



2009 Athletes' Advisory Council Report

Introduction

The Athletes' Advisory Council consists of seven members including the three Athlete Directors and four separately elected representatives from the Elite Athlete pool. It advises USA Triathlon on issues pertaining to elite athletes. It is involved in committees related to the expenditure of funds allocated to USA Triathlon by the USOC and selection of major international competition members. The AAC currently consists of Victor Plata, Kelly Cook, Dave Kuendig, Ryan Bickerstaff, Jarrod Shoemaker, Timothy O'Donnell, and Jimmy Archer.

2008 Accomplishments

The AAC was largely inactive in 2008 due to disorganization and lack of elections.

2009 Objectives

Victor Plata, Kelly Cook, Dave Kuendig, and Ryan Bickerstaff were elected to the AAC at the end of 2008. Timothy O'Donnell (who was also elected to serve as the USOC AAC representative), Jarrod Shoemaker, and Jimmy Archer volunteered to fill the remaining three AAC vacancies. Jimmy Archer ran independently, and the remaining members agreed to the following platform:

2009: Building the Profession

Statement of Principles

1. Oversight

The Pro Caucus seeks to protect the mutual interest of our professional members. Elections will be held in a timely manner and the USAT Bylaws will be followed.

2. Selection Policy

Where a selection process exists for start positions in any event we support a selection process that is just, transparent and fair. The foundation of any selection process must be rooted in an objective base. Subjective factors may be used where subjectivity enhances the just and fair nature of the selection process.

3. Qualification standards

Professionals are the highest caliber representatives of our sport. We support elevating the standards of the USAT professional's vocation.

4. Communication

Communication with our members is essential to good policy. We will make extensive use of the e-lite beat to keep members informed of proposed policy. Every board meeting will have a pre-and post-meeting minutes. Every AAC meeting will have minutes posted on the e-lite beat. We will: Publish polls to allow athletes to establish a majority position. Post official files and documents online.





Establish a set protocol for approval of policy (i.e. a draft of policy will be submitted to the members for review before it will be voted on by the Board).

5. Wetsuit temp

Water temperature variations affect each individual differently. We support the ITU wetsuit temperature policy because we believe it sets reasonable temperature limits for wetsuit use. It takes into consideration the distance of the swim, and allows for flexibility where ambient air temperature may make cold a potential safety issue.

6. Illegal Drafting in non-drafting races

There is no place for drafting in non-drafting races, yet officials must have the best judgment possible when assigning a penalty. We support increased funding for the USAT officials program to promote a more professional officials corps.

7. Professional Brand

Professional triathletes provide a unique product. We will work to increase the value of that product.

Conclusion

The AAC is playing an active role in relation to the responsibilities granted to it under the USA Triathlon Bylaws. So far in 2009 the AAC has established a new wetsuit temperature policy to be more in line with ITU standards and worked to create qualification criteria for the 2009 Pan American Championships, World Cups, and World Championship Series.

Submitted by:

Ryan Bickerstaff, AAC Chairman

