness greater than 5 millimeters. A preliminary temperature reading will be taken Friday morning and results posted on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BaltimoreTri>) so that you can plan ahead. Official water temperature will be taken the morning of the race and announced continuously in the transition area.



Swim Safety

Your safety in the water is of the highest importance to us, and we do everything in our power to make the beginning of the race as comfortable as possible. We understand that new triathletes (and folks who just don't love the swim) can have difficulty in the open water. If you fall into these categories, or would like the swim support team to keep a closer eye on you, please switch out your swim cap at packet pickup from your assigned color to a **red cap**. Wearing a red cap allows our team in the water to manage each group of swimmers better by directing extra attention to those who may need it more. This does not affect your eligibility for awards or change your start time, and does not mean that swim support will give you any advantage over other athletes, so please don't be afraid to make the switch if you feel you need to.

As with any swim in open water (as opposed to a pool), athletes will be exposed to plant, animal, and bacteria life. Water quality at Hammerman Beach is routinely tested by Baltimore County ([you can view results here](#)) and is within the acceptable range for swimming. However, if you have open cuts or bandaged wounds you are reminded to keep these areas as clean and dry as possible, and always wash off as soon as possible. Showers are available in the lower level of the Beach House for post-race bathing.

Restrooms

The beach house at Hammerman Beach (located along the water directly next to the finish line) contains mens and womens bathrooms and showers on the lower level. We HAVE verified that these will be open this year as last year's construction is complete.

Course Support

Each segment of the race will be supported by trained professionals to ensure athlete safety throughout the event. Lifeguards on boats, kayaks, paddleboards and on the beach will be in place to monitor the swim. On the bike course, Baltimore County Police will monitor major intersections. The run course is secured with help from Park Rangers with the Department of Natural Resources. Race volunteers (look for the bright yellow shirts) will be positioned throughout the course to make sure your race experience is as safe and enjoyable as possible. Emergency medical services will be onsite to provide assistance if needed. Athlete safety is our #1 priority, and everything in our power will be done to maintain a safe environment for the duration of the event. If at any time race officials feel that an athlete is in danger, is a danger to others, or is not sufficiently trained to complete the event they may pull the athlete from the race.



Aid Stations

Transition Aid Station There is one aid station located in the transition area accessible before and during the race. Athletes will pass by it 2 times. The aid station will be stocked with water and **Gatorade** electrolyte drink.

Run Aid Stations There is one run aid station located on the course in the Dogwood parking lot, and runners will pass by it 2 times. The aid station will be stocked with water and **Gatorade** electrolyte drink. Please be sure to discard any trash in the receptacles provided.

Bike Aid Stations

There are no aid stations along the bike course. Athletes are expected to carry any nutrition needed with them on the bike. Please remember that it is against USAT rules to discard any trash on the course (i.e. gel packets or empty bottles).

Awards

The following finishers will be awarded for both the men's and women's sprint races:

- Top 3 Overall Male, Female, & Non-Binary Finishers Top 3 Age Group Male & Female
- Finishers (19 & Under, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70+)
- Top Overall Youth, Male and Female 6-9, 10-12, 13-15
- Top Male Relay (2 & 3 Person Teams Combined)
- Top Female Relay (2 & 3 Person Teams Combined)
- Top Mixed Relay (2 & 3 Person Teams Combined)
- Top 3 Overall Aquabike
- Top 3 Overall Male, Female, Non-Binary Duathlon

We will host an awards ceremony on Saturday and Sunday at approximately 10:30 AM. Results will be available online throughout the morning on the [RunSignUp website here](#), and winners will be emailed once the results are final.

Results

Race results will update online throughout the morning (pending internet connectivity) and can be accessed on the RunSignUp results page. Remember – results are not final until reviewed by the USAT referee.



Relays

All chip exchanges must take place inside the transition area. The swimmer will enter transition and meet the cyclist **at their designated bike rack**. When the cyclist returns, they will enter transition and meet the runner **at their bike rack**. **DO NOT FORGET TO EXCHANGE THE CHIP!**

Timing

Race timing will be handled by Revolution3 utilizing the MyLaps timing system. Individual participants will receive a timing chip, worn on the left ankle, which will be returned at the end of the event; relays will receive a timing chip on a neoprene strap that must be returned at the end of the race. The chip should be worn on the LEFT ankle as to not interfere with components on the bike, and NOT underneath the wetsuit (if you choose to wear one and the water temperature is legal). **This means you may have to roll the leg of your wetsuit up slightly to keep the chip exposed.** You must wear your chip **on your ankle** (again, we recommend the left ankle to keep it away from the gearing on your bicycle) for the entire event. **NO CHIP = NO TIME**. If you don't have a time, you won't appear on the results and won't factor in for awards.

Your timing chip also alerts race management to your relative position on the course and doubles as a safety measure, so **you must wear it at all times**. Relay chips and straps will be collected at the finish line, and you are responsible for returning them to event staff at the finish line even if you cannot complete the course. Lost/unreturned relay chips are subject to a \$25 replacement fee.

Food

There are shaded picnic tables located in the grassy area between the beach and transition for you to sit and relax.

Please keep in mind that **post-race food and snacks are for athletes and race volunteers/officials only**. Quantities have been ordered based on the number of participants, and we will not have extra for spectators. We appreciate your cooperation!

Sportsmanship

All athletes are expected to comply with USAT rules, including those dictating fair competition and respect for fellow athletes, officials, and volunteers. Unsportsmanlike conduct, including use of improper language or conduct will result in immediate disqualification. Don't be a jerk!



Spectator Tips

Bringing friends and family along to the race is a great way to make the most out of your race experience, and we encourage you to bring a cheering squad! If you plan on bringing spectators to the race please keep the following points in mind so that everyone can have a safe and enjoyable race:

1. Plan to arrive no later than 7:00 AM, and be sure to let the parking attendants know if you will need to leave before 11:00 AM as this will determine where you are directed to park.
2. Athletes are the only individuals allowed in the transition area – **no exceptions**. Security staff will be checking wristbands, bib, and bike numbers at the entrance to transition and will not allow friends, family, pets, etc. in the fenced off area before, during, or after the race.
3. Restrooms are available in the lower level of the Beach House.
4. Please follow the direction of race staff during the event and be mindful of the course while athletes are competing. Dogs must be kept on a short leash, and children should be supervised at all times. Gathering near the transition area is the most popular choice for spectating and gives you a great view of the finish line.
5. Results will update throughout the event as internet connectivity allows. You can find the race results page [here](#):
6. A friendly reminder – post-race food and drinks are for athletes and race volunteers/officials only. The last finisher deserves the same spread the race winner received, so feel free to bring your own snacks and save the food for the competitors. There are no concessions in Gunpowder State Park.

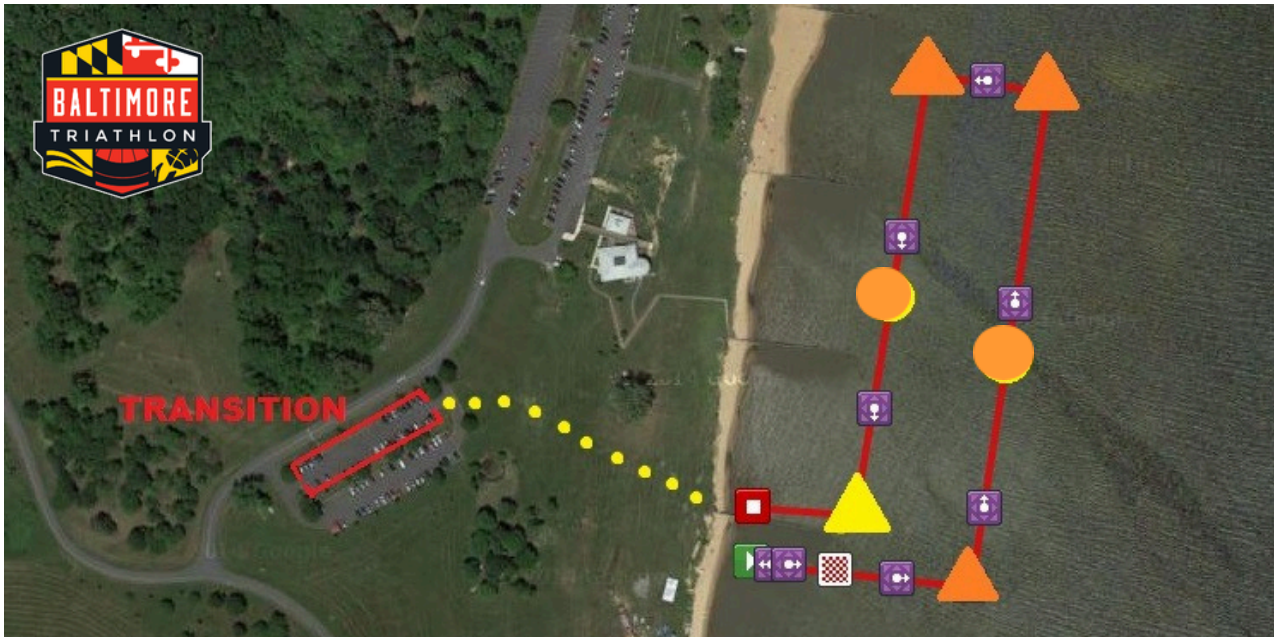
Come early, cheer loudly, and have fun!



Course Maps

Swim – 750 Meters

Athletes will begin the swim with a time trial start from land. Athletes will line up in sequential bib number order (based on the swim speed entered during registration - faster swimmers will start in the front, slower swimmers in the back) and will be released in groups of 5-7 roughly every 15 seconds. Once in the water, proceed straight toward the orange triangle buoy. Athletes will make a large rectangle, keeping the large orange triangle and smaller orange circular buoys on their LEFT side. When athletes reach the large yellow triangle buoy, they will turn right keeping the yellow triangle on their RIGHT side to head toward the beach to complete the swim.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Swimmers will start on land in groups of 5-7 and will cross a timing mat to start their swim time
- Swimmers will line up according their estimated speeds. This is a self seeded start, so faster swimmers should get to the front, and slower to the rear.
- Overall and age-group awards are based on your **CHIP** time, so your exact starting position does not influence finish place
- Lifeguards on boats, paddleboards, and kayaks are in place for your safety
- It is your responsibility to know the course. If you are unsure of the direction of the swim course please ask the swim starter before the race begins.
- When you hit the yellow triangle buoy you turn right to head into the beach – LOOK FOR THE GREEN ARCH AND WIGGLY MAN FOR EXIT

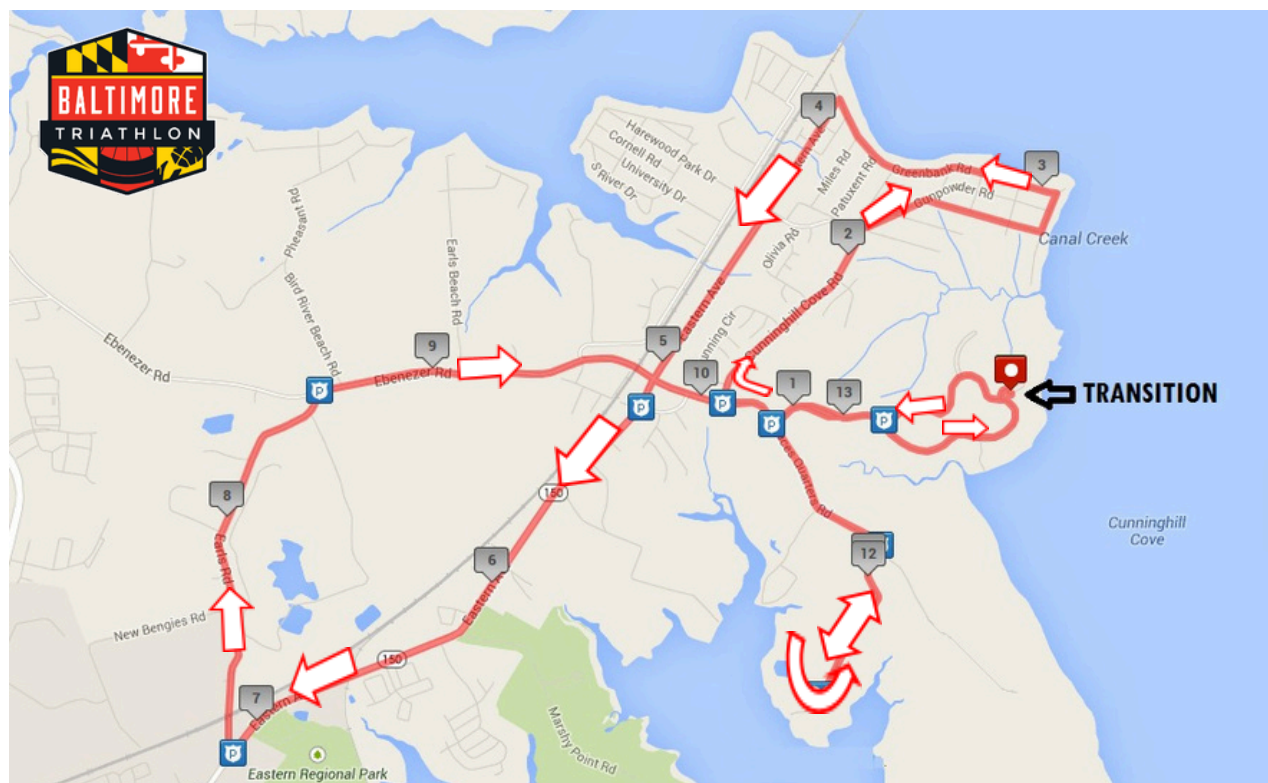


- If you require assistance, **roll over to float on your back and raise an arm in the air** – lifeguards will come to help.



Bike – 13.8 Miles

Athletes will exit transition and follow the north side of the park loop to exit onto Graces Quarters Road. Riders then make a right onto Cunninghill Cove Road; right onto Oliver Beach Road; right onto Chesapeake Road; left onto East Greenbank Road; left onto Greenbank Road; left on Eastern Avenue; right onto Earls Road; and right onto Ebenezer Road. Ebenezer Road becomes Graces Quarters Road, and riders continue straight past the main park entrance to the turnaround point. Riders make a u-turn and continue back up Graces Quarters Road to turn right in the main entrance of the park to complete the loop of the park before proceeding back to transition. A Mount/Dismount line will be placed on the road outside of transition



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Traffic will be monitored by police at intersections, but roads are NOT closed
- The turn from Eastern Ave. to Earls Rd. is downhill and sharp (see map between mile mark 7 & 8) – **SLOW DOWN!**
- Miles 1-4 are through neighborhoods (the communities are in full support of the event and will be cheering athletes on) – **ROADS ARE NARROW WITH DRIVEWAYS – USE CAUTION**
- A short section of Ebenezer Road (miles 8.5-9.5) has no shoulder and a low drainage ditch to the side – give yourself extra space from the edge of the road



- Headphones are NOT ALLOWED at any time – wearing them will result in a DQ



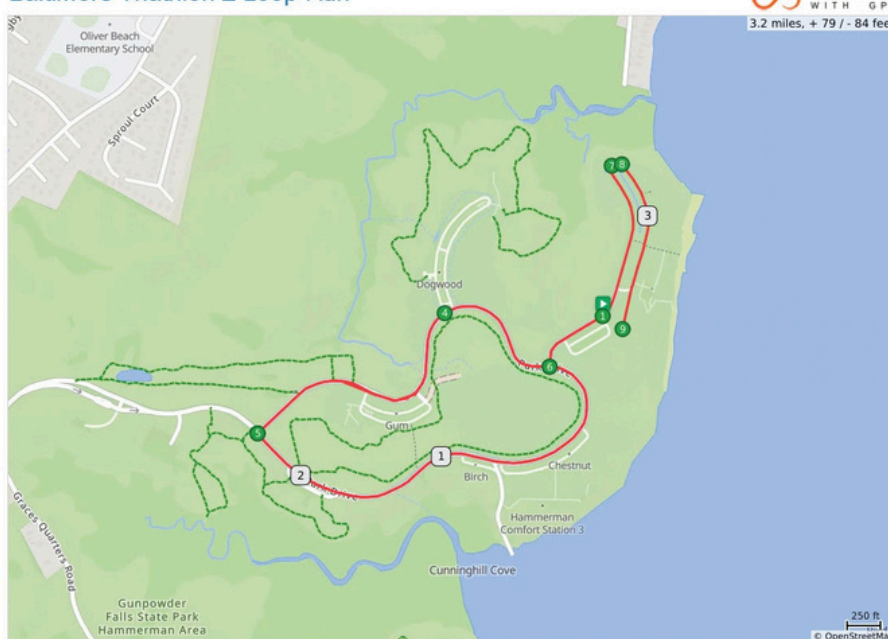
Run – 3.1 Miles (updated Sept 30, 2026)

The NEW run course, at the request of the Parks, will have our runners do a TWO LOOP course around the perimeter of the drive loop, with our aid station near Pavilion 4 (Gum Lot). We ask that all runners stay within the running lane, but if you must pass, please be aware of vehicle traffic in the loop.

At the start of the event, when you exit RUN OUT, you will make an IMMEDIATE LEFT (which is a bit different than years past). The course will be TWO loops and, on the second loop, you will enter in to the BEACH LOT and follow the route, all the way around the parking lot and to the finish (how we traditionally finish).



Baltimore Triathlon 2 Loop Run



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Runners will hit the aid station 2 times
- The course is different this year, with runners staying on the left side of the roadway and doing TWO LOOPS
- Per USAT rules, bib numbers must be clearly visible from the front during the run
- Headphones are NOT ALLOWED at any time – wearing them will result in a DQ.



Duathlon Run 1 - 1 Mile

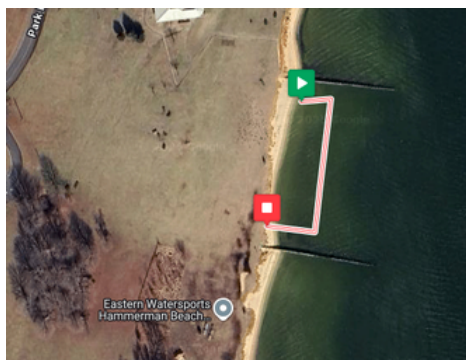
Our duathlon (Run, Bike, Run) friends will start out with a 2 loop, 1 mile long run, to kick off the day. This loop will be in the parking lot directly adjacent to transition. Once the two loops are complete, all other aspects of the event are the same. REMEMBER, IT WILL BE 2 LOOPS!!!!



YOUTH EVENT

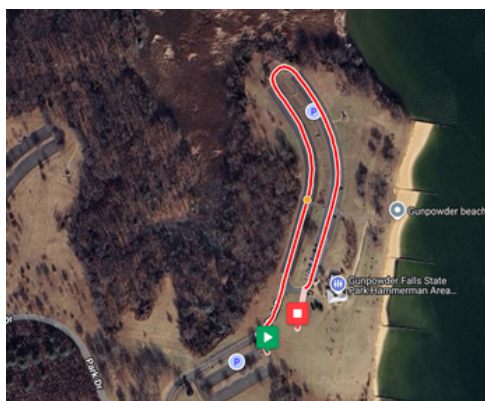
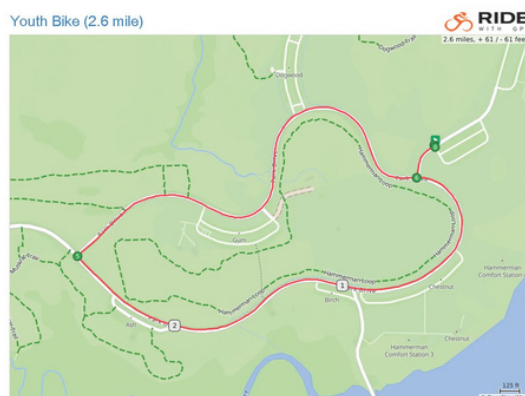
This year we are continuing our youth event on Saturday, with a 100 yard swim, 2.6 mile bike and ½ mile run YOUTH TRIATHLON course. This course will be COMPLETELY in the park area, away from any traffic. Detailed course maps can be found at the main site but screenshots are available below.

THIS EVENT WILL START AT 8am on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 and will conclude at 830AM, so that parents can watch their young triathletes, and still be ready for their event. IF YOU PARK IN THE BEACH LOT NEAREST TRANSITION, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LEAVE AT THE END OF THE YOUTH EVENT. PLEASE PARK IN ANOTHER LOT!!!!



Swim 100 yards

Bike 2.6 Miles
(2 Loops)



Run ½ Mile



