ELITE DEVELOPMENT RACE DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Objective

The objective of the USAT Elite Development Race format is to increase the opportunity for emerging elite triathletes to acquire draft-legal race experience. The targeted demographic for these events include Junior Elite athletes with prior race experience, U23s, Collegiate Elites, and post-collegiate single-sport athletes transitioning to elite triathlon competition.

Age and Distance Standards

1) Ages*
   a) Open: 16 to 23 years of age (as of 12/31 of the competition year)
   b) By Invitation: athletes 24 and older
2) Distances*
   a) 750 meter open water swim (1 or 2 laps)
   b) 20 kilometer draft-legal bike (2 to 4 laps)
   c) 5 kilometer run (1 or 2 laps)

*Variations permitted with approval from USAT Sport Performance.

Review Criteria

In addition to meeting USAT Event Services sanctioning requirements, the following information will be taken into consideration before USAT grants the Elite Development Race designation:

1) Date and Venue
   a) Appropriateness of scheduled race date (i.e. seasonal timing)
   b) Potential conflicts with other draft-legal races (JE Cups, Continental Cups)
   c) Accessibility of venue (cost and ease of travel)
   d) Suitability of accommodations (host hotel)
   e) Local community support (established volunteer base)

2) Course Design and Timeline
   a) Overall safety and appropriateness of course for draft-legal triathlon
   b) Measures taken to avoid motor vehicle interference (such as lead/trail motorcycles)
   c) Flow-through transition (separate from AG athletes)
   d) Separation from age group athletes on the course (start times)
   e) Potential overlap with other draft-legal athletes on the course (i.e. males and females)
   f) Avoidance of cross-over (e.g. run course crossing bike course)

3) Participation
   a) Interest and commitments from Elites/U23s/High Performance Teams/Local athletes
   b) Regional demographics (density of HPTs or Collegiate programs)
   c) Race history (full compliance with past sanctioning requirements)

4) Communications Strategy
   a) Website – separate page for EDR information
   b) Use of new media to promote event (Facebook, Twitter)
   c) Clear registration process (including plans for race morning check-in)
   d) Pre-Racing Briefing arrangements (1 day prior)

5) Direction and Officiating
   a) Event Organizer's knowledge and experience with draft-legal racing
   b) Availability of draft-legal official to advise Event Organizer
   c) Previous official's report(s) (non-drafting race included)

Race Director Certification

In order to be eligible to serve as an EDR Event Organizer, the race director must have successfully completed the USAT Race Director Certification course and be in good standing with USAT.

Sanctioning and Title

The Event Organizer must submit an application for sanctioning via USAT's online sanctioning system separate from any coexisting age group event.

Relationship to ITU and Competition Rules

Elite Development Races are not "ITU events" and must not be promoted using this terminology. However, international rules for draft-legal competition will apply to the extent that they are applicable to an event of this level. (*See* http://www.triathlon.org/about/documents/)

Proposals

Proposals to host an Elite Development Race will be considered on a rolling basis and reviewed by USAT Sport Performance, National Events, and Event Services for suitability prior to granting the designation. In addition to addressing the questions above, the proposal must include race course and transition maps and a race-day timeline. Address questions and proposals to steve.kelley@usatriathlon.org.