

EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT FOR A TRIATHLON CLUB: GET

Whether you are looking to upgrade the team's equipment, accommodate athletes of different heights and sizes, or repurpose old items for multiple seasons, this guide for coaches and administrators will help you navigate the processes effectively, ensuring the club's success and environmental sustainability.

There are several ways a high school triathlon club can acquire equipment, including seeking discounts from local bike shops, approaching big retailers like Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods, exploring charitable organizations, help from athletes in the local areas, swim clubs, recreation centers, and agencies that support kid's charities. Here are some options:

- **Local Bike Shops:** Contact local bike shops and explain that you are part of a high school triathlon/multisport club. Inquire if they offer any discounts or sponsorship opportunities for sports teams or community organizations. Some bike shops may be willing to provide a discount or support in the form of equipment, repairs, or maintenance. Many will also offer team purchase discounts on bikes and other items.
- **Big Retailers:** Approach big retailers like Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods and inquire about their community support programs or sponsorship opportunities. While they may not offer direct discounts on equipment, they might be willing to contribute gift cards, financial support, or assist in organizing fundraising events to help your club acquire the necessary equipment. Many of these big box stores support programs but might not market that to the local community. Sometimes it is just rests with the relationship that you can have with the store manager over time. USAT has a partnership with Wal Mart in 2009 when it hosted an event in Colorado Springs - where they donated bikes, suits, shoes, helmets, and other items.
- **Charitable Organizations:** Look for charitable organizations that focus on supporting youth sports or physical activities. Reach out to them with a formal request explaining your club's goals and needs. Some organizations may provide grants, donations, or equipment specifically for high school sports programs.

- **Fundraising:** Organize fundraising events within your community to gather funds for equipment purchases. You can host a triathlon-themed event, such as a mini-triathlon or a fun run, where participants can contribute through registration fees. You can also reach out to local businesses for sponsorship or donations. Sometimes you can do a fund raiser in conjunction with another high school sports team and split the revenue.
- **Community Donations:** Connect with community members who might have used triathlon equipment they no longer need. Reach out through social media, school newsletters, or local bulletin boards to ask for equipment donations. Sometimes, even school administration will assist with pushing for donations. Some individuals may be willing to support your cause by contributing their gently used gear.
- **Online Platforms:** Explore online platforms and forums dedicated to sports enthusiasts. Look for classified ads or community groups where individuals sell or donate sports equipment. Websites like Craigslist, Freecycle, or local Facebook groups might have individuals looking to give away or sell their used triathlon gear at a lower cost. There are many community groups too where communications speak to needs that people have that could be a good option to at least speak to the program build happening here.

Remember to approach potential sponsors or donors with a clear plan and explanation of how their support will benefit the high school triathlon club. It's also essential to express gratitude for any assistance received and maintain good relationships with the community and sponsors for future endeavors.

If you are looking into donating or recycling old equipment, see “Equipment Procurement for a Triathlon Club: Give”