

Minutes of the Age Group Committee Meeting

August 17, 2011

I. Members on the Call

Kat Donatello, Chuck Graziano, Chair, Ken Modica, Kevin Smeltzer (board liaison), Steve Sutherland, Rob Vigorito, Jim Weaver and Tim Yount. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM

II. Special Call

This call was scheduled at Tim's request so that we can consider changes to the qualification standards for the Age Group National Championship. The committee discussed various options and asked questions concerning the present system:

Kat Donatello asked about the current "audit" process and how it is verified that current entrants into the AGNC actually qualified for the race. Tim responded that this has been a spot check in the past, however, the staff has geared up for 2012 to verify all entrants.

Rob Vigorito expressed that he thought that the sprint distance race should be a totally separate, stand alone event and that people who qualify at a sprint distance race be qualified for the sprint distance national championship. Tim stated that of the total number of sanctioned races, 65% were sprint distance, so many people in the AGNC have qualified at a sprint race.

The committee discussed weighting the regions with qualifying slots based upon the number of registrants at the AGNC over past years, using a rolling average over several years. It was thought that the region closest to the AGNC would have the most number of registrants, however, this is not necessarily the case. Based upon State, the most number of registrants for this year's race in Burlington was NY followed by: MA, CA, FL, CT, NJ, CO, TX, NH and VA.

There was a suggestion that where regional championships fell late in the year, that the Special Qualifiers be used in place of the regional championship. Chuck expressed that he felt that this would diminish the importance of the regional championship and proposed as an alternate that a cutoff date, similar to the way WTC qualifies people for Kona, be established and that any regional championship that fell after the established cutoff date would seat people into the following year's AGNC. Rob Vigorito expressed that it will be critical to know where the AGNC races are going to be in the coming years. Tim mentioned that we should have this information in the future for at least the next 3 AGNC locations.

Chuck asked if it was possible for a model to be run that took all races for 2011 and qualified people based on the size of the race (e.g. races under 400 finishers would

have fewer slots than races of 400-800, 800-1200, etc.). Tim said that he believed they could produce such a model. We could then compare the pool of qualified athletes under the model to the pool that resulted from the current system and we could see the impact of the change. It was requested that the model be run in two formats: one where sprint distance races qualified people for the Oly distance AGNC and one where only Oly races would qualify.

Other questions: Will National Champions automatically be qualified for the next year's AGNC? Consensus was yes. Will Team USA members be automatically qualified? Currently, Team USA members automatically qualify for the AGNC for the next 3 years. Consensus was that this might be eliminated or limited (to one year).

Steve Sutherland asked if AOY's should automatically be qualified and the consensus was yes. He further asked, should AOY's in other sports (e.g. Duathlon) automatically qualify and again the consensus was yes, especially inasmuch as we have invited all AOY's to this year's AGNC and provided complimentary entries as part of their award and as incentive to travel to the event and attend the AOY Celebration and Cruise.

This issue will be further discussed on the September regular AGC Call, when we anticipate the modeling information being available for us to base a recommendation on.

III. Confirm Next Meeting Date/Adjourn

The next conference call of the Age Group Committee will be on September 15th beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Graziano, Chair
USAT Age Group Committee