

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting January 20, 2011

I. Members on the Call: Steve Sutherland, Vice Chair, Chris Coffin, Kat Donatello, John Jones, Tara McCarthy, Kevin Smeltzer, Rob Vigorito, Jim Weaver, and Tim Yount. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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. Unfinished Business

a. Athletes of the Year Awards

Kat related her discussion on the approach for AOY awards with Jeff Dyrek:

- 1) One suggestion was a reception on Thursday to encourage athletes to arrive early. Possible party plans included a dinner cruise, cocktails, and appetizers. Jeff is working on this. The plan is to have a two hour cruise, with time allocated for AOY awards.
- 2) Another option discussed was a Friday morning swim – at least swim part of the course. This would give the athletes an opportunity for a group workout as well as possibly highlighting the AOY awards.

Tim related that the Board did not approve the requested budget increase for the AGC, and that the AGC has just under \$10K in allocations available to support. The AOY have all been selected and the press release is being finalized. There was a brief discussion of potentially having duathlete recognitions in Tucson in May.

Action: Chuck and Tim to discuss allocation

b. Age-up process for Youth Athletes

The AGC discussed how 6 year olds in 2011 will be aged up as 7 year olds. Feedback from parents indicates that they aren't positive about this. The consensus from the AGC is to not use age up rule for youth ages 7-12. Tim Yount recommended that the AGC develop a position statement validating why this is approach better. Rob Vigorito volunteered to write a draft position statement. After the position statement is reviewed and commented on by AGC, it will be forward to the Board.

c. Elite prize money- Comment on Task Force Report (If report is received)

The AGC did not receive the final report from the Task Force on Elite Prize Money and so this item was tabled until the next meeting

d. Clydesdale/Athena Update

Tara McCarthy discussed Clydesdale/Athena qualification standards for 2011. Of 20 events that she examined, 7 of 10 have registration for Clydesdale/Athena meeting USAT standards and 10 events do not. Some events that offer registration for Clydesdale and Athena do not meet USAT qualification standards. There was a discussion of ways to strengthen and standardize the qualifications, including outreach to past athletes. One concern is that announcing qualification standards in January for an August event might be problematic; given that a lot of athletes might not be able to race (their race calendar might already be full for the year). The committee noted that is is probably too late for 2011, and that we need to look forward to 2012. This would include socialization of the changes to Race Directors, athletes, regional federations (for sprint nationals also). Rob Vigorito recommended that we draft a planning document for 2012. The AGC voted (8 yes, 1 no) to proceed.

New Business

a. Aquabike Status and Future Development

Chris Coffin gave a discussion of aqua bike (also known as aquavelo)

- 1) HIM distance seems best
- 2) In the event that aquabike is sanctioned, include in national rankings
- 3) Minimum of 2 races
- 4) National championships – 40 sanctioned events in 6 regions in order to have a national championship – or if ITU has a championship
- 5) Any changes will have to wait until 2012. Ranking system this year uses same system as Tri/du
- 6) Nominate Chris to do more fact finding and report back to the AGC. We need more events, articles, race reports, discussion of benefits to Race Directors, etc. Chris will follow up with future discussion via race directors email list (Brad Davis)

b. National Championship Qualification Criteria- Use of an Ironman event to qualify

This item arose when a USAT member asked why his placing at an Ironman-branded event did not qualify him for the National Championship. The AGC discussed the USAT definition of long course versus IM. As long as the race is a USAT sanctioned event, long course events are included in qualifiers for the nationals. Kat mentioned that there is a clear definition of the race distances on the USAT website. Concerns were raised over how often this occurs and what impact this will have on registration – the general consensus was that this was a rare occurrence. Nevertheless, the AGC felt that the right position would be to revert back to the old way it was (allowing IM results to be used in determining qualification for Nationals.). Motion passed unanimously. Action – forward minutes showing passed motion to the competition committee.

IV. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

Reconfirmed the 2011 Meeting Dates (3rd Thursday of alternating months, beginning at 7PM ET)

- March 17th
- May 19th
- July 21st
- September 15th
- November 17th

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on March 17, 2011 beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Sutherland, Vice Chair
USAT Age Group Committee