NCAA Women’s Triathlon

Jess Luscinski
USA Triathlon NCAA and Collegiate Triathlon Coordinator
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>*per institution breakdown</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division I</td>
<td>$80k</td>
<td>$40k</td>
<td>$20k</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Division II</td>
<td>$40k</td>
<td>$20k</td>
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<td>Additional Grants</td>
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<td>Di: $80k DII/III: $40k</td>
<td>Di: $40k DII/III: $20k</td>
<td>Di: $20k DII/III: $10k</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National Championship</th>
<th>Regional Qualifiers</th>
<th>Intercollegiate Competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USAT Certified Race Director</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>USAT Sanctioned Event</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race Director Experience</strong></td>
<td>3 years triathlon-specific event experience</td>
<td>3 years triathlon-specific event experience</td>
<td>1 year event experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Sanction History**           | • All previous races have been sanction compliant  
                                  • RD is in good standing with USAT  
                                  • 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            | • 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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