

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

November 18, 2010

- I. Members on the Call:** Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Ken Modica, Kevin Smeltzer, Steve Sutherland, Rob Vigorito, Jim Weaver and Tim Yount.
The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were deemed approved as submitted in accordance with the procedure adopted by the AGC at the last meeting (If no objections- changes/corrections- are received by the specified date after circulation, they are approved)

III. Unfinished Business

a. Raising the stature of the Athletes of the Year Awards

Chuck mentioned that a \$15,000 placeholder was put in the AGC budget until we are able to come up with a more definitive plan and budget estimate. Tim did not see that request and so it was not included in the budget discussions of the board, however, he forwarded it to the board for consideration.

The Committee discussed the format for an event to recognize Athletes of the Year at the National Age Group Championship and the consensus was that a dinner be scheduled for the Thursday night prior to the race. It was felt that many of the athletes would be coming into town by Thursday night so that they could take care of the details of the race on Friday. It was also felt that substantial marketing and incentives should be provided to generate sufficient attendance. Incentive ideas included the opportunity to check in early (on Thursday evening), having an early Friday morning swim and have raffles for prizes donated by sponsors. The dinner would serve as the venue for recognizing the Athletes of the Year and also be the “main” dinner for the event at which a pre-race talk could be given.

Details will be worked out between the subcommittee (Steve Sutherland, Kat Donatello and Chuck) and Jeff Dyrek and an update would be sent to AGC members by email prior to the next meeting.

I. New Business

a. Clydesdale/Athena Recognition/Awards at National Championship

Tim briefed the committee on the background of this issue. Clydesdales and Athenas do not have a qualifying process to race at the National Age Group Championship and awards are only given 3 deep, as opposed to 10 deep in other divisions. It is felt that they aren't being recognized adequately and this is limiting the number of people in this division who travel to the race. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Rob Vigorito/Steve Sutherland- that the existing qualification standard used for other age group divisions be extended for use for the Clydesdale/Athena division and that additional marketing be done to draw more people from this division to be interested in racing at the National Age Group Championship.

Motion carried: Unanimously

b. Age-up process for Youth Athletes

The committee was asked to consider whether the 12/31 age up rule should be changed for younger racers since development at the earlier ages creates a significant difference between the beginning and end of the year. The thought is that for those who are between 7 and 10 years old they should age-up based upon their ages on race day. Rob Vigorito suggested that based upon his experience with kids races, the rule should be changed for racers who are between 7 and 12 years old. Rob offered to forward information on his kids races that would be helpful to the AGC in this discussion. Chuck also asked Tim if staff had any developmental information that the committee could review so that its recommendation could be based upon some criteria based in science. This matter will be further discussed on the next call after reviewing the information sent.

c. Use of race results for rankings purposes for those competing in Elite Waves

This item has been discussed on several occasions by the AGC with the conclusion being that those who race in elite waves should not be eligible for age group awards at races. Tim stated that the statistics in the national rankings show that the difference between those racing in elite waves and those racing in their age group waves was insignificant. After discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Rob Vigorito/John Jones- that inasmuch as the difference in ranking between those racing in an elite wave and those who do not is insignificant that the AGC supports the concept of using race results without consideration of whether an athlete raced in an elite wave or not.

Motion carried: Unanimously

d. Elite prize money- Comment on Task Force Report (to be forwarded)

The AGC did not receive the final report from the Task Force on Elite Prize Money and so this item was tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on January 20, 2011 beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair

USAT Age Group Committee