

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

July 22, 2010

I. Members on the Call: Geoff Abdo, Jim Donaldson, Kat Donatello, Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Kevin Smeltzer, Steve Sutherland and Tim Yount. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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

The Committee reviewed its previous comments on the first draft of this proposal. Kat Donatello asked if there will be a division for Athenas and Clydesdales. Tim said that a division will be included, but they will compete within their age groups. Kevin asked how they would qualify for Age Group Nationals and Tim responded that they just need to enter as an Athena or Clydesdale for this year and they'll get a pass for next year. An expanded program will be rolled out for 2012.

Tim also mentioned that within the next 6-8 months, everyone who qualifies at an event for Age Group Nationals will receive an email letting them know how to get registered. This will be dependent upon the race directors' timely reporting of race results

There being no further discussion on the proposed criteria, the following action was taken:

Motion: John Jones/Kat Donatello- that the revised draft of the Qualifying Criteria for Age Group Nationals, as circulated to the Committee and as attached to these minutes is approved.

Motion carried: Unanimously

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

Discussion took place on the Athlete of the Year Awards. Regarding how to determine recipients of the award, it was the general consensus that the national rankings are not practical to be used as a primary source of information since a) a small percentage of race directors don't report race results to the system, and b) the annual national rankings are not ready until the end of March each year. Other reasons include that there is no ability to compare head to head results and that there is no differentiation for event distances. It was suggested that the rankings system be used as a starting point to identify a few people to consider in each division and then expand upon that information by obtaining specific race information on events that each person competed in.

Regarding the Venue for presenting the awards, an idea floated was that we use the Friday Night Cocktail Party at the Race Directors' Symposium (to be 1/16/2011) at which there will be about 125 people plus those attending the Youth Coaching Certification being held that weekend and others in for the HOF Banquet on Saturday evening.

The Committee thought that we might offer a stipend for expenses to AOY recipients of \$250 plus their hotel room.

Other areas that should be considered:

- RD's recognize AOYs who are competing at their events by announcing such as their waves enter the water. Logistics of this would have to be worked out, such as contacting the athletes to get their race schedules so that it can be sent out to the race directors effected.
- We could comp entry into the Age Group National Championship
- Expand coverage in Triathlon Times
- Pitch sponsors to offer a package to individual AOYs.
- It was also suggested that we consider how to recognize the 4-6 athletes in each category who are honorable mentions.
- Promote Athlete of the Week, or Athlete of the Month through the Membership Department.
- Recognize AOYs in their region.
- Send press release to local media of AOY

A draft outline will be established and discussed among a sub-committee consisting of Chuck, Tim, Steve and Kat. It will then be sent to the Committee for consideration on the next call.

V. Creating Closer Communication with Regional Councils

It was suggested that members of the Committee be responsible for contacting their respective Regional Council Chairs to see if there is anything they would like to see on our agenda and if there is anything that should be communicated during our call. This would have to be done about 2 weeks prior to our scheduled calls. Jim Weaver mentioned that his region is creating a position of RD Liaison and perhaps the role of this position could be expanded. We might suggest that a similar position be created in each region.

VI. New Business Items

None

VII. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on September 16, 2010, beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair

USAT Age Group Committee