



Dear Kids, Parents & Partners:

Congratulations on your involvement in what will be the **best kids' triathlon in the world**. At the same time, we are proud to announce it will also be the biggest. Due to your incredible support, we are very close to another sellout of 3,000 athletes who will participate during 2 mornings of racing. In addition, there are a ton of exciting, new developments to support the amazing efforts of the kids.



We want to recognize and thank our Founding Partners at the Houston Texans and the YMCA of Greater Houston, and we hope you are looking forward to April 21 & 22 as much as we are. It should be a lot of fun!

With this in mind, we are working hard to make sure everyone is well-informed and prepared for the festivities. Part of this effort will be a series of 3 emails (starting with this one) that you will receive between now and race day. Please take the time to read all of the details below and feel free to get back to us with any additional questions, suggestions or concerns. If we do not answer your questions in this email, it is likely we will cover them in 1 of the next 2.

Same 2-Day Format

Along with our move to NRG Park, we implemented a family-friendly, 2-day format last year. In reality, it is a 3-day format, and it is very important that you pay attention to the related schedule. Here it is:

Friday (April 20)

From 3:00pm to 7:00pm, all Juniors (triathlon ages 6 to 10) are required to pick-up their race packets and to drop-off their bikes. There will be lots of fun activities, and this will be a great opportunity to participate in one of our Pre-Race Talks.

Saturday (April 21)

Transition will open at 6:00am, and the Junior Division races will start at 7:30am sharp. We expect all racing to be done no later than 11:00am, and our plan is to start the Junior Awards Ceremony at 11:15am.

Packet pick-up and bike drop-off for the Senior Division participants (triathlon ages 11 - 15) will start at noon and continue through 3:00pm.

Sunday (April 22)

Transition will open at 6:00am, and the Senior Division races will start at 7:30am sharp. We expect all racing to be done no later than 10:00am, and our plan is to start the Senior Awards Ceremony at 10:30am.

With this schedule in mind, we encourage you to [CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2018 Course Maps and to familiarize yourself with the flow of the event.

Families with Juniors & Seniors

Overall, we believe the race weekend experience is dramatically better as a result of the 2-day format. At the same time, it will require one extra trip for families with athletes in both divisions. We understand that, and we sincerely appreciate your support.

In addition, we have taken extra steps to help you. While you are welcome to follow the times and plans outlined above, you are also free to complete packet pick-up and bike drop-off for all your athletes on Friday. We will have a special staging area for the Senior bikes checked-in on Friday, and we will make sure they are properly positioned in transition for race day.

This will allow you to leave right after Junior racing is completed on Saturday morning, and we believe the flow and efficiency of both days will make the overall experience much better. Thanks again for your amazing support, and please [CLICK HERE](#) to connect directly to our Event Director with any questions or concerns.



Help Us Reach a Sellout!

Due to lingering effects of the hurricane, some schools and teams are not able to participate this year. Accordingly, we still have room for about 300 athletes. We do expect both divisions to sellout before race weekend, but there is still time to encourage your friends, siblings and neighbors to join you for this wonderful event. It will make a big difference if you invite just one friend to join you.

Hunter Kemper will be in the House

If you are even a remote fan of the sport of triathlon, you know Hunter Kemper. If not, you will still have the amazing opportunity to meet the only 4x Olympic Triathlete in US history. Hunter got his start in the sport as a 10 year-old in Orlando, FL, and he now has 5 children of his own. He is a true, world-class ambassador of the sport, and he will be at NRG Park all weekend to meet, greet, cheer, pose and encourage. Please bring your cameras.



Welcome Texas Children's Hospital

We are happy to once again welcome Texas Children's Hospital as our

Presenting Sponsor. They will be providing race day medical coverage, and they will be on-hand to answer questions and to tell you more about all the great things they do to help kids.

As evidence of this commitment, they have put together an amazing document to help all kids get ready to become triathletes. It is available in a digital format by [CLICKING HERE](#) to download the PDF, and we encourage everyone to spend a few minutes with this information. It is written by experts, well-organized and full of useful information.



Texas Children's Hospital[®]

Triathlon Age

For more than half of our participants, your triathlon age will be different than your actual age on race day. This is due to the fact your triathlon age for all of 2018 is your age as of 12/31/18 (NOT your age on race day). In other words, if you are currently 10 years old and turn 11 on July 1, 2018, you are an 11 year-old triathlete for all of 2018. Not only might this affect your race distances, but also it might affect whether you are part of the Junior or Senior Session.

Please take a minute to re-read the above paragraph. There has been confusion in the past, and we want to try to minimize it this year. It is not a big deal for kids turning 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 or 15 during 2018. However, for those of you turning 11 during 2018 (even if you are only 10 on race day), you are now a Senior. You are now racing on Sunday morning with the big kids at the longer distances. If you have any questions or

concerns, please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact our Event Director.

Equipment Guidelines

Without a doubt, the most common questions we receive are about the proper equipment for a triathlon and the rules governing what type of bikes you can ride. For safety and insurance purposes, our event is sanctioned by USA Triathlon. As a result, we follow their rules. While we will talk much more about what to bring with you on race day in subsequent emails, here are some of the most important equipment guidelines:

- No training wheels are allowed.
- All participants must wear a helmet when pushing or riding their bikes.
- No aerodynamic equipment is allowed. This includes no use of aero bars, no use of aero helmets and no use of full disc wheels.
- We will supply every participant with a color-coded swim cap.
- All kids must swim in their bare feet. This is a requirement in order to keep our cool, new "portable" pool clean.
- No flotation devices will be allowed in the pool. The kids can grab onto the lane lines and rest at the end of each lap, but they cannot use any preservers, noodles or floaties.



Volunteer & Earn \$500

Our 3-day format requires more than 400 volunteers, and we are getting close to our goal. However, we still need volunteer help for Saturday and Sunday mornings. If you have any co-workers, friends or neighbors who might be interested, please direct them to the Volunteer Section of our website. Every volunteer receives a great t-shirt and cool gift.

Community Service Hours are available to high school and college students, and we are offering a donation of \$10 per volunteer to groups that bring at least 20 volunteers to help. That's right. . . put together a team of 50 volunteers, and you will earn \$500 for your group. [**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more about how to become a Houston Texans Kids Triathlon volunteer.

Huge Team Response

As many of you know, one of the hallmarks of our event is our outreach effort to teams, schools and other organizations across Houston. This year, we have 67 registered teams who will bring more than 1,400 kids to our event. Leading the way are teams from Oak Forest Elementary / Black MS (175 kids); Horn Elementary (76 kids); River Oaks Baptist School (64 kids); and Colony Meadows Elementary (60 kids). Congratulations and thank you to every team leader. What you have done is amazing! We look forward to donating more than \$14,000 back to your teams and organizations.



Course Layout

As you know by now, NRG Park is the home of the Houston Texans Kids Triathlon, and we believe the course will be ideal for a large number of participants and an even larger number of spectators. There is a ton of free parking and great opportunities to view every aspect of the race.

Please take a few minutes to learn about the course and [CLICK HERE](#) to see the 2018 course maps.

Thank You Sponsors

Everything we do (including this email) is possible because of the incredible support of our sponsors. By expanding their partnership with us, the Houston Texans earned naming rights to the event now known as the Houston Texans Kids Triathlon. Joining them in support of our efforts is our Presenting Sponsor, Texas Children's Hospital.

Kroger, Academy Sports + Outdoors, KBR, and Harris County Sports and Convention Corporation round out our team of 2018 Sponsors. Please take a minute to visit the [Sponsor Page](#) on our website and to reach out to say thank you to each and every one of them.



Once again, congratulations on your decision to be a part of the 2018 Houston Texans Kids Triathlon. We are proud to have you as a member of our family, and we sincerely appreciate your support. If you have any additional questions, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our website. If the questions are not answered there, follow the instructions to contact us directly.

Watch your email for our next update and get ready! **Race Day is only 12 days away!**

Sincerely,

The 2018 Organizing Committee



Kids Triathlon, Inc., 2317 Blanding Blvd, Suite 101, Jacksonville, FL 32210

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