



NCAA Women's Triathlon

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Table of Contents

- Introduction
- NCAA Women's Triathlon
 - Background and Update
 - USAT's Women's Triathlon Emerging Sport Grant
- NCAA Race Format and Season Structure
 - 2014 Women's Collegiate National Championship
 - The Basics
 - Kinds of Competition
 - NCAA Legislation
- USAT, the NCAA, and RD Interfacing
 - Mission and Vision
- Being Part of the NCAA Movement
 - Requirements
 - Race Director Education
 - Questions to Consider
- Next Steps
- Contact Information





Introduction

- Jess Luscinski
 - NCAA and Collegiate Triathlon Coordinator, USA Triathlon
- Mission
 - *“To utilize and leverage our resources at USA Triathlon to bolster and support the movement of NCAA Women’s Triathlon as well as facilitate the successful implementation of an NCAA competition season.”*
- Vision
 - *“Be on the forefront of NCAA Women’s Triathlon as a spokesperson, resource, and event specialist to successfully establish Women’s Triathlon collegiately as an NCAA Varsity program.”*





Background

- In January of 2014, with support from the Committee for Women's Athletics, the NCAA voted to include Women's Triathlon on the list of Emerging Sports for Women.
- Emerging Sport for Women
 - Identified based on the potential to grow participation opportunities for women, as well as the interest by the collegiate institutions and their surrounding communities.
 - 10 years to reach a minimum of 40 programs or show positive trajectory in growth.





Update

- Positive conversations with institutions regarding Varsity Women's Triathlon programs.
- The Women's Triathlon Emerging Sport Grant has potential to change the scope of Women's Triathlon in 2015.
- On November 2nd, 2014 in Clermont, Florida we hosted the inaugural Women's Collegiate Triathlon National Championship.
 - Test event for future NCAA draft-legal races.
 - Opportunity to promote Women's Triathlon at the collegiate level.






USA Triathlon Women's Triathlon Emerging Sport Grant

- Announced Friday, December 5, 2014
- \$2.59M infusion of dollars over a four-year period to institutions to develop Women's Triathlon programs at the collegiate varsity level.

*per institution breakdown	2015	2016	2017	2018
Division I	\$80k	\$40k	\$20k	-
Division II	\$40k	\$20k	\$10k	-
Division III	\$40k	\$20k	\$10k	-
Additional Grants	-	DI: \$80k DII/III: \$40k	DI: \$40k DII/III: \$20k	DI: \$20k DII/III: \$10k





NCAA Race Format and Season Structure Event Management

- USA Triathlon will oversee the event management portion of the NCAA season while Women's Triathlon is an Emerging Sport. Through a draft-legal sanctioning process, USAT will be responsible for approving that all events are NCAA compliant and conducted in a safe and fair manner.
 - Must be approved by USAT to count as any kind of NCAA event.
- Cannot be called "NCAA" in the race title until we are a Championship sport.





NCAA Race Format and Season Structure

The Basics

- 750m Swim, 20k Bike, 5k Run
 - Regular Season (Intercollegiate Competitions) Distance Variation:
 - Swim Course may vary 150 meters +/-
 - Bike Course may vary 1k +/-
 - Run Course may vary 250 meters +/-
 - Preferred Venue Characteristics:
 - Bike course with 4 loops
 - Run course with 2 loops
- Draft-legal, maximum of 75 athletes
 - Will abide by ITU Draft-Legal race rules and be a closed course
- Season timeline
 - September 1st: First date of allowed competition
 - National Championship: Saturday of the first full weekend in November





NCAA Race Format and Season Structure

Kinds of Competition

- **Intercollegiate Competition**
 - To count towards minimum contest requirements, these competitions must occur between similar 2-year or 4-year institutions in the same NCAA Division.
 - Can be either an open water or pool swim
- **Regional Qualifiers (3 total)**
 - Located in the East, Central, and West regions.
 - Teams must compete in their specific Regional Qualifier to advance to the National Championship.
 - Must be an open water swim





NCAA Race Format and Season Structure

Kinds of Competition

- National Championship
 - Saturday of the first full weekend in November
 - Must be an open water swim
- Qualification
 - 75 athletes
 - Top four (4) teams from each Regional Qualifier
 - 60 athletes total
 - Top five (5) individuals from each Regional Qualifier not on a qualifying team
 - 15 athletes total
 - Any unclaimed spots will be filled by replacement athletes





NCAA Race Format and Season Structure

NCAA Legislation

- Scoring
 - Team scoring
 - Modeled after cross country scoring where the lowest score wins
- Minimum and Maximum Contests and Participants
 - Minimum of four (4) intercollegiate competitions and a maximum of six (6)
 - Minimum of three (3) athletes and a maximum of five (5) athletes in a race.
- Multiple teams and divisions are allowed in the same wave until adequate field sizes exist to separate into specific divisions.





USAT, the NCAA, and RD Interfacing

- Mission
 - *“The creation of quality race opportunities for NCAA Women’s Triathlon programs that comply with all NCAA Emerging Sport legislation, as well as draft-legal and sanctioning requirements as laid forth by the NCAA and USA Triathlon.”*
- Vision
 - *“Provide NCAA varsity programs with competitions that abide by all NCAA legislation, promotes safe and fair draft-legal racing environments, and meets all minimum USA Triathlon race and sanctioning standards.”*





Being Part of the NCAA Movement Race Director Requirements

	National Championship	Regional Qualifiers	Intercollegiate Competition
USAT Certified Race Director	Required	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with a USAT Certified Race Director Work with USAT Draft Legal Specialist
USAT Sanctioned Event	Required	Required	Required
Race Director Experience	3 years triathlon-specific event experience	3 years triathlon-specific event experience	1 year event experience
Sanction History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All previous races have been sanction compliant RD is in good standing with USAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All previous races have been sanction compliant RD is in good standing with USAT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If any previous races have been submitted, they have been sanction compliant RD is in good standing with USAT
USAT Sanction Submitting Deadline	90 days prior to event	90 days prior to event	90 days prior to event
USAT Draft Legal Race Officials	Required	Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAT officials with draft legal education Self-officiating with individuals passing draft legal education



Being Part of the NCAA Movement Race Director Education

- Developing draft-legal NCAA focused webinar with a mandatory test component
 - Will be required for RD's to host an intercollegiate competition
- Draft-legal education in conjunction with Level 1 Race Director Certification for 1 CEU (optional)
 - Will not replace the webinar and test, but will provide important material and background information.





Being Part of the NCAA Movement

Things to Consider

- What kind of NCAA race do I have the ability to do?
- Do I meet all USA Triathlon Race Director requirements for the specific level of race I wish to do?
- Do I have a course, or access to a venue that will meet all race structure requirements?
- Is this race in an area that would be conducive to potential collegiate travel budget limitations?





Next Steps

- If you wish to host a 2015 Women's Collegiate Regional Qualifier
 - The RFP for Regional Qualifiers will be distributed in early January, 2015.
 - Selection and announcement of 2015 Regional Qualifiers will be made in March, 2015.
- If you wish to host a 2015 Women's Collegiate Intercollegiate Competition
 - Please contact Jess Luscinski at jess.luscinski@usatriathlon.org
 - You will work directly with USA Triathlon staff to determine if there is a specific need for an intercollegiate competition in your area.





Next Steps

- The Women's Collegiate National Championship will be returning to Clermont, FL in 2015!





Contact Information

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