



April 20, 2019

Dear Junior Triathletes, Parents & Partners:

It is hard to believe we are only 6 days away from the opportunity to meet in person at the Packet Pick-Up & Course Talks on Friday, April 26, 2019. Hopefully, you and your friends are ready to be the stars of the largest (and best) kids triathlon in the United States. We have some very exciting surprises in store, and we know everyone will have a great time!

As promised, following is the 2nd installment of our *Getting Ready to Race Email Series*. Enjoy all of the details and feel free to link to our website at HoustonTexans.com/KidsTriathlon for even more information or to contact us directly with a specific question.

Also, please note this eblast is intended **ONLY FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE JUNIOR DIVISION** (ages 6 to 10 as of 12/31/19). We have written a separate eblast for the Senior Division athletes, and we do not want anyone to be confused.

Still Room for a Few of Your Friends

While we are on pace for another sellout, we still have about 105 slots open in the Junior Division for friends, family members and kids down the street. If you are excited about becoming a triathlete, invite someone to join you. The weather forecast looks great, and the venue will be unmatched. Make the invitation now. . . before we sellout!



Parking Pass Required

As many of you noticed in the maps attached to Eblast #1, a pass is required to park in the NRG Stadium lots. There is no charge to park - as long as you have the pass. And, please do not forget to share a pass with Grandma, Grandpa and Uncle Jose who may be coming in separate vehicles. All you need to do is [**CLICK HERE**](#) to download and print the pass.

Once you have your pass in hand, access to the lot will be available off Kirby

Street. Attendants will be available to guide you into one of the more than 4,000 available spots, and you will have only a short walk over the pedestrian bridge into Kids Triathlon Central (on the West side of Kirby near the Texans Practice Field).

This same lot will be available on both Friday afternoon - starting at 3:00pm - and again on Saturday morning - starting at 5:30am. Please [**CLICK HERE**](#) to view the Event Map.

Course Talks with Darr Smith

Building on our tradition started last year, we are strongly encouraging everyone to participate in one of our free, exciting and informational Course Talks during packet pick-up. They will be hosted on the main stage by one of the top U23 triathletes in the world.

Currently a student athlete at the University of Georgia, Darr Smith will be returning for his 4th Houston Texans Kids Triathlon. Darr is an amazing, young athlete and an even better person. He is full of energy and has represented the United States at triathlons across the globe.

Darr will be sharing his incredible energy and race tips with all the kids.

He will walk through every aspect of race day, and you will get to see all of the highlights of the course - including the huge, portable pool. Most importantly, we will answer all of your questions. Look for the talks to begin at 4:00pm, 5:00pm and 6:00pm. Do not miss it!



The Giant Raffle

We have changed the format of the raffle to give you a better chance to win - while helping us raise some money to help fund all the great things our non-profit does across Greater Houston. This means you can buy as many chances to win as you want. Starting Friday afternoon, you can buy 1 chance for \$2; 3 for \$5; 7 for \$10; or 15 chances for \$20.

Currently, we are finalizing our list of raffle prizes, and we encourage you to check-out your goody bag for all the details. Watch for more information and bring your spare change. Your support will help a great cause, and you will have multiple chances to WIN BIG! Prizes include some cool Texans stuff, a Bose speaker, New Kids on the Block tickets, Kidz Bop tickets, Trevor Noah tickets, and much more!

Weather Hotline

While we certainly deserve a weekend of beautiful weather, we have been given permission to utilize the Houston Texans Weather Hotline just in case. If you have any questions about the weather (or our plans as a result of the weather), please save (832) 667-2383 in your phone. We will make updates as needed, and you can also access the latest information on our Facebook page.



Volunteers Needed - Please Help!

While we have 300+ volunteers ready, willing and able to help this event run without a hitch, **we need more - REALLY!** In total, we need about 400 volunteers to keep things safe and on-schedule. If you have any friends, teachers or co-workers (or friendly co-workers) who might be interested in helping, please ask them to contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Charlene Alcorn. [CLICK HERE](#) to go directly to the Volunteer Section of our website. Every volunteer will receive a **nice t-shirt** and a **cool gift** (literally), and community service hours are available for all students.



Bring Your Bike Friday

As mentioned in our first email, we are using Friday to help make Saturday more enjoyable. Specifically, we are asking everyone to bring their bikes with them to the Packet Pick-Up. All other equipment - including your helmet - can be brought on Saturday morning.

We will have transition open at 3:00pm sharp, and we will be ready for you to set up your gear. This will enable you to sleep a few extra minutes on Saturday, and it will allow us to start the races on time. Another tradition we are continuing is the distribution of timing straps inside your race packet. It is up to you not to lose it overnight and to bring it with you.

Again, please recognize **this eblast is only for Junior Athletes**. Participants in the Senior Division will bring their bikes on Saturday and race on Sunday. If you do have athletes in both the Junior and Senior races, you can bring all bikes on Friday. We have a staging area available for the Seniors.



Saturday is Devoted to You!

Going to a kids triathlon is not like attending a music festival. It is NOT COOL to be fashionably late. In fact, it will make your entire experience better if you are a little early. Even with the Seniors racing on Sunday, there will be 2,000 cars (and 7,000 people) descending on NRG Park within a very short period of time.

In this spirit, you should be on-site walking to transition **no later than 6:15am**. The participants will need at least 45 minutes to get their bodies marked, organize their stuff and get into the staging area. The parents will need time to find a spot in the shade and to enjoy a cup of coffee. The transition area will close at 7:15am, and our mandatory pre-race meeting will start at 7:20am. The first athlete will be in the water at 7:30am.

As people who have been to more than 70 kids triathlons, please trust us in saying. . . your morning will be infinitely more enjoyable if you are not rushing through traffic and hundreds of people at the last minute. We want this to be a very positive experience for everyone!

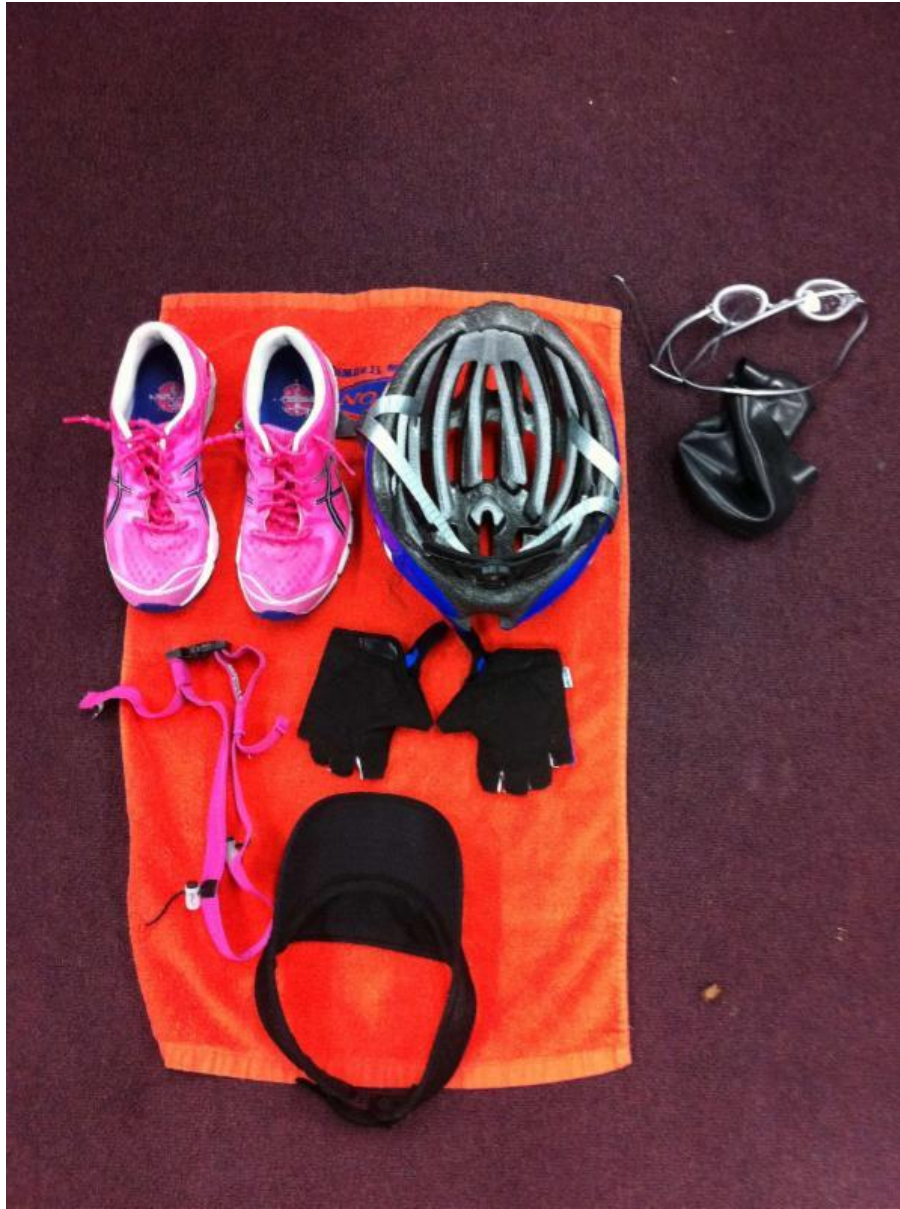
What to Bring on Race Day

Most of the 3rd and final edition of our email series will focus on Race Day.

However, we wanted to go ahead and answer our most frequent question (and give you a little time to prepare). **What do I need to bring on race day?**

Well, it all starts with a swim suit. We will provide a color-coded swim cap, and many kids wear goggles (which you need to provide). Also, you will need a bike (check the brakes) and a good, safe helmet (these are required). Finally, a brightly colored towel (to mark your spot in transition and to wipe your feet) and a pair of running shoes are important. Many of the kids complete the entire race in their swim suits (though a t-shirt is not a bad idea, as it provides a good place to pin your race number and helps protect you from the sun).

Some of the optional equipment (helpful, but not required) that you will see includes: a race belt (used to hold your race number - if you do not want to wear a t-shirt); water bottle (kept in the transition area); elastic shoe laces (save time if you do not have to tie); hat or visor; sun screen; and post-race clothes / shoes (that are not hot & sweaty).



Go See Academy Sports + Outdoors

Get your gear at Academy Sports + Outdoors, the Official Sporting Goods Retailer of the Houston Texans. [Click here](#) to find a location near you!



3,000 Medals & 144 Awards are Ready

Without a doubt, every kid who finishes is a winner and will be recognized with a cool medal (along with FREE ice cream and a big bottle of water). In addition, we have increased the number of awards to recognize even more of the fastest triathletes. For 2019, we will continue the XClass which is exclusively for experienced kid triathletes. Separate awards will be presented to these competitors. At the same time, this separate class will open up the traditional awards to other kids.

As has become the tradition, we will recognize the 3 fastest racers in 5 different Junior age groups (both boys & girls) along with the overall Junior Champions (boys & girls). Each will be presented with a cool trophy.

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\$30,000 in Charitable Donations

The Houston Texans Kids Triathlon is a primary source of funds for a charitable organization called Kids Triathlon, Inc. Their mission as a 501c(3) is to improve the lives of kids by helping them realize the benefits of being healthy, active and responsible. A critical component of this effort is to support other organizations that do incredible things for kids all year long. We are very proud to be able to donate more than \$30,000 from this year's event to the Greater Houston YMCA; 45 schools, teams and organizations that will receive more than \$19,000 in donations through our Group Fundraiser Program; and numerous other kids-focused charities across Texas.

Once again, thanks for your support of our event. It would not happen without the interest of the kids and the encouragement of the parents. The Houston Texans Kids Triathlon is the ultimate family event, and we sincerely appreciate your support. Feel free to contact us via our website with additional questions and stay tuned for the 3rd and final edition of our email updates. The start of the 1st race is less than 192 hours away!

Sincerely,

The 2019 Organizing Committee

