

RMCCC September Meeting 09/26/2024 6:30pm

Meeting held via Zoom and hosted by Alan Schenkel at CSU

Attendees: Alan Schenkel, Garrett Gallaher, Jason Tullous, Patric Rostel, Jon Tarkington, Maddie Blair, Heather Fischer, Isa Naschold, Bryce Pfuetze

Advisory Committee: Chris McGee, Lynn Taylor, Jon Tarkington, Heather Fischer, Patric Rostel, Ian Burnett, Tayne Andrade, Jason Tullous

Agenda

- **Collegiate MTB Nationals**

Will canceled races count as a start? Patric suggests they should. Downhill racing has been canceled twice due to weather. Jim will send a note to Vanessa about the 3-start requirement and how RMCCC has given allowances for those riders registered for events that were canceled out of their control.

- **RMCCC \$2.00 surcharge elimination**

Jason suggests that the surcharge might be useful if it were applied to something useful and specific. Bryce suggests perhaps RMCCC invests in a timing system. Patric: Used to get numbers from RMCCC, the idea of having a timing system raises the question of who houses it and how does it travel? The conference fee should be eliminated because it causes undue burden on promoters. If we decide to have a fee, there needs to be an equitable way of assigning it. Jason also stated that there needs to be an equitable process. Isa feels that a reduction in fees is a good thing. Garret agrees the race costs are too great. Jim put the issue to vote for the committee members present.

The advisory committee voted unanimously to eliminate the surcharge immediately.

- **Athlete upgrades**

Jim outlined a number of problems with last minute upgrades and upgrade petitions. Jim emphasized that petitions for nationals must be made through Vanessa Drummond at USAC. Heather suggests we write down what the upgrade override process is and publish it in the RMCCC operating guidelines. Ian talked about why waiting for an upgrade can be problematic. *Jim will integrate the upgrade policy into a discipline-specific beginning of season briefing for all teams.* Jim stated that initial placement is part of the problem and that coaches should consult with the conference director to ensure initial placement for new athletes is correct.

- **Bicycle Colorado Invoices to race directors**

Even without the RMCCC surcharge, all RMCCC events must pay the invoice from Yvonne at Bicycle Colorado. Yvonne clarified that she recently sent invoices with only RMCCC surcharges shown. These are now null and void.

- **Race registration issues**

License issues persist and we don't understand why...Jim will figure out for next month what's going wrong. Jim adjudicated the Oredigger race registration list with his upgrade history spreadsheet. All mismatched categories can be attributed to delays in upgrades granted through email by the Conference Director. Other problems are almost exclusively those athletes without a collegiate license. For the Oredigger event, Jim asked that all unlicensed riders are prevented from racing.

- **Open Forum**

Jon – Does anybody think collegiate cycling is working? Patric responded by saying it's a loaded question. So many moving parts and exceptions to rules. It makes it hard to move the sport forward and doesn't feel it works well at the moment.

Isa suggests that collegiate cycling is still pretty great and the athletes enjoy the sport. Jim commented that it was good to hear the athletes enjoy it. Jason would like to see what the USAC vision is for collegiate cycling. If collegiate was going well, we'd have more varsity programs. Jim will share a selection of the recent USAC documents for Conference Directors with the committee.

Ian stated that the Direction of the conferences needs to be more consistent...and suggests that BikeReg is part of the problem. Promoters pay thousands of dollars to BikeReg and it doesn't get shared properly with USA cycling. Heather suggested the best experience within RMCCC was when more people were involved who then collaborated and worked together. Several pointed out that it is easy to burn out for those club schools without many students involved. More people involved and more delegation reduces the burnout and make the process more fun.

Next Month:

- Race registration issues
- RMCCC bank balance