



Road Competition Committee

May 19th^h, 2014

Bicycles Plus, Bedford, NS

Present:

- Chair: Zach Steinman (VP)
- Acting Committee Secretary and BNS President: Jamie Lamb
- Alan Mumford (race organizer)
- President of Finbar's Cycling Club: Matt Bernard
- Representative of Velo Lab Cycling Club: Keli Marshall
- Adam Bowes, BNS Director at Large
- Zuzana Ecerova, BNS member

Agenda:

1. Election of Committee positions
2. Discussion of female categories – is the current situation satisfactory?
3. Provincial Road Championships – event designation
4. Provincial Championship Medals – clarification
5. Discussion of the transitional roles of organizers, commissaires and volunteers regarding results recording and processing.

Called to order at 6:45 — agenda unanimously accepted as proposed.

1. Committee Positions:

Keli Marshall acclaimed as female athlete representative.

Matt Bernard acclaimed as male athlete representative.

2. Discussion of female categories – is the current situation satisfactory?

After taking part in an active online discussion about optimal female categories in road racing, Keli reached out via email to all the 2013 female BNS members who held road licenses. She asked for feedback via telephone, email, or in person at Falmouth. She heard back from few (less than 10), but the commentary was valuable.

There was desire among the interested women that prizes go to the “fastest” women, as occurs by default in the case of men in the “male” categories [they’re technically ability, not gender, based].

Women appreciate an entry-level or recreational category, a need currently served by the F category. There was a suggestion that women should start with D, although complaints were made that commissaires feel women should be in “their own” category, a notion contrary to our ability-based system, when they attempt to register in Category D, hoping to compete within a larger pack.

The responding women also raised concerns over how to manage the categories in the future, should some women desire to race with the fastest men in Category A.

For additional context, Jamie discussed the original motivation for the Ability-based category system, including desire to keep things simple for members and organizers alike.

Alan voiced his concern as an organizer that everything be transparent, predictable, and fair.

Zach voiced his opinion in favour of expanding the system by one category: adding Female A, racing with the “men’s” Category B.

Zuzana noted that mountain biking has done what we’re discussing.

Jamie raised Kaarin Tae’s argument that women who move up to Category B don’t do so for money and that women don’t want to see race dynamics disrupted should we introduce a “race within a race” on the road.

Adam noted that a women seeking to do battle in a larger pack will still have the experience described by Kaarin, and can simply stand atop the podium with less experienced women after the race.

Keli mentioned that one women getting pulled away from the rest of her field—within the B back—is simply road racing, and shouldn’t be dreaded.

Action:

Jamie motions we rename Category B as “Category B/Female A”, and state that *all male and female riders will do the same race, starting and finishing together, but females will be recognized separately in the race results for the awarding of prize money and series points.*

Keli motions they we similarly blend the F and C categories, as this is what’s done on the ground in any case. (ie. Commissaires and race organizers start them together.)

Adam motions we do a press-release notifying all of these changes, effective immediately.

Jamie motions that we emphasize that all categories are ability, not gender based, and that women are welcome to race in Category A, or Category D.

All motions unanimously adopted.

3. Provincial Road Championships – event designation

The committee unanimously agrees that we disregard the desirability of holding road provincials before the National Championships, in favour of fairness among organizers.

The committee is unanimous in the view that racers would prefer a stand-alone single day road race to be designated the championships, though should members feel otherwise—and desire stage races to be eligible for the provincial championship—they are encouraged to provide their feedback to Zach.

Action:

The committee unanimously voted to award the Provincial Championships designation to Al Heubach’s Riverport Road Race. Al Mumford hopes to secure the title for 2015, though all interested organizers are encouraged to register their interest in hosting the championships via checking the appropriate box on their race sanction application.

4. Provincial Championship Medals – clarification

The committee unanimously adopts that rather than provide *all* race medals as may have been the past understanding, BNS will *only* provide medals for the highest placing fully licensed BNS member—the Provincial Champion. Organizers should provide medals to the top three finishers as per usual, and a representative of the road committee will award the

Provincial Champion's medal. Organizers of the Provincial Championships are responsible for the associated costs of their event, akin to the organizers of other events.

This policy supersedes any previous statement by BNS/the Road Competition Committee, and applies in 2014 and until further revision.

5. Discussion of the transitional roles of organizers, commissaires and volunteers regarding results recording and processing.

Zach notes that officially, commissaires are present to ensure fairness and safety, and that organizers officially bear the responsibility to produce results. In NS, commissaires have long assumed the responsibility for event timing and results, and this tradition or custom has continued to the present day.

The Committee thanks our commissaires for effectively rising beyond the call of duty, and recognizes that our sport would be impossible without their support. However, as our numbers increase and so as not to place excessive demands on our volunteers—and to ensure and ever improve the quality of our sanctioned events—the Committee would like to see a more sustainable plan for the future.

Jamie discussed the difficulty with the timing system and encouraging many commissaires to develop expertise with it.

Action:

Jamie discussed the desirability of hiring a timing coordinator for 2015, responsible for timely and accurate results using the timing system and Zone4 online registration.

Matt motions that for 2014, organizers be encouraged to assign a few volunteers to act as timing assistants to the commissaires, recommending they employ the BNS handheld camera/voice recorder, cell phones, and any other means to ensure accurate results, produced from multiple vantage points. Unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.