

## **Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting**

**May 19, 2011**

- I. Members on the Call:** Chris Coffin, Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Kevin Smeltzer (board liaison), Steve Sutherland, Rob Vigorito and Jim Weaver. Wendy Peel was also on the call from the USAT Staff.  
The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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- First Annual AOY Celebration & Cruise**

Chuck and Steve updated the committee on the status of this event. A cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen III, on Lake Champlain has been booked for this event and we have a 100 person limit. That limit has already been reached so the event is sold out. Included will be a 2 ½ hour cruise on Lake Champlain, a buffet dinner, Karen Smyers as our guest speaker and presentation of awards to our Athletes of the Year.

**b. Aqua Bike Status**

Chris Coffin discussed progress on this initiative since our last call. The position paper has been drafted and reviewed by everyone. At this point, we have developed a strategy for sending this paper to the regional councils and asking that they promote Aqua Bike to the race directors in their region.

It is required that we achieve 40 Aqua Bike events spread over at least 6 regions in order to have a national championship. Chuck asked Wendy if we could get a count of where we are as of now, specifically how many Aqua Bike events in which regions. We could then see where we need to target our efforts in order to achieve our goal of having a national championship event. Chuck also suggested that everyone on the AGC use the social media outlets to promote Aqua Bike. Facebook is a great source that helps get the word out and there are also 5 or 6 groups on Linked In that Chuck is a member of, which are Triathlon/Multisports related. Rob Vigorito asked Chuck if he could get the links to those Linked In groups to members of the committee so that everyone could participate. It was also suggested that we put our position paper up on the AGC web site. John Jones will do this and forward the link to everyone so that we could attach that link to our posts on the social media outlets that we participate on.

John Jones had asked if it were not the time for the AGC to have its own group on

Facebook. The consensus was that we should. Wendy asked if she could be included in this effort since it is part of her strategic plan and she'd like to coordinate what is happening in this area.

**c. Age-up process for Youth Athletes- Status Report**

Tim, who was not able to be on the call this evening forwarded Chuck a brief report on where the AGC recommendation currently stands. Staff, particularly the Sports Performance business unit and the Event Services group are opposed to the change. Apparently, staff has done some research that leads them not to be supportive of the AGC adopted change at this time. There is, however, a plan to centralize youth activities into one area within USAT and a Youth Coordinator will be hired in the future to head this area. At that time we should revisit this issue and explore what the science is that would or would not support this age-up change.

Rob Vigorito mentioned that for youth athletes we have to bear in mind that the idea is to have them have fun and not be competitive. In a country where over 33% of youth are obese, we should be doing everything possible to encourage kids to get out and exercise and we can only do this by providing them with an opportunity that they will perceive as fun.

**d. Clydesdale/Athena Update**

Tim forwarded his comments on this area. Clydesdales/Athenas currently race at the age group national championship; however, participation has dropped dramatically over the past few years. There are two categories: 40 and over and 39 and under. No qualifying criteria exists.

Chuck mentioned that we have received comments from one or two people who raced in these divisions this past year in Tuscaloosa and their feeling was that their divisions were not recognized at the event. Chris Coffin mentioned that he knows an Athena and a Clydesdale athlete who both came away from Tuscaloosa this year with the same comment. It was felt that this could well be the reason why participation in this division has dropped.

Tim had suggested in his comments that the AGC produce a position paper that outlines the needs that we'd like to see met for this division going forward. Rob Vigorito volunteered to produce such a working paper.

**I. New Business**

**a. Lifetime Achievement Awards & Year End Awards**

Tim had forwarded two memos which have been circulated to the AGC membership concerning these topics separately. First, there was a presentation of a First Annual Lifetime Achievement Award at Duathlon National Championship this year. He asked if we could refine this award by creating a criteria for candidates to meet as well as a process for nominating and designating a recipient.

On a second subject, Tim mentioned that USAT wants to create some year end awards in various categories to recognize the efforts of various deserving individuals. A preliminary list of seven awards was suggested by Tim as a starting point. He asked if the AGC could refine this list and perhaps come up with criteria for each award that is recommended. The committee members on the call felt that both of these issues should be combined. One question that several members had was what the difference is between a Lifetime Achievement Award and induction into the Hall of Fame.

Wendy mentioned that this area is one of the priorities for her to work on over the next several weeks.

John Jones and Steve Sutherland volunteered to work with Wendy on this matter and circulate their recommendations to the rest of the AGC by email so that we can make progress on these issues prior to our next conference call.

**IV. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn**

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on July 20, 2011 beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time. This is a **change** from our usual meeting pattern and the schedule set at the beginning of the year (July 21<sup>st</sup>) due to Chuck not being available on the originally scheduled date. No members on the call knew of any conflict that would prevent them from attending on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair  
USAT Age Group Committee