

**USAT Mideast Region Council  
Conference Call  
Thursday, September 12th, 2013  
9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. EST**

**Presiding: Jim Weaver**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Lesley Kruzel</b>	<b>Robert Takla</b>	<b>Jeff Grady</b>	<b>Rick Slawinski</b>
	<b>Rosalyn Popham</b>	<b>Drew Heintz</b>	<b>Lawrence Giannetti</b>	<b>Rob Garren</b>
	<b>Michael Wendorf</b>	<b>Eric Potter</b>	<b>Kevin Smeltzer</b>	

**Minutes: Michelle C Harter**

**Absent: Keri Serota                      Melissa Stockwell**  
**Graham Wilson**

**ACTION ITEMS SUMMARY**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>BY (if applicable)</b>
Connect Rick and Rob with Youth Development Google group.	Michael	
Send email explaining Race Director Background check to the Council.	Michelle	Sept 15
Follow up with Meg Weagley on Background checks for all Sanctioning RD's versus limiting to Certified RDs.	Mike	Sept 20
Email Face-to-Face Meeting Locations to Council for vote.	Michelle	Sept 30

**Meeting Minutes**

*Meeting Called to Order 9:04 p.m. EST*

Opening Remarks- Jim

- Roll call and greeting.
- Introductions:
  - Rick Slawinski –Mideast Regional Athletic Development Coordinator
  - Mike Groaning – Mideast Race Director Liaison
  - Rob Garren – Youth Multisport

Race Bid Selection Committee Update - Robert

- Currently we have three Applications submitted for the 2014 Special Qualifier and Regional Du Championships.
- Applications are due Sept 16<sup>th</sup>.
- A new requirement was added requesting each Race Director to provide verification of Sanctioning Compliance. This verification is a printout from the USAT Sanctioning Database.
- Suggestion made that the Special Qualifier be an Olympic Distance event and not the same date or near our Regional Championship. (*Post meeting update – Regional Championship is set for June 14<sup>th</sup>.*)
- Suggestion made to avoid selecting Events on or around June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> which would conflict with the ITU World Tri Chicago race.

Mideast Coaches Conference – Jim (for Graham)

- Only 7 Coaches have registered so far for the October conference.
- A promo blast went out to 2400 coaches nationwide in hopes of boosting registrations to 20-25, which is needed to cover expenses.
- Deadline to register is September 13<sup>th</sup>, noon. After the deadline, decision will be made whether to cancel. *(Post-meeting update – Coaches meeting was cancelled due to low registrations. Feedback is being gathered to determine what can be done differently in 2015 to boost interest.)*

#### Race Director Background Check Overview - Mike

- Starting in 2014, USAT Certified Race Directors will be required to have a background check. This requirement has been implemented with Coaches and was decided to be executed with certified Race Directors only in light of Safe Sport initiatives.
- Discussion took place on how this requirement benefits the athlete and how it has been communicated to Race Directors.
- Suggestion made to make this requirement for any Race Director sanctioning a USAT race.
- Mike spoke with Meg Weagley, USAT Multisport Education, prior to the meeting who described this requirement for certified Race Directors as elevating the credibility of the “certification” credential while helping to ensure safety.

#### Race Director Symposium Update – Mike

- Symposium will be Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Consulted with several Race Directors and USAT staff to obtain feedback on the Agenda.
- Eric Opdyke, REV3, will be the keynote speaker. Decision was based primarily on his successful implementation of the water safety initiative.
- Meg Weagley, USAT Multisport Education, will be presenting on the Race Director Certification Program.
- Based on feedback, a more formal panel discussion will be offered this year. Feedback also indicated newer RD’s desire to make connections with other RD’s and sponsors.

#### Administrative – Michelle

- Face to Face meeting will be November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- A vote will go out soon to determine location.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 pm EST