

CCSAM Event Organizers Meeting - 2014

Tuesday April 22, 2014

6:30pm Sport For Life Centre - Conference room

Agenda & meeting notes

Present: Richard Huybers, Karin McSherry, Steve Scoles, Jamie Giasson, Brian Walters, Barry Mitchell, Sue Davidson, Heather (Bruce?), Victor Chappelaz, Michael DePauw, Heather Schilling, Chris Roe, Lorne Warkentin (telephone), Greg Richardson (telephone)

2013-2014 Season Debrief

- Member concerns - Race fees & Sprint heats format
 - Race fees - fees are becoming prohibitive especially for families. Low attendance at Provincials (Feb) this year may be due to this. Masters & parents choosing not to race due to high fees. **Organizers are encouraged to consider a “family rate” or a reduced race fee for youth.**
 - Sprints formatting - this was not discussed as a group but for the record - Masters want to race Masters before racing Juniors/Seniors in Individual Sprint events
 - “Transparency” identified as important to racers paying for an event, i.e. we don't mind paying more when it's clear where the money is going. Each club will incur different costs related to hosting an event - facility fees, tracking, snow clearing etc. - vary among venues and with clubs within the province, therefore, race fees will vary. Organizers who show how race fees are determined will gain support from racers. It would be difficult for CCSAM to prescribe a standard race fee. Transparency is more important than consistency. Are clubs fundraising or just trying to break even? Either objective is fair but people want to know.
 - Citizen race category - Many Masters aged skiers, who are not super competitive but want to participate need more opportunities to race shorter distances. **Organizers are encouraged to offer shorter distance options for Masters-aged category participants.**
 - Promotion/Advertising - we are not getting the word out to the greater community, we tend to promote within our ranks/advertise to our own community. **CCSAM will work on producing a ski event poster that will appeal to the masses.** (If you have time/energy to help please contact Karin)
 - Refund policy - Discussion around whether or not a standard refund policy should be in effect for Provincials/Cup races. No decision made, as noted above, each organization incurs different upfront costs that are not refundable. Whatever the refund policy it must be clearly stated on race notice.
 - Later Start Times - Noted by a few that a 12pm start time for races makes a lot of sense - travel time to race site, daytime warming etc.

CCSAM Event Organizers Guide

- It exists - please read it! The Guide is posted on the ccsam.ca website (along with a lot of other really informative things!)
- 2015 proposed updates to the Guide:
 - CCC Sanctioning policy & procedures - any organizer that wishes to have their event become Tier 2 CCC sanctioned must be aware of these policies/

procedures. Just as important is a clear understanding of why *some* events should be nationally sanctioned (vs. Divisionally sanctioned). What MB events *should* be CCC Tier 2? There are very different expectations (e.g. cold weather cancellation), TD appointed by CCC (at organizers expense) and etc. CCC race license holders earn CPL points at CCC-sanctioned events **but** not all points races are created equal. The HPC should review the race schedule and make recommendations as to what races should be CCC-sanctioned **as well as** which events should have Juniors & Juveniles or Juveniles & Midgets racing **the same distance**.

- Organizers please be prepared to work cooperatively with CCSAM/HPP when organizing a MB Cup race, especially if the race is identified as important for team selection.
- Race notice template - consistency in our race notices is helpful to participants and when posting on ccsam website. **CCC Officials Manual** has a standard template, just fill in blanks/delete irrelevant sections etc. Please submit race notices to CCSAM **at least 2 weeks** (30 days would be wonderful) in advance of your event. Remember that events on the CCSAM calendar are "Division-sanction" and the race notice should be proof-read/approved by CCSAM.
- Inclusion of Para Nordic and ID skiers. We need to work together toward the goal of inclusion of **all** participants. This includes skiers with physical impairments (sit skiers, visually impaired etc.) and intellectual disabilities (ID) e.g. Special O skiers. Organizers will need to know categories/distances/course profiles/timing adaptations, other facility needs etc. (Mary Montgomery to provide guidance here).
- Karin to create Technical Packages for MB Cups & Provincial Championships

2014 - 2015 Calendar

- Discussion about updated our Provincial Championships award structure. Medals are ~\$6+ each, other race prizes can also be costly to organizers. More importantly this is an issue of meaningfulness - many of our race categories have 3 or fewer competitors rendering a podium award/medal somewhat meaningless. Competitors could be identified by their YOB subcategory in the posted results but awards would not be given based on YOB/subcategory.

At the 2015 CCSAM AGM I would like to move that the following be adopted:

Provincial medals will be awarded to Year of Birth (YOB) subcategories for the Pee Wee (1, 2, 3, 4) & Midget (1 & 2) race categories. Juveniles, Juniors & Seniors will be awarded medals in their overall categories and not their YOB subcategories. Master category athletes will be awarded medals in 3 overall categories - *Master 30+* (M1-4), *Master 50+* (M5-8) & *Master 70+* (M9 and up). Citizen category participants are not be eligible for Provincial medals.

Everyone, please share this with your fellow club members! Feedback is very much appreciated so that any tweaks that can/should be made can be completed prior to the October 19th AGM in Winnipeg. Coaches & parents of young athletes and Masters athletes need to be consulted. Please assist by discussing this at your club level.
Thank you.