



2010 Athletes' Advisory Council Report

Introduction

The Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) consists of seven members, including the three Athlete Directors and four separately elected representatives from the Elite Athlete pool. It advises USA Triathlon on issues pertaining to elite athletes. It is involved in committees related to the expenditure of funds allocated to USA Triathlon by the USOC and selection of major international competition members. In 2009, the AAC consisted of Victor Plata, Kelly Cook, Dave Kuendig, Ryan Bickerstaff, Jarrod Shoemaker, Timothy O'Donnell, and Jimmy Archer. In 2010, Steven Sexton replaces Kelly Cook as one of the three Athlete Director members. The AAC meets on a conference call the last Tuesday of each month and communicates via email in the interim.

2009 Accomplishments

The AAC was very active in 2009 compared to previous years. It worked to establish a defined communication protocol with USAT staff and the Board of Directors. Additionally, the AAC has been very active in posting polls and querying the broader elite athlete pool before making policy recommendations.

Here is a list of more specific accomplishments of the AAC and its members:

- Established a wetsuit temperature policy that is consistent with ITU standards.
- Realized there was a chance for oversubscription to the Pan American Championships in Oklahoma City and worked with USAT to create entry criteria.
- Nominated athletes to be on the Olympic and Pan American Games Selection Criteria Committees.
- Helped persuade the ITU to put on hold its plan to mandate uniform conformity for each country.
- Established an Injury/Illness/Pregnancy provision to the elite license re-qualification criteria.
- Recommended the creation of the Professional Triathlon Organization and mandatory membership for elite athletes.
- Nominated athletes to be on committees for and provided a recommendation to the Board of Directors on the following qualification documents: National Team, Project 2012, Project 2016, World Championship Series, World Cup Qualification, U23
- Worlds, Pan American Championships, FISU Championships, and all ITU Elite World Championship events.



2010 Objectives

In 2010, the AAC plans to continue to improve its processes, be a strong voice for elite athletes on important issues, and provide recommendations to USAT.

Conclusion

The AAC is playing an active role in relation to the responsibilities granted to it under the USA Triathlon Bylaws.

Submitted by:

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