

PROPOSED GRAND PRIX SELECTION PROCESS (REV: 1/8/09, 1/21/09, 4/14/09)

I. Encouragement of Potential Championship Races to Bid

- A. The LDR Committee and/or a Grand Prix Selection Committee will identify possible races as early as 6 months before bids are due. These races will be contacted directly to ascertain interest and to be encouraged to bid. Bid forms will be sent to interested races as follow up.
- B. Each Committee member will be assigned a specific number of races to contact, and if a race decides to bid, then that Committee member will become the liaison with the Selection Committee, and later, if it is awarded a championship, be mentor to that race.
- C. The Committee will develop a sales package that clearly outlines the benefits of hosting a championship and the obligations involved. The package may include incentives for bidding, such as advertising in New England Runner and/or on Coolrunning, or any other opportunities with which the Committee can assist.

II. Eligibility

- A. **Distances:** A USATF-NE Grand Prix Championship Race distance may be 5km, 8km, 5 mile, 10km, 7 mile, 12km, 8 mile, 15km, 10 mile, 20km, Half Marathon, 25km, 30km, 20 mile, Marathon and "Other Distance." An "Other Distance" can be an even metric or mile distance or an odd distance race that has an historical tradition. No race will be shorter than 5k and no longer than the 26.2 mile marathon.
- B. **Number of Races and Required Distances:** The goal is to present 7 races that include distances of 5k, 8 km/5-mile, 10km, and marathon, and the remainder to be intermediate distances and with only one race at a given distance.

III. Selection

A. Rationale for a Change: For a number of years and through the 2009 Grand Prix series, the procedure was to select races for a variety of distances through voting on bidding races at an open meeting of the membership. For the 2010 Grand Prix series, a Grand Prix Selection Committee will solicit and review bids, draw up three potential slates of races, and then submit the slates to be voted on by the membership. The goal is to balance the slate of races through the year and have geographic diversity. The Selection Committee will seek to foster bids from area races, assist in answering questions and discussing opportunities with race directors. Traditionally, the Grand Prix selection meeting has drawn a larger attendance than any other Association meeting, and as such, the Selection Committee will endeavor to keep interest in the slate selection very high.

B. Composition of the Committee: The Grand Prix Selection Committee will consist of up to fifteen members that include: the 3 LDR chairs, the President of the USATF-NE Board and/or one other USATF-NE officer, representatives from Association registered clubs, and a number of at-large members invited by the LDR Committee to ensure that every state in the Association, as well as small running clubs, and the interests of gender and age categories are represented. Clubs and individuals may nominate people for the at-large positions. Individuals can volunteer directly for an at-large position. The LDR chairs will select members in early Spring. The Chair of the Selection Committee will be one of the LDR chairs, as chosen by that group, and all Committee members will be advised of the expectations and goals of the Grand Prix selection process.

C. Selection Process: 1. *Submission of Bids:* Bids for the following year's Grand Prix series will be due at least two weeks in advance of the Bid Presentation Meeting, which will occur on the first Monday in November. Late bids can be disqualified by the Selection Committee by majority vote. The bidding races will be posted on the USATF-NE website at least 10 days prior to the Bid Presentation Meeting with a summary of the salient points of each bid and a link to the race website, if applicable. E-mail or written

comment on a given race or races by the membership will be strongly encouraged and all input will be reviewed by the Selection Committee. Membership involvement is the key to a successful election of a Series slate of races.

2. *The Bid Presentation Meeting*: On the first Monday in November, the Grand Prix Selection Committee will conduct a meeting for review of the bids. The meeting will be open to all members of USATF-NE, and its location and time will be advertised by USATF-NE in its newsletter, on its website, and by other forms of communication with its members, including e-mail at least 14 days in advance. Each bidding race will be allowed 10 minutes for a presentation, either by a bidding race representative, or by an electronic format such as a PowerPoint presentation, and then be available for follow up questions from the Selection Committee, after which questions and comments (including written submissions) from the membership will be taken. After all bidding races have made their presentations and all comments heard from the membership, the meeting will be adjourned with no action taken on the bids at that time.

3. *Grand Prix Slate Selection Meeting*: The Selection Committee will meet on the first Monday after the Bid Presentation Meeting in an open meeting which can be attended by any member of USATF-NE and which will be advertised in the same manner as the Bid Presentation meeting. 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 deliberative. The Committee will discuss and evaluate the merits of each bidding race within the context of the series as a whole. The main rules for selection will follow from historical Grand Prix guidelines: 7 races of given distances with 4 mandatory distances (5km, 5-mile or 8km, 10km, marathon) and 3 other races. The Committee will also consider the following guidelines, as well as other criteria, in making a final selection:

1. Quality of the event (organization, history and tradition, size, amenities, nature of course, distance, prizes and awards, attention to detail, etc.),
2. Location (especially as it relates to the other bidding races -- goal should be at least one race in each New England Association state),
3. Time of year (especially as it relates to other bidding races),
4. Previous number of times a race has been a championship (especially as it relates to encouraging variety in the series),
5. Races being held for the first time will not be selected. Only races that have been sanctioned in the past can bid,
6. Avoiding conflict whenever possible with other major running events, religious and other holidays, or area events that could have an impact on the bid.

The goal in selecting races will be to assemble the best possible series from the bidding races. This selection process is a work in progress and can be altered by the Committee after the 2010 selection process is complete. The Committee will create 3 slates of races based on the guidelines stated in this document. The races chosen for the three slates will be accepted by the Committee either individually or collectively by an absolute majority of the Committee members present (a quorum will be 3/5th of Committee membership).

There can be overlap to the extent that there might be only one or two variations between slates, or they can be entirely different. The composition of the slates will be based on the races bidding at given distances under the guidelines. In the situation where there are no qualified bidders for a given mandatory distance, the three slates, minus the missing race distance, will be voted on as scheduled. Afterwards, the Committee shall solicit bids and vote on them at a separate meeting.

4. *Choosing the slate*: The three slates will be posted on the USATF-NE website and will be voted on by the Association's adult membership, one vote per individual. Online voting will be available for 10 days, from the time the slates are posted on the site. The slate receiving the most numbers of votes (plurality, not absolute majority) will become the series for the following year. In the event of a tie, the Selection Committee will decide the winner. The goal is to have the entire process completed by the end of November.

After the selection process is completed, all the bidders will be informed in writing of their status by the Selection Committee. Races not selected in any given year are invited to re-bid and remain part of the process.