

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

March 10, 2010

- I. Members on the Call:** Geoff Abdoo, Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Kacee Lawver, Staff, Ken Modica, Kevin Smeltzer, Steve Sutherland, Rob Vigorito, Tim Yount, Staff, , and Tom Zayko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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. Tightening Qualifying Criteria for Age Group Nationals

Kacee Lawver reviewed the proposed changes to the qualifying criteria for the Age Group National Championship. During the discussion, the following suggestions were made:

- a. Add an exemption from qualifying criteria for age group champion for as long as that individual is in the age group in which they were champion.
- b. Add a division for Athenas and Clydesdales
- c. Athenas and Clydesdales would compete within their own division, but if they beat those in their age group, they would be eligible for a spot on Team USA.
- d. Use National Rankings system to fill roll down slots to National Championship (Tim and Kacee pointed out that this would be extremely difficult to monitor and administer).
- e. Regional Championships should be a major conduit to the National Championship and slots for each Regional Championship should be weighted according to the size of the region.
- f. Make clear in language of suggested change that those qualifying within one month of the National Championship will have the option of competing in the current year or following year championship race.

Kacee will create a new draft of the qualification standards document and submit it to the AGC members. Email discussion will take place once circulated, and the final draft will be on the agenda for the May 20th meeting to consider adoption and recommendation to the Board of Directors.

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

Lee Zohlman was to head up the effort to come up with some suggestions for this item, however, Lee was unable to make the call this evening and did not submit a report.

Steve Sutherland, who is one of the people working with Lee, indicated that they were not able to make any progress for this meeting.

A short discussion of possible ideas took place with the following being suggested:

- a. Prestigious award
- b. Subsidize travel to venue at which AOY's would be recognized

- c. Possible venues included the Hall of Fame weekend, National Championships and the Hy Vee race
- d. Consider a special luncheon to honor AOY's during the venue weekend that is selected.
- e. Provide more coverage/publicity to honor the AOY's so that they can provide inspiration to newer athletes entering the sport.

Tim mentioned that USAT has a 49% turnover rate in its membership and despite that fact, has been growing at an annual rate of 19%. There is a significant challenge to finding out why people are not renewing their annual memberships and a new position is currently posted for an Acquisition and Retention Coordinator.

It was also mentioned that some of the goals for the AGC discussion during 2010 include: How to keep older athletes in the sport, how to attract more kids to the sport and how to improve the age grouper experience at races.

V. Creating Closer Communication with Regional Councils

Three suggestions were made to increase the working relationship between the AGC and the Regional Councils:

- a. Participate on Regional Council calls and meetings
- b. Provide an AGC newsletter or article to Regional Councils for inclusion in their newsletters which speaks to the things the AGC is doing.
- c. Designate a liaison to the Regional Council to participate at their meetings and on their calls. Rob Vigorito is scheduled to have a call this evening at which he can float this idea and he will communicate back the reaction that he gets.

VI. New Business Items

None

VII. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on May 20, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair

USAT Age Group Committee