



Saturday, 4 July, 2026

Event Information and Race Briefing



WELCOME!

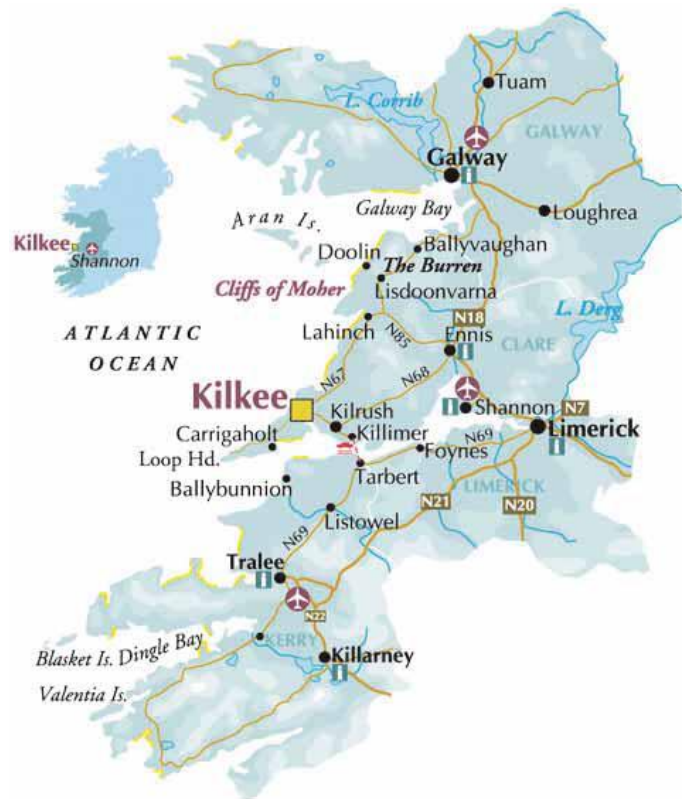
Welcome to the 2026 edition of the Hell of the West Triathlon – our 40th year!

We are delighted to once again be part of Triathlon Ireland's National Series. We look forward to welcoming you to Kilkee on Saturday, 4th July.

GETTING HERE

Kilkee is on the Loop Head Peninsula along the Wild Atlantic Way, and is 2 hours south of Galway and 2 hours north of Kerry. From Ennis, Kilkee is a 45-minute drive along the N68.

If you are coming from County Kerry, the Shannon Ferry is perfectly located, connecting Tarbert in North Kerry to Killimer just 15 minutes from Kilkee.



TIMELINE

Before you arrive: Read and sign the race waiver, which will be emailed to you and will also be available on our website limericktriathlon.com.

Friday, 3rd July

- 6:30 – 8:30pm – Registration - Recovery tent beside Bandstand. Remember your photo ID!

Saturday, 4th July

- 7:00 – 8:15am – Registration - Recovery tent beside Bandstand
- 7:00am – Transition Opens
- 8:40am – Transition Closes
- 9:00am – Final Briefing – Bandstand inside Transition
- 9:20am – Wave 1
- 9:35am – Wave 2

REGISTRATION

- 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Friday 3rd July
- 7am to 8.15am on Saturday 4th July
- Located at the **Race Recovery Tent**, in the grassy area behind the beach, near the Bandstand.

Registration will be open on Friday evening from 6.30pm to 8.30pm or on Saturday morning from 7am to 8.15am. We have extended the Saturday morning registration in an attempt to make things easier for athletes traveling to the race – if you are local or already have accommodations for the weekend we ask that you complete your registration on the Friday night as long queues on Saturday morning may result in a delayed start to the race.

For relays – PLEASE NOTE: Relay teams are asked to register together if possible, there must be at least one TI licensed athlete on the team (full membership or ODM).

All entrants will receive a timing chip, a swim hat, a race number, and a goody bag. You are required to wear the swim hat provided as it designates your wave (you may wear a second swim hat underneath if desired).

In case of emergency, please write any medical conditions you have on the back of your race number. Do not fold or cut your race number.

BIKE MECHANIC

A bike mechanic on Saturday morning from 7.30 – 9.00am to help with any last minute needs. Please check your bike carefully before you leave home and review the bike checks that will be made when entering transition.

CAR PARKING

All entrants are requested to work with the organisers on parking. We respectfully ask you to be considerate of other competitors, and especially the local community who are giving us great support. There is public car parking at the dive centre (North) end of the beach. This is metered parking with a modest charge for the day. We are advised by Clare County Council that Traffic Wardens will be strict on stray parking in the town and beach area on the day. Please note that strictly NO PARKING will be permitted in the bandstand area or Strand Road from transition to Waterworld Cross roads. There is no parking in the triangle in front of the bandstand as this is a medical area for access and egress of medical and safety vehicles.

TRANSITION

BIKE RACKING AND TRANSITION SET UP – OPEN FROM 7.30AM ON SATURDAY:

You **MUST** have your bike and equipment set up prior to the race briefing at 9am. Transition will be enclosed by crowd control barriers.

Please Note:

- Please ensure you conduct a **mechanical and helmet check** on your bike before entering the transition area, and have your race numbers applied to your bike and helmet. Marshals will check that your bike number corresponds to your race entry. Any equipment noted to be unroadworthy may be refused entry.
- All athletes must place their equipment only at their location of their bike in a neat and tidy fashion and **remove any boxes or large bags**. Any athlete discarding equipment outside their personal space in transition will be penalised. This is to include wet suits, bike, runners, bike shoes, goggles, hats etc. *Bag check is located beside the recovery tent next to transition.*

Relays, please note that your transition area is separate from the individual entrants transition area. There will be no access to the recovery area until the first individual racers finish. The bag drop is for individual racers only.



NOTE REGARDING BIKE RACKS:

These racks are universal in size. They have been used in a number of races and conditions. However disc wheels may need to be protected by YOU the athlete with a towel or similar.

ALL ENTRANTS MUST ATTEND THE RACE BRIEFING BEFORE RACING - 9am, IN TRANSITION:

The Race Briefing is an important safety measure for our event and is **COMPULSORY** for all race entrants. Any last minute changes to the course will be announced at this time and we will inform you of any safety issues that may affect your race. This brief will be the latest information at hand to the event organisers and race referee.

RACE STARTING POINT:

Once the briefing has concluded entrants will be led to the STARTING POINT which is on the right hand side of the beach as per swim map (next page).

- Athletes will be called onto the beach according to Race Wave.
- All swimmers access the beach through Transition and are to step over the timing mats.
- Proceed onto the beach and walk to the North end as directed.
- Your wave will be called prudently, please follow all marshal instructions for a safe swim start.

In the event of adverse weather on the day, and if either the Race Referee or Water Safety Officer determine that neither of the routes outlined above is safe to swim then the swim will be abandoned and replaced with a 5km run using the Dunlicky Road traditional route.

Please note high tide is at 08:59am.

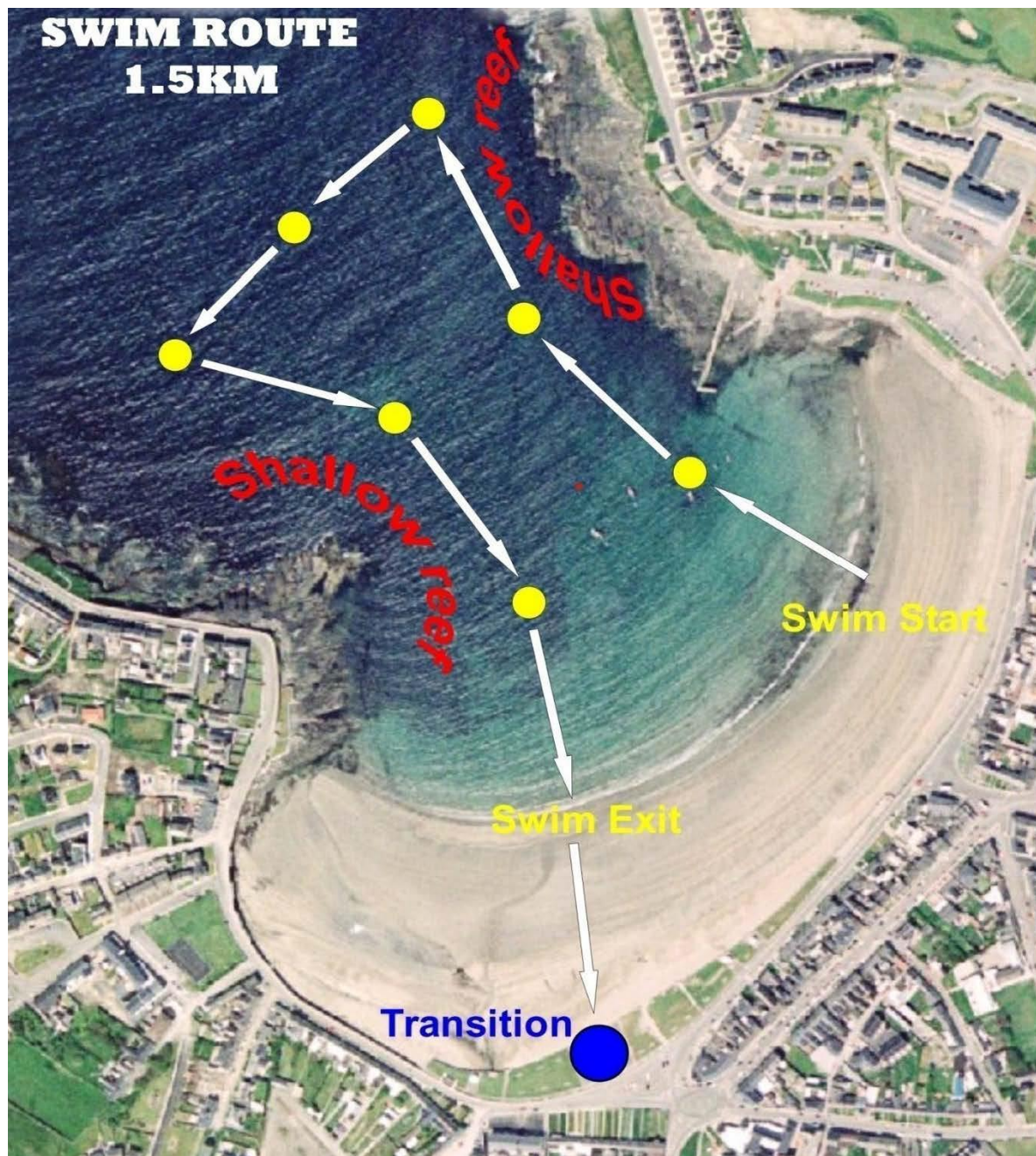
SWIM COURSE

The safety of our competitors and volunteers is of utmost importance. We ask that you are able to complete a 2km swim before undertaking the swim portion of this race, and that you make yourself known to swim marshals if you find yourself in difficulty during your swim.

- Race Swim Caps will be provided to all entries - different colour hats dependent on wave. All swimmers must wear the race hat provided. Additional hats may be worn underneath the race provided hat.
- Wetsuits are mandatory for all swimmers taking part including all relay swimmers. Anyone not wearing a suitable wetsuit will not be permitted to enter the water/race.
- **All swimmers numbers will be recorded (via timing chip mat) as they exit the transition onto the beach via the beach exit of transition area. Under no circumstances is any swimmer permitted to leave the bandstand before their number is recorded and or enter the beach other than through transition. This is to ensure that all swimmers are safe.**

- There will be 2 swim starts:
 - 9:20 - Wave 1 - All Female athletes and Relay Teams
 - 9:35 (approx.) - Wave 2 – All Male individual athletes.
- Canoes and personal motorized craft will flank the swim in an effort to keep swimmers on course.
- Only very strong swimmers should go to the front of the swim start. Leave your ego behind! Weaker swimmers are well advised to start at the sides and stay to the rear of the field. You will gain nothing by placing yourself at the front of the swim and will find yourself being ploughed over by stronger swimmers. This could potentially finish your race through injury or discomfort. Worse still you could get into difficulty or cause somebody else to get into difficulty.
- There will be 4 large marker buoys 2 metres high anchored in the bay - **keep all buoys on your left at all times**. Swim will start at waters edge on the RIGHT hand side of the bay towards the pier to the right of the transition area.
- There will be rescue boats with lifeguards on board, rescue divers and canoes/kayaks in the water monitoring the swimmers.
- Anyone cutting corners/buoys will be immediately disqualified and taken out of the water by the rescue boats and not permitted to continue. Kayakers will be monitoring each buoy to ensure this.
- If a swimmer wishes to retire from the swim for any reason, roll over on your back and raise your clenched fist in the air, stay calm, and a rescue boat will come to your assistance.
- There is a 1.05 hr time limit on the swim or if a marshal feels you are endangering yourself or others you can be withdrawn from the swim. Anyone removed from the water will not be permitted to continue the race and must hand in their timing chip and numbers immediately to a race marshal once they arrive back to shore.
- **Our main priority in the water is safety! We know you want to challenge yourself but the water is not the place for aggressive behaviour and we will not accept safety breaches. The water marshals decision is final!**

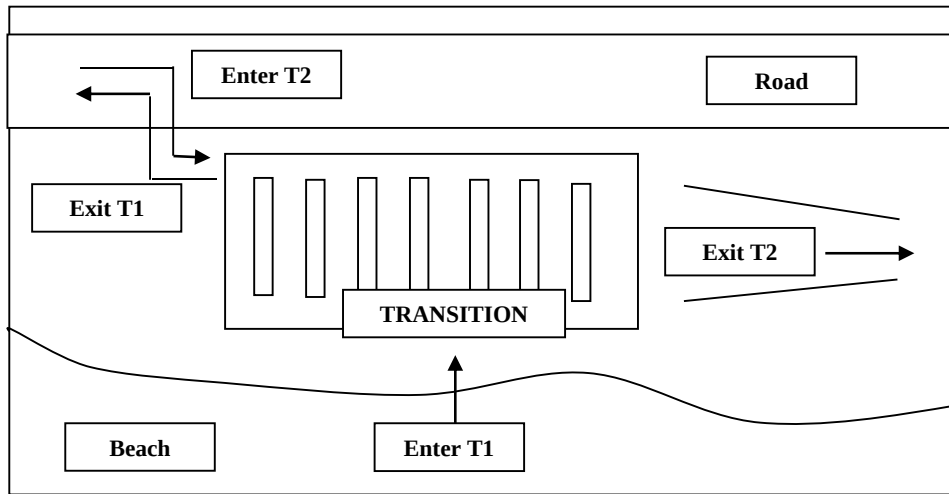




Course Route: <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/course/372342286>

TRANSITION 1

- Exit the water and run up the beach towards the Transition area and enter only at the sanctioned point.
- Race number must be worn on the back during the cycle. Numbers must be clearly visible at all times. Anyone not correcting their number after being advised by marshals to do so, will be penalised 2 minutes for number violations.
- For safety and Insurance reasons - Personal Stereos/IPODs etc are not allowed on the course of the race. Anyone wearing any such device during the course will be immediately disqualified from the race.
- You must **put on your helmet and fasten it before removing your bike** from the bike rack. Anyone, who has an unfastened helmet while in contact with their bike will be asked to stop and refasten their helmet, failing to do so will result in an appropriate stop-and-go penalty.
- Exit through the timing mat to ensure your times are recorded.
- Walk your bike to the path and onto the road before mounting your bike.
- People may leave spare wheels in transition at the allocated spare wheel spot, but must be numbered with your race number and such wheels are not to be used by other competitors. Breach of these rules will result in disqualification of both athletes involved. The race organisers are not responsible for the security of any such equipment.



CYCLE ROUTE

Please review the course map and follow the direction of all marshals and Gardai. The course is an out and back loop approximately 46km in distance.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE KEY RULES REGARDING THE BIKE SECTION:

1. Race number must be worn on the back. If you have a problem with your race number please inform the race organisers prior to the race.
2. You must secure your helmet before removing your bike from the rack.
3. You cannot mount your bike until you have exited the transition area and are on the road at the designated area.
4. This is strictly a non-drafting race. For more information on drafting please refer to the manual of guidance in the Triathlon Ireland website. Non-Drafting will be enforced using time penalties, disqualifications and stop-go penalties as seen fit by draft marshals. **The draft marshal's decision is final.** No warnings will be given and we will have plenty of draft marshals on the course.
Note: there will be no penalty box – penalties will instead be applied by a deduction to an athlete's overall time. Penalties may be appealed after the race.
5. You must dismount your bike before re- entering transition area.
6. You must replace your bike in your own spot before removing helmet.

SOME REALLY CRUCIAL NOTES ON THE BIKE:

Dangerous overtaking, crossing the white line, breaking the rules of the road or any other form of inappropriate conduct will result in immediate disqualification - the bike marshals have been instructed to be strict for everybody's safety. The most important note for the day is please be careful - we don't want to disqualify athletes and more importantly we don't want accidents.

There are a number of potential hazards on the road to note: See caution notes on the Cycle Map.

- Leaving transition you will exit straight on a roundabout and take the third exit towards Carrigaholt,
- There is a sweeping bend into Carrigaholt followed by a sharp right turn through a town.
- We anticipate tourist traffic and narrow bends on the road as you go through Bridges of Ross.
- **You will return through Carrigaholt on the return to Kilkee (change from previous years if you are a returning athlete)**
- There is a steep fast descent on your return to Kilkee toward the end of the cycle. Slow as necessary to maintain a safe speed.
- Farm Traffic will be on the road as it is silage season so please abide by the rules of the road.

THERE IS NO OVER TAKING FOR 100 METERS BEFORE THE BRIDGE IN CARRAIGAHOLT UNTIL 100 METERS AFTER THE RIGHT TURN IN CARRAGAHOLT. IF THIS DIRECTION IS NOT ADHERED TO THE ATHLETE IN QUESTION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR DANGEROUS CYCLING

Course route: <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/course/372339911>



TRANSITION 2

Be careful on your return into T2. The area will be well marshalled – please listen to the marshals they are there to ensure your safety.

THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY IN T2.

1. Dismount before entering the Transition area. You **must** place your bike on the rack before unfastening your helmet.
2. You must place bike on rack corresponding to your number.
3. Race number must be worn on the front during the run.

RUN ROUTE

The Dunlicky Road 10K run is a beautifully scenic out and back course overlooking the cliff faces of Kilkee. It's also a tough run, with the hills over the first 5K a certain challenge for all levels of athlete. The good news is that the last 5K are mainly downhill and have fantastic views overlooking the Atlantic.

- Exit right out of transition and run along the prom till you meet marshals directing you up the “Dunlicky Road/Hill”.
- The Water station will provide hydration at 3.5km and 6.5km.
- Timing mat will be located at turnaround – You must fully go round the turnaround, anyone not fully going round the turning point will be disqualified, unless the mistake is rectified by going back.
- The finish line is located inside the wall separating the road from the Transition area. Please follow the direction of marshals as you approach the finish line.
- Please cross the finish line in a controlled and safe manner, sprinting across the line, while dramatic, can be dangerous and can risk injury to marshals.
- Light refreshments will be available to all athletes in the recovery area. Please move as quickly as possible from the finish line to the recovery area, located in the grassy area beside transition.



Course Route: <https://connect.garmin.com/modern/course/372342924>

POST RACE

PRIZE GIVING -

We will not be holding a Prize-Giving Ceremony this year. We ask that first, second and third place athletes (male and female) proceed to the podium beside the recovery tent for trophy and prize presentation. Age-group prizes will be available at the Bandstand when Transition opens, provided that provisional results are immediately available. If results cannot be verified, winners will be contacted about their prizes using the contact details you provided during registration.

Provisional results will be made available as quickly as possible after the race through our social platforms and final results will be posted on our website within one week of the race.

SHOWERS –

Kilkee Waterworld have offered post-race shower facilities free of charge for all triathletes. Find them at East End, Kilkee, Co. Clare V15 HA27 PH: 065 9056855 or online at kilkeewaterworld.ie

www.limericktriathlon.com/kilkee-hell-of-the-west

www.facebook.com/KilkeeHelloftheWestTriathlon

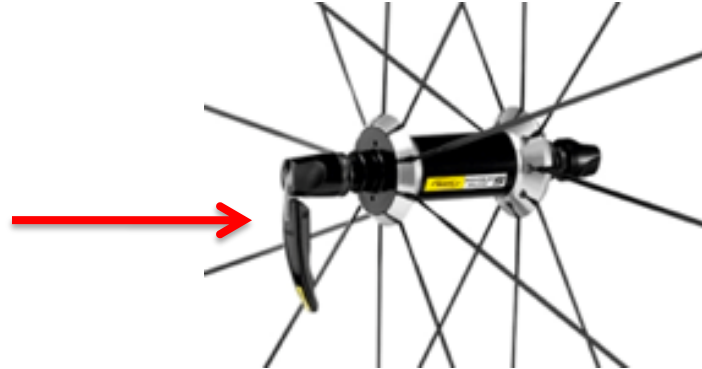
www.instagram.com/limericktriathlonclub

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lne4gC1Q0j0>

From all of us at Limerick Triathlon Club and the Hell of the West organising committee - thank you for your brilliant support, and may we wish you a very successful, enjoyable and safe race.

Bike Checks at Transition

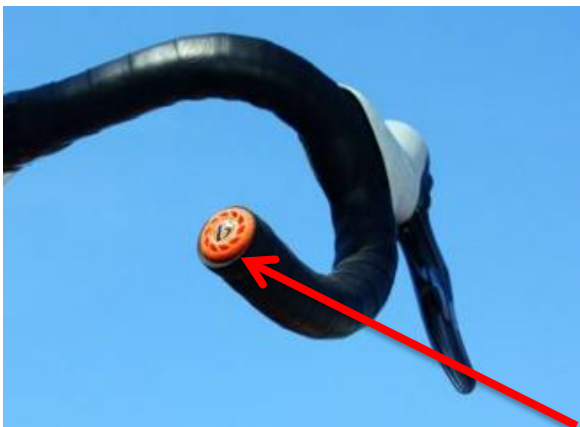
- Most important, make sure that the wheel skewers are tightened correctly. Give them a pull and make sure they are pushed tight!



- Check brakes are working correctly. Pull both to see action.



- Check bar ends are plugged.



Bar end plugged or taped.

- Check tyres are not soft. Recommended tyre pressure is stamped on the sidewall of your tyre.