DESIGNATION CRITERIA

Objective

The objective of the USAT Youth F1 Triathlon format is to transition athletes from entry-level youth ("kids") triathlons, into draft-legal Youth Elite and Junior Elite competition. Youth F1 Triathlons enable more young athletes to become competent in the draft-legal race format before committing to national-level events, such as Youth Elite Cups.

Age and Distance Standards

1) Target Ages*
   a) 12 to 17 years of age (as of 12/31 of the competition year)
2) Appropriate Distances*
   a) 200-400 meter open water swim
   b) 5-10 kilometer draft-legal bike (1 or 2 laps)
   c) 2-2.5 kilometer run

*Variations permissible with pre-approval of USAT High Performance

Review Criteria

In addition to meeting USAT Event Services sanctioning requirements, the following information will be taken into consideration before USAT grants the Youth F1 Triathlon designation:

1) Date and Venue
   a) Appropriateness of scheduled race date (i.e. seasonal timing)
   b) Potential conflicts with other similar events (i.e. Youth Elite Cups)
   c) Overall suitability of venue

2) Course Design and Timeline
   a) Overall safety and appropriateness of course for draft-legal triathlon
   b) Measures taken to avoid motor vehicle interference (closed bike course required)
   c) Transition lay-out (segregated from age groupers; ITU flow though style)
   d) Separation from "traditional" youth athletes on the course (start times)
   e) Length of bike lap
   f) Avoidance of cross-over (e.g. run course crossing bike course)

3) Participation
   a) Interest and commitments from local athletes/teams
   b) Race history (full compliance with past sanctioning requirements)

4) Communications Strategy
   a) Website – separate page for Youth F1 Triathlon 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

5) Direction and Officiating
   a) Event Organizer's knowledge and experience with draft-legal racing
   b) Availability of draft-legal official or RADC/HPT Director 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 a Youth F1 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

Youth F1 Triathlons 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 a Youth F1 Triathlon will be considered on a rolling basis and reviewed by USAT High Performance 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. USAT reserves the right to limit the number and distribution of Youth F1 designations to serve the best interest of its overall athlete development program. Address questions and proposals to steve.kelley@usatriathlon.org.