



**USAT paratriathlon committee meeting**  
**06/24/13 minutes**

1. Committee grants (Ami and Deanna)
  - a. Grant timeline
    - i. Grant applications will be due Sept 15
    - ii. Ami and Deanna will work on the suggested edits from this phone call and Austin and work on delivering a draft for the committee to review soon.
    - iii. After the committee reviews the word document, we will send it to Amanda and she will turn the grant application into a writeable pdf
  - b. Grant administration
    - i. Before awarding grants for this year, committee will contact past grant winners to make sure money was used appropriately
    - ii. Fund matching. We prefer that grant applicants show that funds awarded by USAT will be matched with funding from external sources. This criteria will be weighted less heavily for novel organizations / programs that may require some time to “get off the ground”
    - iii. Grant may be used retroactively, but funds should be used within the previous or coming calendar year (ie 2013 or 2014)
  - c. Grant publicity
    - i. Will spend some time publicizing the grant before it is due this year to ensure we get a good number of applicants
    - ii. Will focus on new groups that have not traditionally been awarded grants
    - iii. Will add a “how did you hear about this grant” question to the application in order to track our publicity efforts
2. Changes to equipment rules
  - a. Keri will write up a document summarizing our recommendation for the inclusion of recumbent, three-wheeled trikes in the PC open category
    - i. will submit a draft to our committee for feedback and edits
    - ii. Reminder: upright trikes are currently legal for tri 3, so we’re only talking about recumbent, three-wheel trikes
  - b. will submit this document to Charlie
    - i. Charlie is game but attorneys and insurance also have a say, which can be slow, so recumbent trikes may not be included this calendar year
    - ii. Technically, the inclusion of recumbent trikes is not a rule change per say, only a clarification / addition, so the board may not need to approve the change. It is important to frame our movement as a will frame it as a proposal for an additional piece of adaptive equipment to be included.
3. Minutes from national meeting
  - a. require further corrections, specifically in the portion referencing assisted athletes
  - b. will be amended this week and sent to committee for review
4. Having a “minimum disability” standard in the PC open category



- a. We don't currently have one, but every other paralympic sport has a minimum disability standard
  - b. Important to remember that we want to emphasize inclusivity in the PC open category, and having a minimum disability standard may discourage this
  - c. May not be prudent to allow only "potentially classifiable" athletes in the PC open category for a number of reasons
    - i. Some disabilities, such as TBI, mild CMT, or MS are, colloquially speaking, invisible and may also have dynamic or inconsistent symptoms.
    - ii. Assumes that all athletes and officials have a rudimentary understanding of the current classification system
    - iii. May lead to presumptive (and incorrect) classifications that may need to be changed later, to the detriment of the athlete
  - d. Currently, administration of the PC open category is up to the RD
    - i. We considered requiring all PC athletes to purchase a 1 year USAT membership to register as PC, but not all athletes race frequently enough to warrant an annual membership
    - ii. PC open category will continue to be informally enforced, much like the Athena / Clydsdale categories.
  - e. Our stance: RD's have the right to inquire about someone racing in the PC open category, but usually will not. The bulk of the current enforcement comes from the (strong) social pressure to not allow able-bodied athletes with marginal physical deficits (i.e., bad back) to race against athletes with disabilities.
  - f. This issue will remain open for discussion
5. Budget
- a. We have spent \$10,508.18 and have \$15,761.82 left to spend for the year.
  - b. Mike, Keri, and Amanda will do a budget review and get back to us next meeting
  - c. The bulk of the remaining funding is for paratriathlon program grants
6. Gear say
- a. seems like it could be useful
  - b. doesn't cost us money, so may as well give it a try
  - c. effectiveness will rely on us getting athletes to use it
7. Committee openings
- a. We still have an opening on the committee. Possible fillers include:
    - i. David Kyle
    - ii. Kelly Casebere – USOC ties
    - iii. May consider finding someone from the Rocky Mountain or PAC NW, as these regions are currently under-represented on the committee
  - b. If you wish to nominate a person for the committee, contact them before the next conference call to get a verbal acceptance and make sure they would be willing to take the position if nominated
  - c. We are now in compliance regarding the USOC mandate to have a specific number of elite athletes on the committee
    - i. elite athlete status lasts for 10 years
    - ii. not heavily enforced
8. 2014 paratriathlon championships
- a. We still don't know where this will be
  - b. Typically announced late summer / early fall



- c. May not be advantageous to have our national championships coincide with and ITU race because ITU races limit the number of athletes per country.