

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

**March 17, 2011**

**I. Members on the Call:** Chris Coffin, Kat Donatello, Chuck Graziano, Chair, John Jones, Kevin Smeltzer (board liaison), Steve Sutherland and Rob Vigorito.  
The meeting was called to order at 7:03 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- Proposal sent to Board**

A proposal was sent to the board, with copies circulated to the AGC members on the recommended Athlete of the Year recognition program. The board will consider this on their next call. The budget for the proposal asked for an additional \$2,450 in funding for the program, however, Chuck pointed out that this assumed that we already had an allocation in our budget of \$10,000. He has since learned that the budget that he received back from Tim was not an approved budget and that the board has not yet approved the budget for the AGC. We may, therefore, be asking in reality for \$7,550, which is the total of expenses over income. Kat mentioned that we most likely would spend less than this because the budget anticipates PC and Du Athletes attending the National Age Group Championship and it is highly unlikely that they would do so.

Vigo mentioned his conversation with Chuck where he suggested that a sponsor be sought for the event. Chuck has discussed this possibility with Tim and it is something that staff is looking into.

The next board meeting, at which this will be discussed will be on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We have until March 31<sup>st</sup> to get any other information to the board that we would like them to consider.

Kat suggested that we survey this year's designated Athletes of the Year to see: 1) if they plan to come, 2) if not, why not, 3) if money or location is a factor in their decision and so forth. She asked members of the AGC to get her any suggested questions for the survey and she would put it together on Survey Monkey and get it out. Chuck asked that everyone get their suggested questions to Kat by Saturday.

**b. Age-up process for Youth Athletes- Draft Position Paper- Rob Vigorito**

Rob Vigorito had circulated a position paper on youth age up rules and discussed it with the AGC. It was the consensus of the AGC that kids between the ages of 6 and 14 who are born at the beginning of the year would be competing unfairly with the much younger (development-wise) kids of the same age born at the end of the year. It was also felt that at these ages it is more important to promote the sport as a fun event as opposed to competition.

After discussion, the following motion was acted upon:

Motion: Rob Vigorito/Kat Donatello- that effective on January 1, 2012 kids between the ages of 6 and 14 would race in an age group based upon their age on race day and not based upon their age on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion carried: Unanimously

This motion will be forwarded to the board and to Tim for any follow up action that is necessary.

**c. Clydesdale/Athena Update**

No staff was on the call this evening to update the AGC on this matter, however a brief discussion took place concerning the qualification process for Clydesdales and Athenas for the National Age Group Championship. Although this discussion will be carried forward to the next call, it was suggested that in these divisions, the age groups for competition be: “Under 39 years old” and “40 years old plus”. This item will be on the agenda again for our next call.

**d. Aquabike- Status Report- Chris Coffin**

Chris said he was appreciative of staff for their work in getting the rankings process up and running for Aquabike. Kat mentioned that there are now two regions that have regional aquabike championships; The Northeast Region and the Mid-Atlantic Region. The consensus on the call was that this is going to be a growth event due to more and more athletes being unable to run, or athletes such as cyclists who just don’t want to run.

It is also the consensus that a national championship be developed. For that to happen we have to promote Aquabike to all of the race directors and the regional councils. The distance of Aquabike as an “official championship distance” was discussed. It was suggested that all distances be included below the regional championship level, but that for regional and national championships, the half iron distance be the official race distance.

There was a question as to how many events there had to be in order that a national championship be held. Although it was uncertain, Chris thought it might be 35 or 40 events spread out over at least 6 regions.

It was decided that Chris Coffin would draft an ”AGC Position Paper on Aquabike” and circulate to the AGC members for review and comment. Once all comments have been vetted and a draft approved by the AGC, it would be used to promote Aquabike among race directors, regional councils and the board.

**I. New Business**

**a. Board Liaison**

Kevin Smeltzer told the AGC members that he has changed his position from AGC member to board liaison to the AGC. He also mentioned that the board is in the process of redefining the role of the committee liaisons and that he’d appreciate anyone’s comments about what they thought that role would

appropriately be. This would help not only in redefining the role of committee liaison, but would help him be the best liaison he could be.

**b. AGC Roster**

Rob Vigorito requested a copy of the most recent AGC roster with email addresses. Chuck will forward a roster to all on the committee.

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

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on May 19, 2011 beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair

USAT Age Group Committee