



USAT paratriathlon committee meeting
05/26/13 minutes

1. USAT governance
 - a. we still have an open seat with Patricia stepping down
 - b. currently required to have a minimum number of elite paratriathletes on the committee (20%)
 - i. may consider discarding this rule because our focus is grass roots / intro level athletes
 - c. consider that we need to represent disability groups as well as regions
 - d. possibilities
 - i. david kyle – team usa, ms, professor at alabama
2. national and international classification
 - a. classification system
 - i. May change from the current 6 categories to fewer categories
 - ii. May shift to a classification system based on disability percentage, handed down from ITU
 - iii. races may be scored by applying a correction factor to finishing time, as is currently practiced in some other para-sports
 - iv. correction factor may be offset by a wave start, effectively making the first person to cross the line the winner
 - b. possible that we will have an unequal number of male / female categories because of the lack of females to represent all categories at the international level
 - c. another problem is finding international classifiers
 - d. USAT is the supportive body for international competition of American athletes – USOC is supportive of other sports such as swimming / cycling
 - e. IPC / ITU will powwow and release the new certification program in October. until then, we are in a “holding pattern”
 - i. not training people to classify right now because the system will change
 - f. provisional classification for regional events
 - i. recommended that we have just sit / stand and male / female instead of trying to provisionally classify athletes in the existing categories for international competition
3. role of national committee
 - a. not holding the reigns, but serve in an advisory capacity. the USAT staff hold the reigns, and we merely advise them.
 - b. “what is the level of our influence?”
4. PC open
 - a. currently no “minimum disability” for PC open – problematic
 - b. traumatic brain injury
 - i. currently, TBI individuals are classified based on physical manifestations of their TBI, which may not serve all individuals whose TBI does not manifest with physically disabling symptoms
 - ii. should be included probably – big push from military
 - iii. TBI can manifest as physical / balance issues / coordination
 - c. want to encourage inclusion as much as possible



- i. part of this is to educate athletes about the “high performance pipeline”
 - ii. also need to educate athletes about realistic expectations for competition
 - 1. currently, some individuals race once or twice and then race nationals, which is not ideal
 - iii. though high performance is important, that is only a small number of athletes. the committee needs to be educated on the high performance pipeline, but our main focus should be on grassroots / smaller / lower levels of competition
 - d. however, will likely be the case that, even at nationals, individuals won’t have to qualify in order to race PC open
5. nationals
 - a. in the future, the ideal model is that regions host regional championships, where winning individuals would proceed to nationals.
 - i. may implement a performance minimum, such that an individual would need to place well at regional level but also meet 40% of last year’s winning time in order to race at nationals.
 - ii. under this model, we would need to eventually have classification opportunities at regionals
 - b. future location of nationals
 - i. bid process is currently open for PC national championships
 - 1. considerations
 - a. time of year
 - b. accessible course
 - c. cost of athlete travel
 - 2. one year bid – maybe consider that it should be a two-year bid
 - ii. Milwaukee is able bodied age group next two years (this summer and next)
 - iii. should we match up PC nationals with able-bodied?
 - 1. may kind of lose its luster if we are lumped in with able bodied
6. equipment in PC open division
 - a. 3 wheeled recumbent trike
 - i. temptation is age groupers will also want to race on this equipment
 - ii. confusion over two-wheeled vs. three-wheeled trike
 - 1. we are talking three-wheeled trikes, which are stable and turn well
 - 2. it is conceivable that these will be allowed in competition in the future
 - b. PC open as the catchall for assisted athletes, i.e., the “Rick and Dick Hoyt” model
 - i. consensus is that the PC open category is not meant for assisted athletes to compete in
 - ii. assisted athletes may compete in races at the discretion of the RD, but the RD’s do have a right to bar assisted athletes (due to liability reasons) if they feel that the course or conditions are unsafe
 - 1. RD’s can say no to anything they feel is against the rules or inherently unsafe.
 - 2. if the RD bars an assisted athlete from competing in a sanctioned event, USAT will support this
 - iii. committee should be educating RD’s and other officials on this, and possibly offer an official stance
7. education / outreach
 - a. good connections from national to regional important



- b. not so much our job to chase them around about budget, just our job to make sure they are aware of national options and they know we are here to serve
- 8. gear say
 - a. an online crowd-sourcing tool that allows athletes to speak with each other about the equipment they use
 - b. we think it could be a good tool as long as athletes buy in
- 9. next year's plans
 - a. build knowledge about PC open division
 - b. enhance understanding about the paratriathlon performance pipeline. current model is PC open wave (may also be called age-group paratriathlon) and then elite paratriathlon
 - c. current interest on part of military to build / grow paratriathlon
 - i. possible early season multi-day clinic at walter reed next year
 - ii. center for the intrepid and brook army medical also wanting repeats
 - iii. also was effective to take the programming to them rather than try to get athletes to go places, but important to give them the tools to continue the programming after we leave
 - d. re-education of athletes on rules changes for classifications