



MIDEAST REGION CLUB RACE SERIES

Welcome to the 2010 Mid-East Region Club Race Series (MERCERS). MERCERS is an annual race series sponsored by the USA Triathlon Mid-East Region and its Regional Council. The Mission of the Mid-East Region and its Regional Council is to encourage the multi-sport lifestyle and grow our sport by promoting USAT Triathlon registered clubs and USA Triathlon sanctioned regional events. MERCERS is organized and sponsored to encourage racing and friendly competition among USA Triathlon registered clubs within the Mid-East Region. At stake is nothing less than regional bragging rights, big prize money and the coveted traveling trophy awarded to the one team that accumulates the most team points over the 18 race annual series.

Exciting Changes for the 2010 MERCERS

In response to input from USA Triathlon members and their clubs several significant competitive changes have been made to MERCERS this year. These changes include:

1.) Divisions - based on club size there are now three (3) divisions within MERCERS so that clubs of similar size will compete against each other for divisional championships and prize money as well as the overall MERCERS championship.

2.) Prize money - increased from \$3500 to \$4700 and the top three scoring clubs from each division will share in this massive payout. In addition, prize money will be earned by the overall MERCERS champion.

3.) Fewer but more selective races - MERCERS this year consists of 18 carefully vetted races spread across the entire region culminating with the MERCERS Championship Race (this year Breakwater Triathlon in Petoskey, Michigan). Our Region consists of five (5) states – Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio. Most states will host three MERCERS races. In addition, the Regional Championship (this year Evergreen Triathlon), the regional Special Qualifier (this year Johan's Trifest) and the MERCERS Championship Race are part of MERCERS.

4.) Unlimited Scoring - Clubs may score and accumulate MERCERS points at each MERCERS race they participate in subject to minimum participation numbers (as detailed below a club is required to send 2 athletes or 3% of their total membership to earn points in a race). Three races will earn double points (except that any bonus points such as high participation and mileage points scored at these three races will not be doubled, see scoring below for more details). These three double point races are the Regional Championship, the regional Special Qualifier and the MERCERS Championship Race. The Club with the highest cumulative score through the MERCERS Championship Race will be crowned MERCERS Champion and walk home with \$1300. Top scoring teams in each division will also earn prize money.

It's Easy for Your Club to Score and Accumulate 2010 MERCRS Points

The Fine Print and other Details:

1. In order for a club to participate in MERCRS and be scored the club must be currently registered with USA Triathlon and maintain an accurate roster of its current members throughout the MERCRS season commencing May 1 of each year and ending with the MERCRS Championship Race. Current membership assumes that an athlete is a member in good standing of such club including but not necessarily limited to payment of the standard club membership fee. There is no requirement that all current club members be annual members of USA Triathlon. However, USA Triathlon members whose annual dues help support this Region and MERCRS will score higher points than non-USA Triathlon annual members for their clubs.
2. Clubs must participate in a minimum of 4 races in the annual MERCRS series and the MERCRS Championship Race. We could have said that each club must participate in at least five races and one of them has to be the MERCRS Championship Race but that seemed too simple.
3. Clubs may score unlimited points in a season and points will be cumulative throughout the series ending with the MERCRS Championship Race. This is a change from past seasons. Clubs will score and accumulate all points they earn from any and all MERCRS races in which they meet the participation requirements.
4. Athletes may only race in MERCRS for one club in any one season.
5. Collegiate clubs have their own series and are not eligible to participate in MERCRS. Collegiate athletes should race for their collegiate clubs.
6. Clubs must have the minimum number of participants at each race in order to score for that race. The minimum number of participants is at least two for all clubs and is more (3% of the club's total membership) for the larger clubs. For example, a club with 200 members would need to send a minimum of 6 members (3%) to score points at any race. A club with 80 members would need to round up and send 3 members to score at any race. A club with 30 members would need to send 2 members to score at any race (sending .9 would be awkward anyway). Once the participant minimum is met, clubs score points for each athlete as detailed below.

7. Each club will compete for the overall MERCRS championship and within one of 3 MERCRS Divisions depending on the total membership of each club as registered with USA Triathlon. See Below.

USAT DIVISION	MERCERS DIVISION	# of clubs in Region
Division I >250	Division I	2
Division II 249-130	Division I	9
Division III 129-89	Division I	7
Division IV 88-30	Division II	31
Division V < 29	Division III	22

If your club has 89 members or more it will compete in MERCRS Division I. If your club has at least 30 members but fewer than 89 members it will compete in MERCRS Division II. If your club has fewer than 30 members it will compete in MERCRS Division III. **Each club must maintain and submit a monthly current club roster to the Mid-East Region commencing May 1 and continuing through August 1 to determine and verify club size. Any athlete whose name does not appear on the club's monthly current membership roster will not be eligible to score points for their club in that month. Similarly, if a club fails to timely submit its monthly current membership roster it will not be able to score points in that month regardless of participation in MERCRS.** Club size will be determined based on each club's total current membership to include both USA Triathlon annual members and non-USA Triathlon members. A club's MERCRS Division may change over the course of the season depending on current membership. Each club's final MERCRS Division for purposes of scoring in the MERCRS will be determined by the submission of the August monthly current club roster to the Region. The August monthly current club roster may be updated once prior to the MERCRS Championship Race but in any event not less than two (2) weeks before the MERCRS Championship Race. **Each club will be provided an email address, contact person and template format to simplify submission of the monthly current roster to the Region and to submit scores.**

8. **Scoring:** Clubs will score and accumulate MERCRS points in the following ways:

A. Participation Points

Minimum Participation Requirement - To score points for participating in a MERCRS race each club must bring a minimum of 2 participants or

3% of its then current club size (determined by comparable USA Triathlon division and monthly current roster), whichever is greater.

Bonus Opportunity for Greater Participation - If any club brings the greater of at least 5 participants or 15% of the club's then current total membership to a MERCRS race they will be awarded a 10 point bonus. For example, a club with 200 current members would be required to bring 30 members to receive this bonus. A club with 80 current members would be required to bring 12 members and a club with 30 current members would need to bring 5 members. *Please note that bonus points are not doubled at double point races to include the Regional Championship, Special Qualifier and MERCRS Championship Race. In other words, a 10 point bonus is a 10 point bonus in all races.

Both USAT members and Day Pass Holders are eligible to score points for their team. The USA Triathlon membership status of the athlete on the day of the race determines the number of points they can score for their club. If a club member is a day pass holder at one race, then buys an USA Triathlon annual membership at or prior to the next race, points will not be adjusted for previous races. Please also note that no distinction is made between participants in triathlon and duathlon events. If a MERCRS race offers duathlon, athletes competing in duathlon score identically to those competing in the comparable distance triathlon. This is a change from past years.

	USAT Member	Day Pass Holder
Top 5 Overall	6 pts	3 pts
Top 5 Age Group	4 pts	2 pts
Top 50% Age Group outside of top 5	3 pts	1.5 pts
Finishing Race	2 pts	1 pt
Additional points		
Sprint Distance	1 pt	0.5 pt
Olympic Distance	2 pts	1 pt
Long Distance (HIM)	3 pts	1.5 pts
Ultra Distance (IM)	4 pts	2 pts

B. Points for Mileage and a bonus opportunity for travel over 200 miles to MERCRS events

Fewer but more selective races with the opportunity to accumulate unlimited points in a season may result in more travel for many clubs. There are two (2) ways to score points for mileage:

(1) Clubs will score 10% of the average distance traveled by each participating club member to each MERCRS race. Mileage is based on actual distance traveled per individual to the event one way from where the athlete resides (City, State) verified by club race director or other person submitting the club's scoring to the Region to an official ending address based on googlemaps and supplied by the Region for each MERCRS event.

The mileage points will be 10% of the average distance traveled to the race by each club member from the ATHLETE'S 'PRIMARY PLACE OF RESIDENCE'.

For example:

Athlete A traveled 120 miles

Athlete B traveled 84 miles

Athlete C traveled 112 miles

Athlete D traveled 101 miles

$120+84+112+101=417$

$417 / 4 \text{ athletes} = 104.25 \text{ average miles}$

$10\% \text{ of } 104.25 = 10.43 \text{ pts}$

(2) Bonus for average mileage greater than 200 miles to a MERCRS event. If a club's average travel distance is greater than 200 miles from their participating club members' primary place of residence that club will earn a bonus 5 points for mileage. If a club's average travel distance is greater than 300 miles that club will earn a 10 point bonus. If a club's average travel distance is greater than 400 miles that club will earn a 20 point bonus.

*Bonuses are not doubled at double point races including the Regional Championship, Special Qualifier and MERCRS Championship Race.

Logging Your Results will be Quick and Easy.

Each club will be provided access to an online scoring template created by the Mid-East Regional Council that will also allow each club to track their point accumulation throughout MERCRS.

Each club must submit its club member results in each MERCRS event to the Region within 10 days of the date of the race. Failure to submit timely results, unless excused in advance, will result in no score for that event. *By submitting

information, the person submitting information on behalf of a club will be asked to verify that all information is accurate and true. Failure to verify will result in forfeiture of all race points earned for that race.

Items to be submitted via the scoring template will include: Athletes name, Age Group, Event/Distance, Results, City/State, Mileage, and USA Triathlon member number. If no USA Triathlon membership number is submitted, it will be assumed the athlete is not a member of USA Triathlon and scored accordingly.

9. Payout

There will be a total purse of \$4700 to be awarded in each MERCERS Division the following way:

1st place \$800

2nd place \$400

3rd place \$200

The club that accumulates the most points OVER the entire MERCERS season and regardless of MERCERS Division will be the Overall MERCERS Champion and will receive a bonus \$500.

Tiebreaker: In case of a tie, the team scoring the most points at the MERCERS Championship Race will win. In the event a second tiebreaker is needed the team bringing the most USA Triathlon annual members will be declared the winner.

Any questions, issues or protests concerning MERCERS should be addressed to the Mid-East Regional Council. The Mid-East Regional Council will answer questions and resolve any issues or protests concerning MERCERS.

Good luck to all clubs, see you all at the races!