



National Office Headquarters  
5825 Delmonico Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-2401  
phone 719. 597. 9090  
fax 719. 597. 2121  
[www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org)

## **Age Group Committee 2018 Committee Report**

### **Mission**

The Age Group Committee represents the age group multisport athlete on various issues and serves in an advisory capacity to the national board of directors.

In addition to our advisory role on policy matters, the AGC oversees the Athlete of the Year Awards Program and selects its recipients each year. It also selects recipients for the various "Year End Awards" multisport awards (such as the Jeff Jewell Award, Multisport Comeback of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year, Spirit of Multisport and Lifetime Achievement). The AGC is responsible for coordinating and moderating the Annual Town Hall Meeting held at the National Age Group Championships, administers a grant program, manages Team USA medical exemption requests, and discusses various age group causes throughout the course of the year. The AGC, when appropriate, creates sub-committees comprised of its members, and at times in consultation with representatives of other USAT Committees.

The AGC meets via teleconferences which are held regularly on the 2nd Thursday of alternating months. During 2018, they averaged about 10 members on the committee from various regions. The committee strives to have representation from each of the USAT regions and representation that reflects the diversity of the USAT age group membership.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

- The committee continued to refine and improve the selection process for both the Athlete of the Year (AOY) and Multisport Awards. This included a streamlined approach to selection that increased the speed of the process, in part to conform to the publication deadlines for USAT Magazine.
- The Committee received one education grant request during 2018, which was evaluated and approved by the Grant Subcommittee. Review and recommended approval or denial of grants remains an important function of the AGC.
- We continued to receive several hardship waiver requests every month. Most of those applications are denied because the applicants either are requesting a waiver for an unacceptable reason, or do not meet the criteria for podium potential. The new waiver forms include our recommended language to help bound the valid reasons for a waiver, which





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helped filter out many of the clearly unacceptable waiver requests that we have previously received. The pattern of increased applications following National Championships continues.

- The Committee discussed a wide variety of other topics, as listed below. Specific details of the conversations on those topics are available in the Committee meetings minutes.
  - Ideas to impact the cost of competition
  - Minority Outreach
  - Expanding one-day licensing
  - Loyalty Program
  - Changes to handling of drug offenders
  - Age group feedback on the All American selection process
  - Team USA sign-up process feedback
  - National Club Challenge
  - Potential consolidation of other committees (Aquathlon, Aquabike, Offroad and Winter Triathlon)
  - Ann Viviani Duathlon Grandmasters Award
  - USAT swag for sanctioned events/grants program
  - Draft legal racing at Nationals
  - Tri60
  - MicroTri
  - Triathlon Week 2018
  - USAT Ambassadors
  - Duathlon Nationals in Bend
  - Feedback on ITU Worlds (Gold Coast)
  - All inclusive awards ceremony (Hall of Fame, AOY, Multisport Awards, RD Recognition, Coaching Recognition, Special Club Awards)
  - Winter Triathlon

### **2019 Objectives**

- Continue to select the Athletes of the Year (AOY) and the Multisport award winners.
- Continue to pursue ways to reach out to minority and underserved athlete populations.
- Continue to receive and process Team USA hardship waiver applications
- Develop strategies to outreach and better educate the USAT membership on a variety of topics including educational grants, anti-doping efforts, minority outreach and hardship waivers, and the new direction USAT is moving with various high-level programs.





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- As opportunities to replace Committee members arise, work to improve the proportionate share of women and minorities on the AGC and continue to collaborate closely with the regional councils and other committees of USA Triathlon in the recruitment effort

**2019 roster/approximate meeting frequency:**

The 2019 Age Group Committee roster consists of the following individuals:

- Stephen Sutherland (Chair)
- Cathi Kohler (Vice Chair)
- Leslie Battle
- Melisa Dorrill
- Peter Lohrmann
- Ken Modica
- Elaine Smith
- Molly Smith
- Jose Valdes
- Robert Vigorito
- Jim Weaver
- Tim Yount (USAT Staff Liaison)
- Mike Wien (USAT Board of Directors Liaison)

Committee conference calls are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of alternating months, beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern time and typically last about one hour. During 2019, meetings are tentatively planned for January 10, March 14, May 9, July 11, September 12 and November 14. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed, such as the Athlete of the Year selection meetings.

In conclusion, members of the Age Group Committee dedicated many hours of work during 2018 to some very worthwhile matters in our endeavor to improve and further grow the multisport lifestyle. Many of the issues started during the year 2018 are still in discussion and need to have a conclusion during 2019. We appreciate the work the members of the AGC provided and their dedication to the sport during 2018.

Submitted by: Stephen Sutherland, Age Group Committee Chair

