



National Office Headquarters
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www.usatriathlon.org

2021 Age Group Committee Report

Mission

The Age Group Committee represents the age group athlete on various issues and serves in an advisory capacity to the USAT Board of Directors and the USAT National Staff.

In addition to our advisory role on policy matters, the AGC oversees the Athlete of the Year Awards Program and recommends recipients each year. The AOY candidates are reviewed in a subcommittee meeting, using information on their respective race performances provided by USAT National staff. The subcommittee votes by secret ballot for the recommended AOY and Honorable Mention awardees and hands those recommendations off to the National Office for final review and selection. It also recommends recipients for the various “Year End Multisport Awards” (such as the Jeff Jewell Award, Multisport Comeback of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year, Spirit of Multisport and Lifetime Achievement), using a similar process. The AGC is responsible for coordinating and moderating the Annual Town Hall Meeting held at the Age Group National 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/Zoom calls which are held regularly on the 2nd Thursday of alternating months. During 2021, they averaged about 8 members on the committee from various regions. The committee strives to have representation reflective of the membership and diversity of USAT.

2021 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.
- 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





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include our recommended language to help bound the valid reasons for a waiver, which helped filter out many of the clearly unacceptable waiver requests that we have previously received. We continue to review that language and adjust and enhance it to further refine and streamline the hardship request process. The pattern of increased applications following National Championships continues. A subcommittee of the AGC that determines hardship waivers was asked by the National Office to provide a list of all the hardship waivers granted from 2019 to present. The purpose was to determine slots for Team USA since there had been so many cancellations of world events. The committee was also asked to examine the results obtained at Worlds by those awarded waivers, in part to test the methodology used for granting waivers; this analysis showed that 50% of the athletes granted waivers did achieve a podium finish at Worlds.

- The Committee enthusiastically committed to actively working with the other USAT volunteer committees. The committee chair attended Multisport Committee meetings and participated in discussions with MS committee members on a wide variety of topics. In addition, the chairs of the Multisport and Race Directors committees were invited to participate in the Age Group Committee bi-monthly meetings. The intent of this effort is to share information between more committees, including topics that cross over from one committee to another. The overall goal is to raise more awareness across various volunteer committees.
- The committee formed a subcommittee that included participation from the Multisport Committee to identify topics for the next Endurance Exchange, provide a high-level description of those topics, and identify potential speakers/presenters for those topics. The results were a slate of topics for both novice and advanced athletes and spanned a wide breadth of topics.
- The Committee reviewed and provided feedback on various USAT documents and policies.
- Many of the Committee members including the Chair completed the Safe Sport training.
- The committee was downsized to adhere to new policies for both committee size and to allow addition of additional elite athlete representatives if needed.
- The Committee discussed many other topics, as listed below. Specific details of the conversations on those topics are available in the Committee meetings minutes.



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- Status of Nationals and Worlds events and the impact on our age group athletes
- Worlds Qualifier updates
- Multisport awards
- Shift with Multisport Nationals
- Community Builds in targeted cities
- ISSA/GBAC
- Tri-Flake Winter Triathlon
- Strategy alignment
- Elite athlete additions to committees
- CCNC
- Super League Affiliation in Malibu
- C/A Nationals and status
- Team USA
- R2R
- World Games in AL in 2022
- Volunteer Pipeline
- Duathlon Nationals
- Anti-discrimination laws pertaining to transgender athletes exist in Alabama and other states.
- Committee commitments
- Age Group Drug Testing
- Model for recruitment for NCAA
- GBAC accreditation
- AGC presentation at the Town Hall
- State and Regional Championship messaging
- AGNC – Post Race impressions
- Impact of continued race cancellations
- AOY process for 2021
- Rankings update
- State Championships overview for 2022
- New membership categories

2021 Objectives



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- Continue to recommend 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
- Support USAT initiatives to reach out 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.
- Support cross-committee meetings and exchange of information to better facilitate sharing information between committees, including topics that cross over from one committee to another.
- 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 other committees of USA Triathlon in the recruitment effort.

2021 roster/approximate meeting frequency:

The 2021 Age Group Committee roster consisted of the following individuals:

- Stephen Sutherland (Chair)
- Cathi Kohler (Vice Chair)
- Leslie Battle
- Ray Campeau
- Peter Lohrmann
- Ken Modica
- Molly Smith
- Jose Valdes
- Tim Yount (USAT Staff Liaison)
- Dr. Tekemia Dorsey (USAT Board of Directors Liaison)
- Kelli Montgomery (Elite Athlete representative)

Committee conference calls are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of alternating months, beginning at 7:00 PM Eastern time and typically last about one hour. During 2022, meetings are tentatively planned for January 13, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8 and November 10. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed, such as the Athlete of the Year selection meetings.



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In conclusion, members of the Age Group Committee dedicated many hours of work during 2021 to some very worthwhile matters in our endeavor to improve and further grow the multisport lifestyle. Many of the issues started during the year 2021 are still in discussion and need to have a conclusion during 2022. We appreciate the work the members of the AGC provided and their dedication to the sport during 2021.

Submitted by: Stephen Sutherland, Age Group Committee Chair



MEMBER

