

2012 GRAND PRIX RACE PRESENTATION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7

Process to select races for 2012 series

The 2012 Road Race Grand Prix selection meeting will be held on Monday, November 7 at the Gosman Athletic Center at Brandeis University in Waltham MA. This will be the first step in the selection process instituted last year for the USATF-NE Grand Prix series. The meeting will be open to all 2011 USATF-NE members, presenting race committees, and invited media and guests.

The process allows for more in-depth discussion, schedule organization, and increased participation in the voting.

The process has three steps:

First is the Monday bid presentation meeting (similar to prior year's meetings) at Brandeis, the same site for the past few years. All races interested in hosting a championship will make their presentations to the membership. Events will be presented in groups by distance, with questions and answers following the distance group.

There will be no voting on November 7. Instead, a selection committee made up of the three road running chairs and a mix of a up to twelve active and top scoring clubs will discuss the bids, compare races and schedules. That committee will meet on November 10 to create three or four "slates" of seven races each that will be voted on by members via the web. While this meeting will be open to the membership, no questions or comments will be taken from the floor. The purpose of the meeting will be deliberation by the committee.

The 3 or 4 slates will be posted on the USATF-NE website, www.usatfne.org. On-line voting by 2011 members age 18 and over will take place from Tuesday, November 15 through Tuesday, November 22. Results will be announced on Wednesday, November 23. To vote, members will access the voting page via a link on the USATF-NE website. Voters will be required to enter their individual USATF membership number and password. Members who have forgotten their password can access a link on the voting access page to have the password emailed back to them. (Note that process may take up to 48 hours).

The Slate receiving the most votes will become the 2012 Grand Prix Series.

This process achieves several goals.

- The creation of multiple options for the seven race series allows thought to be given to the sport's "big picture". Conflicts with holidays, other major events, and other bidding races can be addressed logically and will ensure a balanced calendar. In the first two years of this process, it has avoided schedule issues that seemed to come up in past in-person votes (for example, 3 races in 4 weeks, conflicts with other championships).
- The facts on all events can be posted, compared, and discussed in more detail via a posted spreadsheet.
- Online voting allows more individual members to be part of the selection. A weeknight evening meeting prevented participation by those living any distance from the meeting site. People arriving and leaving over the course of the meeting changed the voting outcome, and voters did not always consider a complete calendar.

Going into its 27th year, the USATF-New England Grand Prix series consists of seven races at distances from 5K to the marathon. Championships are held at 5km, 5 miles, 10km and marathon, two races at distances of 12km through 30km, and a "wild card" which can be a third longer race; or a unique challenge event.

We hope that this will prove to be a step forward in the Grand Prix series. The complete procedure is posted at www.usatfne.org/road/gp.html. In addition, the bid applications will be available for viewing at www.usatfne.org/gp. Contact the office, or the LDR chairs below, if you have any questions.

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