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2011 Paratriathlon Committee Report

Introduction

In 2004, USA Triathlon created a committee with full commission status for the benefit of disabled athletes now referred to as Paratriathletes). This allowed greater representation in the organization's affairs and the ability to fund and administrate initiatives. Since that time, we added many more Paratriathletes to the USA Triathlon family, educated the growing numbers of Paratriathletes as well as the able-bodied athletes, race directors and media in the multisport community. USA Paratriathlon is now the preeminent voice in international federation affairs that has helped put our sport on the brink of Paralympic inclusion.

2010 Accomplishments

Here are our major accomplishments in '10:

- **Paralympic Application:** As part of the ITU Paratriathlon Committee, completed six (6) months of work on the application for inclusion (See attachment) into the 2016 Paralympic Games and submitted it to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). The announcement of inclusion of new sports is scheduled for January 2011.
- **Accenture Paratriathlon Nationals:** Completed the most successful Paratriathlon National Championships ever with 70 elite athletes in the Championship and newly created "Physically Challenged Open" novice waves.
- **ITU Worlds.** We sent a record twenty (20) USA Paratriathletes (including seven (7) men and women from CAF's Operation Rebound) to Budapest and returned with the highest percentage of medals of any U.S. elite team (Pro, U23 or Juniors).
- **CAF/USA Paratriathlon Camp:** We hosted the first ever officially recognized (USA Triathlon/US Paralympics) Paratriathlon training camp. Unlike some other camps, the coaches, curriculum, activities and participants were reviewed and authorized by the Paratriathlon Committee. The coaches were all USAT certified, hence the official status. We have long been committed to helping disabled folks of all abilities and ages get involved in multi-sports but with this camp we sought to raise the bar. With the likes of Paul Huddle, Sergio Borges, Mark Sortio and perhaps the best sports prosthetist in the world, Peter Harsch involved...that bar was raised pretty high.

2011 Objectives

- **Paralympic Preparation:** We believe that immediately after inclusion is granted, USAT will need to form a Paralympic Development Committee of interested, capable folks to review plan and implement the transition to Paralympic status. People who have the skill and experience to take us to the next level. To that end, the USA Paratriathlon Committee will remain the best source of information, historical reference and expertise in this area and should be the "go to" resource for this ongoing effort.





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- **Elite Status, Funding and Structure:** We are confident that the International Paralympic Committee will select Paratriathlon as one of its new sports for its 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At that time, because USOC funding and support will make a proper USA Triathlon administered elite Paratriathlon program possible, the Paratriathlon Committee can return to its original purpose: Promoting the sport, facilitating greater access and advising USA Triathlon on all matters Paratriathlon.
- **National Championships:** In 2011, New York City will again host the Accenture USA Paratriathlon National Championships at the Nautica NYC Triathlon.
- **Increased Participation:** USA Paratriathlon is committed to substantially growing the numbers of disabled multisport athletes. A big part of our current initiative will be to continue to improve the existing database of active and potential USA Paratriathlon members. We will exceed our 2010 target with substantial increase participation due to the expected Paralympic inclusion and will certainly see an explosive increase in active participants by the end of 2011.
- **Training Camps/Regional Championships:** We plan to partner with CAF and the Regions to produce Paratriathlon Training camps around the country and with a vision to couple the camps with Regional Paratriathlon Championships.

Conclusion

With your help, we continue to make tremendous strides year after year. USA Triathlon is the undisputed world leader in Paratriathlon participation, expertise and accomplishment. We are one of the fastest growing single athlete groups in the organization. However, together we are doing something so much more important than increasing membership numbers. Through triathlon, disabled persons from all walks of life as well many of our returning wounded veterans are learning that their lives can be more fulfilling and meaningful than ever before...that's an accomplishment that simply cannot be measured.

Thank you again so much for your remarkable generosity of spirit and unwavering support.

Respectfully,

Brian Leske, Co-Chair
Jon Beeson, Co-Chair

For the entire Paratriathlon Committee

Tabi King
David Curnow
JP Theberge



MEMBER

