



Ashlee Bailie will compete in the International Triathlon Union series later this year.

Triathlon star faces new test

SOUTH West Academy of Sport scholarship holder and triathlon favourite Ashlee Bailie will put herself to the test in the International Triathlon Union series later this year.

Having worked hard to secure the times necessary to compete, the 17-year-old talent will travel to the Gold Coast in December for the first race of the year in the Under 19 ITU series.

Bailie said the ITU event would enable her to see how she measures up against her fellow competitors.

“I am looking forward to having a good crack at the race to get a good feel of where I am in comparison to the other females,” she said.

“The first race is important as it basically ranks the juniors from the start and it is important to aim for a top 10 placing as these are then recognised in the following races.

“Points are given out for finishing spots which are then put into a ranking system. This ranking system then determines the three junior world spots.”

A rising star on the triathlon scene, Bailie has been selected to represent Western Australia for the past five years and has numerous State titles to her name.

The Bunbury teenager has enjoyed a successful year in triathlon which has seen her earn a spot in the Triathlon Excellence Program for the 2010-2011 season.

Bailie most recently showed her fine form during the State road running championships where she took out the 10km open category of the event.

“Winning the State 10km road running championships was very unexpected,” she said.

“The triathlon excellence squad expects us athletes to keep training and stay fit over the winter break, and we are encouraged to participate in races over the break.

“So I entered the State 10km running race with no expectations — I was just in for a good race and training session.

“To have won it was a shock and I was very pleased with how I went.”