

New York State Bicycle Racing Association Board of Director's Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Telecon, 7pm, Wednesday, 16Dec15

Dial in: 1 (605) 475-5920 Participant code: 298-2449#

Attendees: Jeff Poulin (President), Todd Scheske (VP), Tom Weichmann (Secretary), Rod Millott (Treasurer), Mike Cormier (Member at Large), Liz Marcello (Women's Rep), Alan Atwood (Officials Coord), Dieter Drake (Adirondack Rep), Lloyd Campbell (Central), Lucia Deng (NYC Rep), Dave Beals (CX), Eric Curtis (Member at Large)

Absent: Myles Romanow (LI Rep), Camie Kornely (Women's rep), Eric Ragot (Hudson Rep), Gary Toth (Permit Coord)

1. President's Report (Jeff Poulin)

- a. 2015 Officer and Upgrade Official Stipends: The officers recommend maintaining the percentage allocation of the \$7500 stipend budget established and followed the past 5 yrs. Approved.
- b. 2016 LA Agreement/Contract with USAC and rebate structure? USAC released the 2016 LA Agreement and rebate structure, which we have all discussed at length. Since the benefits of signing the agreement outweigh the negatives, Jeff will sign the agreement. Note that the agreement took effect on 1Dec. Approved.
- c. Officers' General Liability Insurance: Jeff will secure \$1M liability insurance before 1Jan16, when our current policy expires. Action: Jeff; completed.
- d. NACS: The new North American Cycle Sport (NACS) has released its Local Association agreement, which is extremely beneficial to RDs, riders, and NYSBRA. The NACS mission of growing cycling at the "grassroots" level closely aligns with the NYSBRA mission: "*NYSBRA's mission is to promote amateur bicycle racing in New York State.*"
- e. NACS plans to build the sport and bring in new bicycle racers (and ultimately new USAC rider licenses) by addressing demographics that USA Cycling underserves; i.e., MTB, touring, Gran Fondos, citizen races, and small local cycling events.
- f. The NACS business model is very beneficial to NYSBRA; by supporting NACS (i.e., signing their agreement and putting their logo on nysbra.com) NACS rebates a significant percentage of revenue to NYSBRA (compared to USAC)
- g. Proposal: NYSBRA should sign the NACS LA agreement in addition to the USAC LA Agreement.
- h. Key points raised during substantial discussion by email and during the meeting included:
 - i. USAC strongly maintains a contractor-subcontractor relationship with LAs and legally treats the LAs as wholly independent organizations. However, the NYSBRA By-Laws were created at a time when USAC was NYSBRA's only funding source and although the by-laws do not prevent NYSBRA from supporting other organizations (such as NACS), the by-laws are unintentionally USAC-centric.
 - ii. A lengthy and spirited discussion took place surrounding USA Cycling's numerous failures to promote the sport, especially at the grass roots level. Ridership is down,

racers are folding, and new rules and fees from USA make it considerably more difficult to put on events.

- iii. Dieter Drake stated very strongly that in his opinion it is nearly impossible to run a profitable USA Cycling event
- iv. USA Cycling fees have gone up 33-50% in the past 3-5 years, especially for insurance
- v. The majority of the board was in favor of supporting NACS
- vi. Rod Millott believes the By-Laws have to be changed before signing with NACS. Rod also recommends consulting with USAC on how they feel about LAs jointly associating with NACS.
- vii. It was agreed by a majority that given the competing views of members of the Board that while not *required* before signing the NACS LA agreement, it would be best to edit the by-laws to clean up the language to make it clear NYSBRA is an independent organization (and to correct some other minor issues)
- viii. A majority of the board agreed that in the interest of transparency a change to by-laws should be announced to the riders of NY state in advance, since they will need to vote to approve the change (by 2/3rds majority of votes cast)
- i. Therefore, the board decided on the following course of action:
 - i. Make an announcement in a monthly (i.e., December) email to all riders about the benefits of NACS and proposal to modify the by-laws accordingly, as above
 - ii. Edit the by-laws, as above (ACTION: Rod and Lucia)
 - iii. Hold a vote by NY riders to update by-laws
 - iv. Vote on signing the NACS LA Agreement.
- j. Official's B upgrade module: The B upgrade modules are generally considered hard to use. The new USAC Technical Director Chuck Hodge (who replaced Mark Guthart who replaced Shawn Farrell) is reviewing revisions of all the training modules.

2. Grant Program (Jeff Poulin)

- a. Mission grants: we have given 8 grants ytd totaling \$3,895 (\$800 will be paid next year)
- b. Free entry for Champions: 17 ytd
- c. Junior grants: 6 ytd. Now is the time for juniors to apply for their \$100 junior grants!
- d. Motos: 17 ytd (most for 2 motos/event)
- e. New C official application fee / background check reimbursement: 1 ytd
- f. New C officials: 26 ytd (most for multiple New C Officials)
- g. New fields for Women and Juniors: 5 ytd

3. Vice President's Report / Upgrades(Todd Scheske)

- a. Upgrades: Thanks to Lucia for helping with upgrades across NYS!
- b. Upgrading International Riders: USAC has a new policy on how to treat racers with licenses from other countries that want to race in the US.
 - i. Riders with foreign racing licenses may request a voluntary upgrade to USAC Category 4 or 3 (i.e., NYSBRA can upgrade a rider to Cat 3 or Cat 4 based on credible international results at the upgrade official's discretion)
 - ii. International riders wishing to be USAC Category 1 or 2 will be handled by USAC.

4. Treasurers Report (Rod Millott)

- a. Finances: NYSBRA is running revenue neutral and will end the year with approximately the same balance as it started.

5. Secretary's Report (Tom Weichmann)

- a. December newsletter:
 - i. Remind Juniors to apply for \$100 Junior grant
 - ii. 2016 state champ events
 - iii. Article on NACS
 - iv. Invitation to the NYSBRA Annual Meeting, Sunday, 31 January, 10am-2pm
 - v. Other?
- b. NY Rider Demographics:
 - i. Tom has done very nice analysis on the demographics of NY riders over time
 - ii. NY is within about 1% +/- in total licenses year on year with ~2700 racers and ~3100 total licenses.

6. Web Site <http://www.nysbra.com> (Tom Weichmann)

- a. NY Champions: are posted
- b. Elite Champions:
 - i. Tom noted that some championship events had a stand-alone Cat 3 championship awarded, whereas the NYSBRA policy is for a Cat 1-3 champion
 - ii. This is usually to align with what the Race Director has for fields on the road
 - iii. Tom recommended NYSBRA add the option for a Cat 3 champion to our policy document. Discussion ensued; approved.
 - iv. Action: Jeff to add Cat 3 to NYSBRA policy and distribute to the board for final approval.
- c. How to make the state championships more desirable?
 - i. The prestige of the champs has increased due to the "Champions Jerseys" and the "Free entry for Champions" grant
 - ii. However, NY is a huge state and traveling long distances is expensive/time consuming
 - iii. We welcome ideas on how to continue to make progress in making the State champs prestigious.
- d. 2016 Road/Track schedule: will be posted on NYSBRA Google Calendar after "final approval" at the annual Meeting

7. Permits (Gary Toth)

- a. When to issue permits:
 - i. The first RR and even CX permits of 2016 have been filed. Unfortunately, this is well in advance of the RR and CX calendars being discussed by RDs across NY, as is our custom.
 - ii. NYSBRA will not approve permits until the respective calendars have stabilized. This is in January for RR / track with the schedule declared "final" at the NYSBRA annual meeting at the end of January.

8. Officials Coordinator (Alan Atwood)

- a. Official Assignments: Officials are reminded to request races in the official's tool.
- b. Annual seminars: In addition to holding the usual winter clinics to train new C officials, Alan is seeking interest in holding a "CR clinic" especially in the NYC area. The target audience would be "C" officials interested in moving up to being CR.

9. Cyclocross (Dave Beals)

- a. CX Champs: Dave will send out a call for CX events and the call for CX champs out in March

10. Women's Cycling (Liz Marcello, Camie Kornely)

- a. LA Women's Calls: Liz and Lucia participated in the national telecon on women's cycling. Liz explained to other LAs about the NYSBRA grant program, which helps grow the sport in NY
- b. NY LED THE NATION 2015 IN NEW USAC-LICENSED WOMEN!: Nationally women were down 3%

but NY went from 305 to 407 riders, +33%!

- i. Central region had the largest increase, from 55 to 118 riders, +118%
- ii. Western was next with 55 to 73 riders, +38%
- iii. Anyone with success stories or ideas to continue this great achievement, please contact Liz, Camie, or Lucia!

11. Other Business? (All)

a. New Grant Ideas?

- i. Advertise!!! Goal: give grants to EVERY permitted race in NY!
- ii. Pay entire New C Official fee? (i.e., if the new C is working an "A" event, the fee is higher than \$70/day) Goal: to enhance a very successful grant program
- iii. Pay license fee (or flat fee) to active officials? Goal: encourage more officials and encourage licensed officials to actively officiate?
- iv. Create targeted grant for "Mentored Races"
- v. Increase or change the "Free entry for champions" grant (e.g., increase from \$100 to \$xxx) or other ideas?
- vi. Tom Weichmann, Eric Curtis, Todd Scheske, Mike Cormier, and Jeff Poulin agreed to discuss more grant ideas and create proposals to present at the annual meeting. Goal is to allocate the expected 2016 budget increase.

b. Wear of NYSBRA Championship Jerseys:

- i. Issue raised by Tom Weichmann; "what happens if a person wins a Champ Jersey in one Category or age group then changes Category/Age group?"
- ii. The rule (not NYSBRA policy) is easiest explained: UCI world RR champion can only wear the rainbow jersey in UCI RR races or equivalent.... Not in TTs, not in CX. And it expires before the next year's championship race begins (they can't wear it while trying to win another).
- iii. But we aren't the UCI and my spirit is to give free entry to anyone wearing the jersey in whatever category they enter. So if someone won the RR jersey as a Masters 35+ woman and wanted to race Cat 4 RR women (or other) I'd give her free entry and a call up, even if I had a second Woman's RR Cat 4 wearing a jersey in the same field! This is the RD's call, really... This is supposed to be cool and to be proud of! (Of course the CX champ wouldn't get free entry to a road race or TT).
- iv. Questions arose at the CX champs; we should publish a policy
- v. Here is the way this grant is currently defined on our website:
- vi. *"Free Entry for Champions" program: NYSBRA will grant \$100 per event to any promoter that advertises and gives free entry for reigning NY champions (in the same race discipline), contingent upon the champion wearing the championship jersey during the race. The goal is to reimburse loss of entry fee to the promoter while building the prestige of NY championship events and NYSBRA. Promoter must recognize NYSBRA on all race promotions (e.g., flyers, website, registration sites, advertising).*
- vii. Here is the change we made:
- viii. *"Free Entry for Champions" program: NYSBRA will grant \$100 per event to any promoter that advertises and gives free entry for reigning NY champions (in the same race discipline, regardless of category/class won and category/class entered), contingent upon the champion wearing the championship jersey during the race. The goal is to reimburse loss of entry fee to the promoter while building the prestige of NY*

championship events and NYSBRA. Promoter must recognize NYSBRA on all race promotions (e.g., flyers, website, registration sites, advertising).

c. Next Board Meeting:

i. NYSBRA Annual Meeting, Sunday, 31January, 10am-2pm

ii. Jeff will schedule the 2016 Quarterly Telecons (16Mar, 15Jun, 14Sep, 14Dec)

d. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.