



2010 Age Group Committee Report

Introduction

The Age Group Committee represents the age group multi-sport athlete in issues that come before the Board. Generally, the Board will request the AGC to make a recommendation on issues that impact age groupers.

Aside from our advisory role on policy matters, the AGC oversees the Athlete of the Year Award and selects (through a sub-committee) its recipients each year. It, further, is responsible for coordinating and moderating the Annual Town Hall Meeting that is held in conjunction with the National Age Group Championship and it oversees the administration of the National Rankings process, monitoring any modifications that are needed to have the rankings be as accurate as possible.

2010 Accomplishments

At the beginning of 2010, the Age Group Committee returned to a schedule of regular meetings, held on a bi-monthly calendar. Meetings were scheduled in February for the year so that all members of the committee had ample notice of upcoming calls.

The AGC considered a variety of issues during the year and provided input to the Board and Staff in several areas. Included in the actions of the AGC during 2010 were:

- The AGC worked with staff to modify the qualifying criteria for the National Age Group Championship.
- One of our goals for the year was to create a closer working relationship with the Regional Councils. The AGC had expanded its membership by asking the Regional Councils for nominations of people who either served on the Council or who had been active on a regional committee and so we were able to establish a process where members from each region would touch base with their Regional Council Chair prior to each AGC call to solicit issues and concerns of the region that might be discussed by the AGC. This arrangement was organized in the latter part of 2010 and the effectiveness at creating the close working relationship that we are seeking is yet to be measured.
- The Staff had requested AGC comment on alternate lodging available for the ITU Age Group World Championship in Beijing. Coincidentally, the AGC had members who either had direct knowledge of the suggested hotels or who knew of someone who did. We were able to make a recommendation based upon first-hand experience in Beijing with these hotels.
- One of the goals of the AGC for 2010 was to develop a way to increase the recognition and stature of our Athletes of the Year. A sub-committee was formed and an outline of ways to accomplish this was developed and brought to the full committee. Included in the AGC proposed budget for 2011 is a "placeholder" for this program, while further details of the program discussed by the AGC are developed.

2011 Objectives

Early in 2010, the AGC developed a list of discussion items that members saw as important to the sport. Some of these will overflow into 2011 and include:

- How to improve age grouper experience at races
- Getting more older athletes to participate in the sport. Related items included the promotion of Aquavelo to extend the ability to race for those older athletes and dealing with recruitment/retention issues such that we find ways to reduce attrition of our age group membership.





- Increasing numbers for Duathlon National Championship
- Creating a National Championship for Aquavelo.
- Getting more kids involved with the sport Getting someone over 70 years old to be represented on the AGC to help create programs and opportunities for older athletes.
- Using the National Rankings to determine the Athletes of the Year- This was a goal for 2010, however, Tim Yount pointed out that some major changes are likely to be made to the rankings formula and that this issue may not be ready for discussion for another year.

Additionally, goals continuing into 2011 but started previously are:

- Raising the stature of the Athletes of the Year Awards- completing program details and submitting to the Board.
- Continue to pursue representatives from the four remaining regions not yet represented on the AGC
- Schedule and execute regular bi-monthly meetings
- Organize and facilitate the Annual Town Hall Meeting and build upon the foundation created over the past two years.
- Continue to be responsive to requests of the Board of Directors and Staff for input from the AGC regarding policies that impact age group multisport athletes.

Conclusion

Over the past year, new membership on the AGC have added a significant amount of fresh ideas and energy to the AGC. We look to 2011 with the anticipation that this new energy will provide the impetus for the AGC to make a significant contribution.

Respectfully submitted by:
Chuck Graziano

