

USATF – New England invites you to bid for one of our seven 2018 Road Race Championship Grand Prix races!

Going into its 34th year, the USATF-New England Grand Prix series consists of seven races at distances typically from 5K to the marathon.

Why should your race be a part of the Championship series?

- A first time championship race can expect increased participation of **25 to 30%** or more from a serious running base; some have more than doubled. Championships also significantly increase the quality of the field. Repeat championships see continued growth
- The proven increase in numbers coming with a championship can increase publicity and prestige of the race when presenting the event to your community and sponsors.
- The Grand Prix series is a club-based series and draws multiple runners from teams.
- Runners completing all seven races earn “Ironrunner” status and get awards with race logos.
- Championship races receive free promotion in the 2017 New England Runner calendar, in the New England Runner magazine, on LevelRenner, in the USATF-NE “Exchange Zone”, and other media listings.
- Enjoy an opportunity to meet and work with other Race Directors and share best practices.

Race Directors: We would like to have USATF-NE Grand Prix knowledgeable road race announcers at every event. Contact us about securing one at your event.

What do runners and clubs look for?

- Events of varied sizes - the past two series included events from 500 to 3,000 participants
- Team prize money – a minimum of \$2,000, distributed to at least the top three finishing open teams and team places in each age division; Team money must be limited to USATF-NE member clubs.
- Quality events spread throughout the region from late February through early November which offer interesting, exciting, and fair competitions.
- If there is individual money, please provide the breakdown and if the money is for USATF-NE athletes only

What’s needed on your part?

- The race course must be USATF Certified for distance to assure record and ranking eligibility.
- The race must have a USATF Sanction (discounted if the event has other insurance).
- A \$600 Championship fee (which helps pay for a portion of the end of series team Grand Prix prizes) for races up to 1000 runners, \$700 for races of 1001+.
- Team prize money of at least \$2,000 (\$5,000 suggested).
- A discount to USATF clubs submitting their roster of USATF members and to individual USATF members, of either \$5 per runner, or 10% of the pre-entry fee per runner, whichever is greater.
- Submission of a bid with useful backup / support material (there will be no presentation meeting this year)
- If selected, a representative must attend a pre-series Race Directors meeting to review guidelines and activities, and have the opportunity to work together to improve all events.
- Full race requirements and the selection process are posted at www.usatfne.org/road.

Bids are Due on Friday, October 13, 2017

The selection procedure for 2018 events

- Bids are due Friday, October 13.
- A comparison chart will be created, and include all events sorted by distance.
- Club representatives will work with club members to suggest their potential ideal slate based on factors they care about (including the overall race schedule, location, perks, and other factors) and the LDR committee will use this information to create three slates for consideration.
- An online voting process in mid-November, open to USATF-NE members only, will determine the series based on the most popular slate chosen.

How participation in the Grand Prix can improve your race:

- Most Grand Prix races bring at least an additional 200 to 300 runners to each race.
- More runners amount to a significant increase in entry fees - at \$35 per entrant, $250 \times \$35 = \$8,750$
- Most race costs are fixed – Police, Port-a-Johns, Permits, Tents, Facilities, and Timing so becoming a Grand Prix race will not affect your bottom line in a big way.
- The variable costs of more runners is still minimal – T-shirts, Timing (if based on number of entries), Food/Water, etc.
- The rights fee is \$600 (up to 1000 runners) or \$700 (1001 or more runners) is collected after your event and is easily covered by the additional entries and also helps pay for a portion of the series team awards.
- Prize money varies. In 2017, team prize money is to be a minimum of \$2,000, also easily covered by additional entries.
- The prestige of a Grand Prix Championship can bring in more sponsorship, more runners, and improve the visibility of your event in the community. Sponsors may be more likely to cover costs such as T-shirts if there is greater visibility of the race in your community.

Numbers, visibility and prestige – A great package – submit your bid today!

Questions? Concerns? Please contact:

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Bid forms available at www.usاتفne.org/road/gp