

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

November 17, 2011

I. Members on the Call: Chris Coffin, Chuck Graziano, Chair, Kevin Smeltzer (board liaison), Steve Sutherland, Rob Vigorito, Rob Urbach (USAT CEO) and Tim Yount. 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. Aqua Bike Status

Chris Coffin gave a status report for Aquabike. A national championship venue has been determined and will be the Love the Tavern Aquabike in Richmond, VA on June 24, 2012. Some issues that were discussed include the following:

1. The date conflicts with one of the biggest triathlon weekends in the MidAtlantic region, The Philly Tri, which also produces a high quality Aquabike.
2. Only one bid was received, possibly because the requirements for bidding eliminated many prospective events.
3. The regional counsel was not consulted or asked for input on the selection of an event in the region.
4. A sprint distance event is not likely to draw people from very far away due to travel costs, etc.

Tim responded that the criteria for bidding could not be waived because it applies to all national championships. Chuck asked if the Burlington race course was in effect for two years prior to it bidding on the AGNC. Tim clarified that he meant that the criteria applied to all **new** championship races. Chuck suggested that had the Aquabike subcommittee been consulted, some of the issues that exist might have been avoided. It was suggested by Rob Urbach that perhaps the race director in Richmond could move the event by a week or so, forward or backward, in order to avoid the conflict in dates. Jeff Dyrek will contact her to see if this is possible and get back to the AGC to let us know the result.

b. Grant Program

Ken Modica was not on the call, however, Chuck reported that this issue is complete. Minor wording changes were needed to eliminate pre-race meetings being eligible for grant money. Those changes were made and John Jones was requested to have the new wording posted on the AGC web site.

c. Age Group Prize Money

Rob Vigorito reported that he has heard nothing about this issue since it was referred to the elite athletes. Tim confirmed that Victor Plata had re-activated a task force that was dealing with this issue about 2 years ago, but that he did not know if the task force had done anything with the issue up to now. Chuck asked if there was a time frame within which we could expect action and Tim volunteered to contact Victor to find out the status.

It was also mentioned that the chair of the elite athletes committee, Brandon Barrett had mentioned that the AGC is required to have 20% membership from the elite athlete committee. Chuck indicated that he had asked Tim to convey that we would like the committee to designate two of its members to join the AGC.

d. Year End Awards and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Chuck asked Tim if there was any further action that he needed from the AGC since it had provided input regarding the awards. Tim thanked the committee for its contribution and indicated that no further action is needed at this time.

e. Age-up process for Youth Athletes- Status Report

Kevin Smeltzer reported that a Resolution Format was forwarded to Chuck so that the committee's recommendation to the board could be presented in the proper format at its December 5th meeting. Rob Urbach suggested that board action may not be necessary if 1) the age up date applied to youths aged 12 and under and 2) that it be left to the discretion of the race director to employ the 12/31 rule or use the "age on race day" recommendation of the AGC. Rob Vigorito objected to this change because he felt that the 12 year age limit is arbitrary and that the inconsistency from race to race created by the race directors having a choice would lead to confusion. Chuck asked if there was enough time to consult with the RDC to get their input and it was agreed that Chuck would call Barry Siff to discuss the issue with him and report back to the AGC by email in time for us to prepare a resolution if one were needed.

f. Qualifying Criteria for Age Group National Championships

Rob Urbach discussed the recommendations that the AGC had made concerning the qualifying criteria. First, he stated that we were 25% into the qualifying year already and so changes could not be made in the middle of the process. As far as the AGC's recommendation for an audit process is concerned, changes are being made to verify that an athlete qualified for the AGNC at registration and at the same time their USAT membership would be verified.

With respect to which events qualified athletes for the Olympic AGNC, it was clarified that the AGC's recommendation was that qualification for shorter distance races would be fine but that an athlete could not qualify for a longer distance national championship at a shorter distance race (i.e. an Olympic distance qualification would qualify an athlete for either the sprint or Olympic

distance championship, but not the half or long course distance).

The AGC had recommended that the slots for the AGNC be weighted by region so that the region that had the most number of athletes competing at nationals be awarded the proportionate number of slots. Rob suggested that this system is already somewhat in place.

It was agreed that the recommendation that members of Team USA, the prior year's national champion and the prior year's Athletes of the Year be automatically qualified for the AGNC.

Chuck mentioned that the impetus for the AGC recommending these changes was that the AGNC race sold out prior to all of the races at which an athlete could qualify were held. Tightening up the qualifying standards was a way in which this could be avoided. Rob Urbach mentioned that we should be fine for 2012 because the field has been increased to about 2500, by moving the sprint distance race to Sunday.

Since it is too late for most of the recommended changes to be made for 2012, it was requested that we revisit this subject for the 2013 event. Tim suggested that we target July 1st as a date by which our recommendations would be finalized and re-submitted.

IV. New Business

- a. Athletes of the Year-** Tim mentioned that the report on candidates for Athletes of the Year has been received and that a meeting should be scheduled to begin the selection process. Chuck suggested that he and Steve get together off line to set the ball in motion.

V. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

Rob Vigorito mentioned that our next regularly scheduled call (January 12, 2012) might conflict with travel plans to the Race Directors Symposium and so the next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on Tuesday, January 10, 2012, beginning at 7:00 PM EST.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair
USAT Age Group Committee