

## Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

June 25, 2009

- I. Members on the Call:** Chuck Graziano, Chair, Lee Zohlman, Co-Chair, Tim Yount, Staff, Jim Donaldson, Board Liaison, Tom Manzi, Steve Sutherland and Rob Vigorito.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

- II. Selection Process for Team USA:** The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and formulate recommendations for the Board of Directors on a proposed system for selecting members for Team USA. Several issues were discussed by the committee, which are summarized as follows:

**1. Sole Qualifier:**

- a. **Issue:** Should the USAT Age Group National Championship and USAT Duathlon National Championship be the sole qualifying event for the World Championship to be held in the following year.
- b. **Discussion:** There was minimal conversation about this issue, and the Committee understands the difficulty in scheduling a national championship race around an unknown ITU schedule for the world championship. Tim informed the committee that the ITU is going to start planning race dates two years into the future so this may not be an issue long-term.
- c. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that the national championship race be used as the sole qualifying event for the world championship to be held in the following year (e.g. 2010 national championship qualifying for 2011 world championship).

**2. Lottery:**

- a. **Issue:** For slots not filled at the national championship, should the remaining slots be filled by lottery open to all those who competed at the national championship, irrespective of the finishing placement?
- b. **Discussion:** The committee discussed the use of a lottery for selection of Team USA members and felt that this method would not field the most competitive team. Tim informed the committee that the roll down only goes to the 20<sup>th</sup> position because statistics show that after about the 15<sup>th</sup> finishing position in each age group, finishing times become more disparate and so going deeper than 20 positions in a roll down would quite possibly result in non-competitive athletes being seated on the team.
- c. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends against the use of a lottery system for selecting Team USA members.

3. **Alternative to Lottery:**

- a. **Issue:** If a lottery is not used, what recommended system of selection should be used to fill slots remaining after the roll down at the national championship?
- b. **Discussion:** A proposal was made that the national rankings be used to fill slots that were remaining after the national championship. It is understood that there has been some timing issues with announcing the national rankings and that committee was also informed that this issue is being addressed.
- c. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that, for slots remaining after the national championship, that a roll down using the national rankings system be used. Candidates from the top down in the national rankings process, will be offered positions on the team, and be given a limited time frame to commit to the world championship.

4. **Fees:**

- a. **Issue:** A fee had been proposed for those who would enter the lottery for a slot on Team USA.
- b. **Discussion:** Since the lottery is not being recommended, the committee inquired as to why a fee was necessary if a lottery was going to be used. Tim reported a fee for lottery entrants was intended to generate revenue to make up for climbing costs related to the world championship, citing the example that the entry fee in Australia will exceed the total Team USA user fee..
- c. **Recommendation:** Inasmuch as the Team USA user fee has not been changed for several years, the committee recommends that the fee be increased to reflect the increase in costs that are attributable to entry and travel to the world championship.

5. **Unanimous Decision:** The above recommendations of the committee are unanimous.

**III. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair  
USAT Age Group Committee