

Atkinson's late show for Beijing

DAVE HUGHES

Courtney Atkinson, one of three Australian triathletes already nominated for the Beijing Games, is a late entry for Sunday's Olympic distance national championships at the Perth city foreshore.

Atkinson finished second to fellow Beijing nominee Brad Kahlefeldt at last year's nationals at Geelong and is coming to Perth with the intention of getting his Olympic year off to a winning start.

Atkinson started 2007 by winning a sprint distance event in Perth and went on to finish second in the Olympic test event at Beijing, win a round of the World Cup in Japan and finish eighth overall in the World Cup rankings despite contesting only four of 16 events.

He contacted organisers yesterday to ask to be included in the field for the elite race, which comprises a 1.5km swim, 40km cycle and 10km run.

Erin Densham, the 2006 under-23 world champion, will defend the women's national title she won last year.

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