



2012 Athlete Advisory Committee Report

Mission

The Athletes' Advisory Council is a USAT bylaw-mandated standing committee that broadens communication between USA Triathlon and elite athletes, and serves as a source of opinion and advice to USA Triathlon's Board of Directors with regard to both current and contemplated policies of USA Triathlon. The Athletes' Advisory Council makes recommendations to the Board of Directors on issues related to the needs and concerns of the elite athlete members of USA Triathlon including but not limited to:

- (1) the selection of elite athlete races;
- (2) the determination of qualification procedures for the selection of members to USA Triathlon's Elite National Team;
- (3) the establishment and maintenance of elite rankings for USA Triathlon;
- (4) the adoption, amendment and enforcement of rules relating to competitions in which elite athletes compete; and
- (5) the procedure for the appointment or election of elite athletes to the United States Olympic Committee's Athlete Advisory Council

The AAC meets monthly by conference call, and communicates by frequent email correspondence between meetings.

2011 Accomplishments

The AAC made took the following actions in 2011:

- Recommended bylaw amendments bring USAT into compliance with the USOC's athlete representation rules in order to avoid potential arbitrations over procedural errors in making and enforcing policy.
- Collaborated with the High Performance Staff to draft qualification criteria for the various USAT disciplines (duathlon, triathlon, aquathlon, at both long and short course distances) including the Pan American Championships.
- Recruited and nominated athlete representatives to designated committees (hearing and appeals, ethics, selection committees, audit, investment, and executive committee), as well as the Prize Money Task Force.





- Reviewed exemption requests for elite license qualification, and recommended the adoption of new elite license criteria for top worlds finishers among juniors and U23 athletes.
- Improved communication with athletes and began recording institutional memory by posting the AAC mission and all AAC meeting minutes on the USAT web site.
- Recommended that USAT take a leadership role to create a minimum standard to compete in the elite ITU category.
- Commissioned a study of the elite license qualification criteria to help overhaul and revamp the complicated elite license qualification system. The AAC has begun to rewrite the criteria, but this will remain unfinished until the beginning of 2012.
- Advised the High Performance staff on policy relating to discretionary athlete selection, right to compete issues, team contracts, the WCS “user fee,” and how to address the issues surrounding the Yokohama triathlon in the wake of the tsunami and nuclear disaster.

2012 Objectives

- Finish reviewing and offering recommendations on the Elite Athlete License Criteria.
- Collaborate with the High Performance Department to ensure an efficient dialogue on the review and drafting of new team selection and funding documents for 2013.
- Integrate paratriathletes into the elite athlete representative framework.
- Continue to reflect athletes’ views on proposed policies of USAT.

Conclusion

The AAC had a busy and productive 2011. The AAC continued to be a proponent of fair and equitable criteria for all elite athletes. With lively and healthy debate, the AAC was a valuable partner with the High Performance Staff in drafting criteria and dealing with obstacles in a timely fashion. The AAC looks toward an even more productive 2012.

Submitted by:
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