

Minnesota State Championship Series (MSCS)

State championships in Minnesota are not a new concept, Heart of the Lakes Triathlon has long been considered the “State Championship” and with the announcement earlier this fall of Chisago Lakes “Half” as the new “Long Distance State Championship”, we at Gear West Bike & Triathlon felt the time had come for a sanctioned statewide multisport championship series. With the support of Final Stretch inc., Midwest Multisport Series, Midwest Sports Events, Vacation Sports, MN Tri News, Midwest Events, SRAM, and Lazer Helmets, we are proud to announce the Inaugural Minnesota State Championship Series (MSCS).

The Series has been developed to allow amateur triathletes to compete head to head with other great amateur athletes from throughout the state, as well as to challenge triathletes to a summer of multisport racing at a variety of distances. This is all in a quest to earn the right to call yourself a state champion.

This four race series will allow age group athletes to highlight their strengths at some of the most inviting and well organized races in the state of Minnesota. **Compete for an individual state title at any one of the following races:**

MN Olympic Distance State Championship – **Rochesterfest Olympic Distance**, June 19th

1.5km swim, 40km bike, 10km run

MN Original State Championship – **Heart of the Lakes Triathlon**, July 17th

½ mi swim, 21 mi bike, 5.3 mi run

MN Long Distance State Championship – **Chisago Lakes Half**, July 24th

1.2 mi swim, 56 mi bike, 13.1 mi run

MN Duathlon State Championship – **Turtleman Duathlon**, August 13th

2 mi run, 21 mi bike, 5 mi run

Or challenge yourself to a full season of racing, prove yourself as one of the state’s most versatile triathletes, and earn the right to call yourself the **Overall MN state triathlon champion**.

We are still finalizing the awards and point system for MSCS but we will be announcing them shortly.

MN Olympic Distance State Championship

Rochesterfest: When the race was first conceived just 5 years ago it was put on to highlight the vibrant triathlon community in Rochester. It was an instant success. With more than 700 participants, Final Stretch, Inc. continues to attract the states elites and amateurs with a beautiful lake swim and beautiful

country roads for the bike and run. A true “Olympic” distance triathlon, this is the distance raced on the world scene, and it gives the best representation of the athlete’s diversity in all three disciplines. MSCS points will be awarded in Rochesterfest’s Olympic Distance venue only.

MN Original State Championship

Heart of the Lakes Tri (HOLT): Simply called “Annandale” by those who do this race each year, HOLT has been the State Championship Race since 1996. The State Championship designation has been legitimized by continuing to get the best amateur field of any race in the entire Midwest. No race has done a better job of making all athletes feel welcome. This non-profit race has all of Annandale come out to showcase their town. No athlete leaves without feeling special. Like all triathlons, HOLT has the entire spectrum of athletes, but it is the huge desire to win this classic that keeps all of the best coming back to give it their all. MSCS points will be earned in HOLT’s “Long Course” venue only.

MN Long Distance State Championship

Chisago Lakes Tri: In its 6th year this race is the fastest growing triathlon in the state. And with so many races, this shows how well received the race is. 40 minutes north of the cities this race offers small town charm with large race amenities. Chisago Lakes Tri offers huge prize money for the fastest of athletes while maintaining the highest quality race for all who sign up. This unique formula brings in both top tier pro triathletes as well as a large number of amateurs. The carefully chosen venue allows the race to accommodate these larger numbers without sacrificing quality. Midwest Sports Events is a race organization who really understands what the athlete wants and needs. MSCS points will be earned in Chisago Lake’s “Long Course” venue only.

MN Duathlon State Championship

Turtleman Duathlon: Yes, you read this correctly. With Turtle Lake having such low water levels, the all volunteer committee has made the correct decision to convert the triathlon to a Duathlon. This is until the lake returns to acceptable levels. Turtleman has historically drawn one of the deepest fields of athletes because of its wonderful race venue and perfect race day execution. The bike course is flat and fast which will allow participants at all levels to race to their potential. The placement on the race calendar for this race is ideal as it allows the athletes to compete when their fitness is at its highest. For the triathletes who prefer to do all their racing on dry land, the duathlon will allow them to showcase their strengths.