



USAT paratriathlon committee meeting
08/26/13 minutes

1. minutes from last month
 - a. need to be re-sent out, looked over, approved, and put online
2. review committee goals and objectives
 - a. Kari / Mike put together a starter document for rest of committee to review
 - b. document lists our goals and objectives from this year
 - c. committee members need to look it over and make notes about whether or not goals and objectives from this year have been met
 - d. we will discuss during our next conference call
3. athletes advisory council (AAC)
 - a. comprised of 9 members, including both able-bodied triathletes and paratriathletes
 - b. two seats are available this year; vote for these seats will happen soon
 - c. seats are for two years, but members can seek re-election after two years
 - d. Travis points out that the AAC could perhaps benefit from more paratriathlon influence, and it would be in our interest to fill at least one of the open seats this year with a paratriathlete
 - e. the committee will not formally endorse any specific individual to fill a seat, but Travis and others can encourage paratriathletes going to London to vote for a specific individual en masse
4. 2014 race director symposium
 - a. in past years, this has been a physical event taking place in Colorado Springs
 - b. this year we have confirmed that it will be a “virtual” event
 - c. in the past, members of the paratriathlon committee have gone to the RD symposium to advocate for paratriathlon
 - d. Amanda and others think it would be a good idea to be involved again this year, possibly in a more prominent capacity than past years
 - e. because the event is virtual, Amanda proposed (via email) that the committee could do a live, online seminar about paratriathlon
 - f. proposed topics:
 - i. brief talk about how to increase paratriathlete participation in local races
 - ii. have RD’s from successful races of varying sizes field questions (panel-style) from other RD’s about how easy it is to make accommodations and include paratriathletes in already-existing races
5. USAT paratriathlon national championships 2014
 - a. Austin on Memorial day again
 - b. three races bid to host nationals next year. Of the three proposals, only one venue (Austin) had a race date that worked for USAT’s calendar.
6. defining PC open division / equipment
 - a. our proposal to include recumbent, three-wheeled trikes under the list of approved equipment in the PC open division went in front of the board of directors last month



- b. they were very supportive of the addition, but feel that clarification is needed about who can race in the PC open division and, of those, who is free to use the recumbent trike. Specifically, they would like clarification of the PC open division to prevent able-bodied athletes from inappropriately racing on the three-wheeled recumbent trike.
 - c. committee agrees that a good place to start this project would be to work on setting a minimum disability standard for the PC open division
 - d. Kim pointed out that Dawn (mid-atlantic region) has encountered individuals with marginal disabilities wanting to race in the PC open division and has had to explain the purpose of the PC open division and turn them away
 - e. several different ideas were proposed to allow PC athletes to race in the PC open division while excluding those with marginal disabilities (bad back, knee replacement, etc) from also racing in the PC open division.
 - i. Mike proposes that we should speak with Joan Murray about defining a minimum disability standard for the PC open division
 - ii. Amanda points out that it may be up to USAT to tackle this problem
 - 1. proposes a PC annual membership card that would be required for entry into either the PC open category or the elite paratriathlete category
 - 2. some are not a fan of the annual card idea because it requires athletes to buy an annual license, and not all paratriathletes race frequently enough to warrant this.
 - 3. the card system also requires advanced (before race day) action to procure, and would prevent paratriathletes from buying a one-day license and racing on relatively short notice
 - 4. we decided that there is no easy way to have the annual card model in place and still allow paratriathletes to show up on race day and race.
 - iii. Eric (?) believes that it should be ultimately up to individuals RDs to enforce the PC open and other paratriathlon categories, much like they currently enforce the athena / clydsdale divisions
 - 1. may be difficult to have RDs in charge of enforcement because they may not be knowledgeable enough about paratriathlon categories to know whether or not certain disabilities warrant inclusion
 - 2. there is also the possibility of litigation against RDs if an individual perceives they were excluded or not treated fairly when attempting to race as a paratriathlete
 - f. we will form a subcommittee to work on defining the PC open division (broad goal)
 - i. a sub-goal of the committee will be to clarify to the board of directors who may use a recumbent tricycle and who may not
 - ii. will reach out to Joan Murray for help and input
 - iii. will come back to the committee for review / refinement and then we will present again to the board
 - iv. Kim and Keri are continuing to take charge on this, with others included on the subcommittee
7. regional development grant
- a. due sept 15 but Amanda hasn't received any yet
 - b. keep publicizing in your region