



The Midwest Collegiate Triathlon Conference

CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION

Competition Guide, Rules of Governance and Racing, and Bylaws

Midwest Collegiate Triathlon Conference

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Edited by MECTC

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Based on the Constitution of the WCCTC

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 COLLEGIATE TRIATHLON AND MECTC

The Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (MECTC), founded in 2010, is an association of colleges and universities located in the Mideast United States of America. The MECTC is officially recognized as the governing body for the sport of triathlon at the collegiate level in the Mideast United States of America by United States of America Triathlon (USAT), the national governing body of triathlon in the United States of America.

- 1.1.1 “Mideast United States of America” is defined as the States of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.
- 1.1.2 The States that comprise the “Mideast United States of America” has been defined arbitrarily by the MECTC Executive Board and subject to change via a ruling majority vote of approval by the MECTC Executive Board.

1.2 BACKGROUND

Intercollegiate competition has been a cornerstone of organized athletics in the United States of America for over 100 years. Through collegiate athletics millions of students have been provided with the opportunity to participate in the sport of their choice during college, not only recreationally, but as a developmental ground for Olympic-caliber athletes. Until the late fall of 2005 there had been no concerted effort on the part of triathlon’s national governing body to facilitate the development of the sport of triathlon at the collegiate level (an annual National Collegiate Championship notwithstanding). As such in the spring of 2006, California and western Nevada, representing over 500 student-triathletes, banded together to develop the basic structure for intercollegiate competition for the sport of triathlon. The result was the birth of the West Coast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (WCCTC) which successfully completed the first collegiate races series in the spring of 2006. In response to the WCCTC’s highly successful inaugural season, the MWCTC has formed in the hopes of extending the intercollegiate triathlon racing to the Midwestern USA and beyond. From the growth of USA Triathlon at the collegiate level throughout the Midwest and the MWCTC governing over both the USAT Midwest and Mideast regions, the conference was split in April 2010. This split developed the modified MWCTC and the new MECTC conferences.

1.3 MECTC MISSION STATEMENT

The Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (MECTC) had identified the following mission statement: “The mission of the Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference is to administer, develop, promote, and support the sport of triathlon at the collegiate level within the Mideast United States of America. The MECTC shall achieve these goals in part through a summer and winter competitive race series and championship while also fostering growth at a recreational level, both in the Mideast United States of America and through the support of collegiate Triathlon on a national stage as well.”

To fully achieve these goals, the MWCTC shall:

- Establish a system of membership to certify clubs and individual athletes as members;
- Appoint and supervise governing bodies and positions;
- Facilitate events at the collegiate level that benefit all members;
- Foster and advance communication between clubs and conferences.

1.4 DEFINITIONS

- 1.4.1 MECTC: Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference.
- 1.4.2 USAT: United States of America Triathlon, member of the US Olympic Committee.

- 1.4.3 CC: The Collegiate Committee (CC) is the working group of Collegiate Triathlon tasked by the USAT Board of Directors. The CC maintains the national structure of collegiate triathlon and the manner in which each USAT Conference operates. MECTC School: A triathlon team or club affiliated with and representing a post secondary school accepted into the MECTC.
- 1.4.4 MECTC Athlete: A full-time student on a MECTC School roster in good standing who holds a valid race license issued by USAT.
- 1.4.5 USAT: United States of America Triathlon, the officially recognized national governing body of triathlon.
- 1.4.6 Exec/Board: Executive Board, the primary governing body of the MECTC, composed of one athlete from each MECTC School.
- 1.4.7 Team Rep: A MECTC Athlete who acts as the official representative for his/her school on the Exec.
- 1.4.8 Event: A single scoring opportunity put on by a MECTC School.
- 1.4.9 External Event: A single scoring opportunity put on by any organization other than a MECTC School.
- 1.4.10 Dual Event: Any Event that occurs on the same weekend as another Event.
- 1.4.11 Event Score: Total points accumulated during any one event.
- 1.4.12 School: Post-secondary, degree granting institution.
- 1.4.13 Olympic Distance: An event which does not exceed 1.5km, 40km, 10km for swim, bike, and run distances respectively but has distances greater than 1km, 32km, 8km respectively.
- 1.4.14 Sprint Distance: Any Event for which any one leg of the triathlon is shorter than that of the defined Olympic Distance Standard.
- 1.4.15 Ruling Majority: 75% of the entire vote carrying Exec.
- 1.4.16 Simple Majority: 50% of the entire vote carrying Exec.
- 1.4.17 Race Year: The year starts the day after the Collegiate National Championship of the previous race year, and concludes the day of the Collegiate National Championship.
- 1.4.18 Slot: A single qualification to the Collegiate National Championship. Sometimes referred to as "individual slot".
- 1.4.19 Team slot: 7 slots bundled together and awarded to a single team.

1.5 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

The following goals have been established by the MECTC:

- 1.5.1 Develop competitive triathlon programs in a format that is compatible with extramural and intramural sporting programs at colleges and universities.
- 1.5.2 Organize a yearly official MECTC race season comprised primarily of races hosted by member colleges and universities.
- 1.5.3 Conduct a collegiate Conference Championship in the disciplines covered by MECTC racing programs.
- 1.5.4 Coordinate with external organizations, as appropriate, to support existing collegiate programs and to assist the growth of new collegiate triathlon programs.
- 1.5.5 Facilitate connections between well-respected coaches and MECTC teams.
- 1.5.6 Be the largest introducer of college-aged athletes to the sport of triathlon.

- 1.5.7 Keep the program cost effective because the MECTC deals mainly with college students and beginning racers.
- 1.5.8 Encourage the academic and athletic development of the student-athlete in the sport of triathlon.
- 1.5.9 Allocated qualifications spots to the Collegiate Triathlon National Championship to its members through the guidelines set forth by the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules by USAT.

2 GOVERNANCE

2.1 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OVERVIEW

The Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (MECTC) is governed by an Executive Board composed of one representative from each member school ("Team Reps"). The MECTC governance structure is defined in its bylaws, which are included within this document. The administration of the MECTC is the responsibility of the Conference Director in cooperation with the Executive Board. The Executive Board has the responsibility of developing policy and long-term goals for collegiate triathlon, as well as programs to be implemented, taking the athletes' input and best interests into consideration. Any changes to the MECTC bylaws become effective only after they are ratified by a simple majority of the Executive Board who choose to vote before February 1st. The MECTC Constitution may not supersede the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules set forth by USAT.

2.2 PURPOSE OF CONSTITUTION

The purpose of this document is to provide the rules and regulations for collegiate triathlon competition at the conference-level. Rules for external events are set by the external event organizers.

2.3 ADMINISTRATION

2.1.1 CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

2.1.1.1 The Conference is administered by a Director. The Director is an officer position on the Executive Board and is a volunteer position under the general supervision of the Team Reps and the Collegiate Commissioner.

2.1.1.2 The Conference has an e-mail list to which Team Reps or any team members may subscribe. However, this list shall be used primarily for issuing announcements to, or soliciting information from Team Reps. The directions on how to subscribe to this list shall be conveyed to all teams in the Conference by the Director.

The e-mail list is located at: **PUBLIC HYPERLINK TO GOOGLE GROUP HERE: MECTC GROUP**

The Conference Constitution only need be ratified if substantive changes have been made and are to be voted upon by ***February 1st*** of that race season.

2.1.1.3 The Conference e-mail list may be used for publishing information to members of the Conference all at once.

2.1.1.4 The Conference has a website. This website should be used for publishing information about the Conference, including: contact info, current teams in good standing, the Conference race schedule, race results, press releases, etc.

The Conference website is located at: <http://www.mectc.org/>

2.1.2 COLLEGIATE COMMISSIONER

2.1.2.1 The Collegiate Commissioner is the conference representative to the Collegiate Committee to represent the interests of the members of the MECTC, as well as all other duties outlined in the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules Document.

2.1.2.2 The term served by a Collegiate Commissioner shall be two years, starting on June 1st of each odd numbered year, and running through May 31st of the following odd numbered year, after which he/she is eligible for re-appointment.

2.1.2.3 The Collegiate Commissioner is appointed by the USAT Board of directors, through a recommendation of the MECTC Exec Board, decided by an election. The outgoing commissioner must hold an election in the last spring of his/her term. The election shall consist of a call for nominees, followed by an announcement of the nominees with a call

to vote. A two week time period is given to team reps to respond after the call for nominees and call to vote. The election must start no earlier than April 1st, and end no later than May 15th of the outgoing year. Each team receives one vote, to be submitted by the team rep. The nominee receiving the most votes is then reported to the Collegiate Committee Chair Person by the outgoing commissioner. Be a current athlete and member of a conference club, be a coach officially recognized by a conference club, or be the conference director.

2.1.2.4 The Collegiate Commissioner can be removed by a two thirds vote of the MECTC Exec Board or the Collegiate Committee.

2.1.3 CONFERENCE DIRECTOR

- 2.1.3.1 The Conference Director is tasked with the duties outlined in this section, by the Collegiate Commissioner. The Conference Director will be appointed by the Collegiate Commissioner through a recommendation by the Exec Board, decided by an election process outlined in section 2.3.2.3 above. If the Collegiate Commissioner chooses not to appoint the recommended individual, he/she must provide reasoning deemed acceptable by both the MECTC Exec Board and the Collegiate Committee.
- 2.1.3.2 The Conference Director shall be the individual who plans the series race schedule, administers the Conference Championship, compiles race results, and executes all other duties associated with the aforementioned duties.
- 2.1.3.3 The Conference Director may at anytime appoint other individuals to assist in these duties with approval from the Exec.
- 2.1.3.4 The Conference Director's appointment is for a term of two years with no limit on the number of terms one can serve. If a Director does not choose to continue or if a 2/3 majority of Exec wishes to dismiss the acting Director, Team Reps shall submit candidate recommendations to the Exec. Upon receiving one or more nominations, the Exec shall vote on all the candidates and appoint one as the new Director. The conference director does not need to be a college student nor a member of a MECTC member school.

2.1.4 EXECUTIVE BOARD (EXEC)

- 2.1.4.1 The Exec shall be composed of one member from each MECTC School who will serve as that school's Team Rep to the MECTC and carry that MECTC School's one and only vote on the Exec.
- 2.1.4.2 In the event that an Exec member fails to fulfill his or her duties, namely voting, that school may be removed from the conference.
- 2.1.4.3 The Exec will have the power to amend and edit the constitution as well as finalize the race schedule, so long as any edits or amendments do not conflict with the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules
- 2.1.4.4 The Exec shall also hold the power to form new positions within the conference when needed as determined by a simple majority vote of the Exec.
- 2.1.4.5 The Exec shall be inducted each year at the Collegiate Nationals event. The term of each Team Rep therefore shall last from one Collegiate Nationals to the next.

2.2 MEETINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.2.1 The Exec shall meet, at minimum, twice during each calendar year. The two mandatory meeting dates are those of the Collegiate Nationals Championships and the Conference Championships. A third preferable meeting is at the annual winter triathlon clinic where final bylaw or amendment voting will take place.

- 2.2.2 The Director shall conduct an annual meeting to discuss the issues of the Conference, as well as to schedule the upcoming race season. This meeting shall take place in the Fall or some other time prior to the start of the subsequent competitive season. Thirty (30) days prior to the meeting a written notice must be given to each club informing them of the time and location. Written notice may be sent via US Mail or may take the form of an email sent via the MECTC email list. The time and location of said meeting is solely at the discretion of the Director but should attempt to accommodate as many member schools as possible.
- 2.2.3 Clubs may request agenda items no later than two weeks prior to the meeting. If requested, the agenda shall be distributed to all Team Reps one week prior to the meeting.
- 2.2.4 On each issue brought to a vote, each school shall receive only one vote. Said vote is to be made only by the officially recognized Team Rep. In cases where the recognized Team Rep cannot be present, the meeting representative for the team needs to be determined before the meeting.
- 2.2.5 The Director shall vote only in case of a tie.
- 2.2.6 The Director may call additional meetings if necessary.

2.3 CONFERENCE FINANCES

- 2.3.1 The Director may receive financial assistance, made available through the Conference account to offset expenses incurred for the administration of the Conference.
- 2.3.2 The Director may apply for funding through the Collegiate Committee.
- 2.3.3 The Conference may adopt late fees and/or athlete surcharges (on race entry fees) that go directly to the Conference.
- 2.3.4 The MECTC may not charge dues to its members.
- 2.3.5 Invoices and/or receipts will be provided upon request.
- 2.3.6 The Director shall prepare a year-end financial statement for the Conference. The fiscal year runs from the conclusion of Collegiate Nationals through Collegiate Nationals the following year. The financial statement shall be sent to each Team Rep or the Director may choose to present the statement at the annual Conference meeting.
- 2.3.7 Any Conference fees/surcharges must be included in the financial statement prepared by the Director.
- 2.3.8 If any monies remain at the end of the fiscal year, the Team Reps must approve how those monies are to be spent (e.g. scholarships for athletes, support for athletes attending National Championship events, Conference-owned equipment for other Conference uses, subsidizing individual travel costs for Board members traveling to Conference-related meetings or training, conference clinic).

2.4 CORRESPONDENCES AND COMMUNICATION

2.4.1 E-Mail List-Serves

- 2.4.1.1 The conference shall have two primary list-serves.
- 2.4.1.2 One list-serve shall be for members of the Exec to be used for official correspondence among the two parties' members.
- 2.4.1.3 The second list-serve shall be for all members of the conference as general mailing list to which only the Exec can send messages out to. This list is for conference wide announcements such as race schedules, ranking reports, etc.
- 2.4.1.4 Under no circumstance shall the mailing lists be sold to any outside party or individual.

2.4.1.5 All race results shall be sent via e-mail, not via standard mail unless otherwise designated by the conference director.

2.4.2 Website

2.4.2.1 The website shall, at minimum, include the current season's race schedule, official website of each member school, series standings/rankings for both individuals and teams, and hyperlinks to all series races and conference sponsors.

2.4.2.2 The website shall be administered by the Exec or another individual appointed by the Conference Director or the Exec

2.4.2.3 The official website shall be located at <http://www.mectc.org/>

3 MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Teams

- 3.1.1 Each MECTC team must be officially recognized as an official student organization by its post-secondary school and a registered club/organization with USAT. Proof of team registration shall be made available to the Director upon request.
- 3.1.2 MECTC teams must apply for membership each year by filling out the MECTC team application. MECTC team applications may be found on the MECTC website or obtained from the Conference Director. All membership applications must be submitted to the Director before **January 1st** of each year.
- 3.1.3 MECTC teams are required to be located in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, or Ohio. Teams outside this area may apply for an exception, but must first explore joining the USAT Conference representing that area. All petitions for exceptions must be sent to the Director and is subject to final approval by USAT.
- 3.1.4 If a team wishes to join the Conference after **January 1st** they must petition the Director and comply with all rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility prior to inclusion.
- 3.1.5 Any team joining after **January 1st** will not be able to vote on Conference-related issues until the following race season and only if that team remains in the Conference.

3.2 Athletes

- 3.2.1 MECTC individual members must be full-time students and in good standing, as defined by the Bursar Office or Office of the Registrar at the member's post-secondary school.
- 3.2.2 Upon graduation, a registered MECTC team member can continue racing in MECTC conference races that have public waves but will NOT be included in the collegiate wave or the collegiate scoring.
- 3.2.3 Individual MECTC members must remain in good standing with the MECTC team at their school. A team may disqualify any member of their own team from scoring in an event for any reason.
- 3.2.4 Individuals must be assigned an official MECTC number to score at a Conference event.
- 3.2.5 Receipt of a MECTC number is required prior to any race for which an individual wishes to score for a team. In no case shall this rule be waived or shall numbers be made retroactive for scoring purposes.
- 3.2.6 MECTC numbers are assigned by the Director prior to the beginning of each race season and must be reassigned every year. MECTC numbers are not transferred from year to year. A returning MECTC member will receive a new number each year they participate in Conference events.
- 3.2.7 Any individual using a false or expired number shall be found ineligible and disqualified from scoring at that event. Flagrant and/or repeated offense of this rule may result in disqualification for the entire Race Season.
- 3.2.8 Teams with new members joining after the race season has begun may submit a request for new MECTC numbers for those members no later than the 5 days prior to the Conference event for which that member wishes to score.

- 3.2.9 Proof of active full-time status shall be submitted to Team Reps for each team member prior to the team roster being sent to the Director for issuance of MECTC numbers. At any time during a race season the Director may ask for current proof of an individual's academic status or standing. Failure to provide proof of academic standing will result in disqualification of that individual's points for the entire season, pursuant to Section 4.1.5.
- 3.2.10 Team Reps are responsible for collecting and sending to the Director any team fees and proof of full-time enrollment upon request during the race season.

4 ELIGIBILITY

4.1 OVERALL ELIGIBILITY FOR CONFERENCE RACING

- 4.1.1 Teams must be members in good standing with USA Triathlon to compete in MECTC events.
- 4.1.2 To participate in MECTC events, athletes must be MECTC individual members as defined in Section 3.1.
- 4.1.3 Athletes must race for the school at which they are enrolled. Teams that allow athletes from non-MECTC schools to join their team shall not submit those individuals to the Director for Conference numbers for MECTC event scoring purposes.
- 4.1.4 All athletes must present a USAT license to compete, or must purchase a one-day license to compete in a Collegiate event. Annual and one day licenses can be obtained at events. This rule will not be enforced by the Conference unless an individual MECTC event has been sanctioned by the USAT. Sanctioning of an event is the sole discretion of the event's Race Director.
- 4.1.5 Any ineligible athlete shall forfeit his/her points; the team must also forfeit all points earned by that ineligible athlete. Whereas, if an ineligible athlete scores in the top 4 for a MECTC school, that individual shall be removed from the results and the team will only earn points from their school's top 3 scoring athletes.
- 4.1.6 Schools that have more than one geographically separate campus, each of which grants a separate degree, must develop a separate MECTC team for each campus location. Further clarification can be found in the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules.
- 4.1.7 No school or team shall develop eligibility requirements that may unduly hamper or deny any student from participating on a team during regular season events when the student is otherwise qualified.
- 4.1.8 Professional triathletes and former professional triathletes shall be allowed to compete in MECTC events, subject to proof of eligibility.
- 4.1.9 International students are eligible to compete in all MECTC events, as long as they meet the above mentioned eligibility requirements.
- 4.1.10 In order to be eligible for conference races, one must be currently enrolled full time at the university their club represents and currently taking classes, or is in-between two adjacent academic terms not including summer. In addition to that criteria, one is also eligible for conference races for a 6 month period following their graduation with an accredited degree. This 6 month period is voided if the athlete enrolls in classes at another academic institution, as defined in the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules document, at which point they can only race under their new institution.
 - 2.4.2.4 Example: One is enrolled full time spring term, and Fall term, they are eligible to race. One is an incoming freshman or transfer student, he/she is not eligible until classes start.
 - 2.4.2.5 Example: If one graduates from university A in the Spring, and begins graduate school at university B in the autumn, they must begin racing for university B once classes start in autumn term at university B.

4.1.10.1.1 Definition: "Term" is the period of time in which the school typically can offer a full class; i.e. fall semester (or quarter), spring semester or summer semester. It is not constrained by the actual start and end dates for the classes offered but by the months in which the classes start and end.

4.2 TEAM STATUS

- 4.2.1 Sponsorship of a team is allowed with the condition that the income from the sponsor goes to the entire team and not directly to any specific individual. Teams may decide how to allocate their sponsorship.
- 4.2.2 A school uniform is not required for conference racing, although it is required for the collegiate national championship, through the guidelines outlined by the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules.

4.3 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 4.3.1 Disciplinary actions are implemented by the Director during the Race Season in accordance to the procedures and limitations approved and included within the Constitution.
- 4.3.2 Due process must be followed in imposing any discipline, including fair notice and an opportunity for the offender to present evidence in his or her defense.
- 4.3.3 Violation may be reported to the Director by USAT officials, Team Reps, coaches, or any individual member of the Conference within 24 hours of the event.
- 4.3.4 The MECTC may suspend any participant or team from competition for repeated violation of Conference rules. Suspensions may be any length, but no longer than through the end of the next racing season.

4.4 COLLEGIATE NATIONALS ELIGIBILITY (BASED ON THE COLLEGIATE TRIATHLON BYLAWS AND RULES)

- 4.4.1 One must be in good standing with their registered collegiate club, and the academic institution it represents
- 4.4.2 One must be enrolled full time during the spring term of the year of the National Championship, OR, must have been enrolled full time in the previous fall or winter AND graduated with an accredited degree.
- 4.4.3 One must be 28 years old on the day of Collegiate Nationals or under.
- 4.4.4 An Athlete must have competed in one collegiate race. Incoming freshman may fulfill this by competing in the non-scoring (age group) category of a collegiate race.
- 4.4.5 Examples:
 - 4.4.5.1 Someone was part time in the spring and graduate in the spring would NOT be eligible.
 - 4.4.5.2 Someone who was part time in the fall and graduate in the fall would NOT be eligible.
 - 4.4.5.3 Someone who was full time in the fall and graduate in the fall would be eligible.

4.4.5.4 Someone who does a co-op or internship in the spring and does NOT register for a class or any other status with their school where the university still recognizes them as a full time student would NOT be eligible.

5 COLLEGIATE EVENTS

5.1 RULES

- 5.1.1 MECTC requires that Conference events follow the racing rules of USA Triathlon. Although safety issues have been reviewed, it is still the athletes' responsibility to familiarize themselves with all rules and safety measures in effect for each individual event. All Conference events must be USAT Sanctioned.
- 5.1.2 Prizes in the form of cash may not be awarded to an individual competing in a conference event, but may be awarded to the team of any individual competing in the event. The team may do with the awarded as it wishes.
- 5.1.3 Official MECTC events may have non-collegiate divisions.
- 5.1.4 Any previous Conference Omnium Champion should be acknowledged before the start of the season at the Collegiate Nationals race.

5.2 SEASON AND CALENDAR

- 5.2.1 The MECTC race season is composed of races approved by the Exec to be part of the official Race Season. These races may be events hosted by member schools or external events either affiliated or unaffiliated with a member schools.
- 5.2.2 The Conference may set the dates during which the official race season may occur.
- 5.2.3 Only one official Conference event may occur on any given weekend, unless an exception to this rule is approved by the Board prior to the beginning of the race season. Dual races should only be approved in special circumstances to accommodate schools separated by large geographic distances (i.e. 300 miles or more) that can demonstrate undue hardship in altering a requested race date. Dual races have special scoring criteria (see Section 5.7.2). External races are not allowed to be on the same weekend as a MECTC school conference race.
- 5.2.4 **Summer Race Season**
 - 5.2.4.1 The official race season for the summer race season will be from the day after the Collegiate National Championship, through October.
 - 5.2.4.2 The summer race season will exclusively include outdoor-based triathlons. Any triathlons performed solely inside will count within the winter/indoor racing season.
- 5.2.5 **Winter/Indoor Racing Season**
 - 5.2.5.1 The official race season for the winter/indoor racing season will be from November through February.
 - 5.2.5.2 The winter/indoor racing season will consist of any indoor triathlon put on by an MECTC recognized team.
 - 5.2.5.3 Only indoor triathlons associated with an MECTC team will be eligible for holding an official MECTC race during the winter/indoor racing season.

5.3 RACE SELECTION PROCESS

5.3.1 Schools planning to host a race must notify the Director of the proposed date by January 1st for the summer racing schedule and by October 1st for the winter/indoor racing schedule. An official race bid shall be submitted to the Director and priority shall be given to those schools whose requests for specific dates are received first and those who are repeating an annual event. Race bids should contain the following information: Event name, Race Director's contact information, costs, distances, race maps, estimated wave start times, as well as a preferred alternative race date if possible.

5.3.2 Conference Championships Selection

5.3.2.1 Official bids to host the annual Conference Championship for the following race season must be submitted to the Director by **January 1st**. As an official USAT Conference, the MECTC Championship race must be a USAT sanctioned event.

5.3.2.2 Location

5.3.2.2.1 The location of the Conference Championship event shall be on neutral ground and if feasible held in the same location every year.

5.3.2.2.2 The distance traveled by each school should be as close to equal as physically possible. In other words, no member school should have to travel a distance vastly longer than another member school.

5.3.2.2.3 The location chosen should allow for an open water swim. No pool swims will be used for this event.

5.3.2.3 Date

5.3.2.3.1 The date chosen for the race shall be sometime between **September 1st** and **October 15th** inclusively.

5.3.2.3.2 The event must fall on a weekend.

5.3.2.4 Distance

5.3.2.4.1 The distance of the Conference Championship shall be no shorter than 1.2K, 35K, 8K for the swim, bike, and run respectively and no longer than 1.5K, 40K, and 10K respectively.

5.3.3 External Events Selection

5.3.3.1 External Events that wish to be part of the official calendar must also notify the Director by **January 1st**.

5.3.3.2 Races affiliated with an MECTC recognized team have priority over external events when determining race schedule; except for Conference Championships and Collegiate Nationals.

5.3.3.3 Excluding Conference Championships and Collegiate Nationals; at minimum, 80% of races in summer race schedule need to be affiliated with an MECTC recognized team. No external events are permitted in the Winter/Indoor Triathlon Schedule.

5.3.3.4 External events are eligible to be added to the calendar if the external event:

- 5.3.3.4.1 Recognizes the MECTC as the governing body of collegiate triathlon in the Mideast United States
 - 5.3.3.4.2 Agrees to follow MECTC scoring procedures if they announce or publish team results.
 - 5.3.3.4.3 Provides a discount to the normal entry fees in compliance with Section 5.5: Fees.
 - 5.3.3.4.4 The Collegiate Division must have its own wave start(s). However, Race Directors may allow Elite or Professional level athletes to start with the Collegiate Division if there is no other appropriate wave or start time to accommodate these athletes.
 - 5.3.3.4.5 Collegiate athletes may not be bumped out of the Collegiate Division results for any reason (such as placing high overall) other than for disqualification.
 - 5.3.3.4.6 The Board may vote to exempt a race from any of these regulations.
- 5.3.4 The Director will compile a proposed race calendar, including any proposed dual races, and submit a final season race schedule to the Exec for approval by ***February 1st*** for the summer schedule and ***October 1st*** for the winter/indoor schedule.

5.4 DISTANCES

- 5.4.1 Suggested minimum event distances: ***Swim***: 400 meters; ***Bike***: 15 kilometers; ***Run***: 5 kilometers
- 5.4.2 Conference Championships MUST consist of an event with *minimum* distances of: ***Swim***: 800 meters; ***Bike***: 15 kilometers, ***Run***: 5 kilometers, but shall not exceed a *maximum* of: ***Swim***: 1500 meters, ***Bike***: 40 kilometers, ***Run***: 10 kilometers.

5.5 FEES

- 5.5.1 The Conference has capped entry fees for the collegiate division at Conference events. MECTC races are capped at:

Sprint: \$45

International / Olympic: \$60
- 5.5.2 Third party online registration/processing fees (i.e. Active.com) are exempt as long as mail-in entries are also accepted.
- 5.5.3 Late fees may be established at the discretion of the host team's Race Director, but shall not exceed \$10. For the MECTC collegiate division, late fees shall only be made effective a *maximum* of 2 weeks prior to the event.

5.6 RESULTS

- 5.6.1 The results of each Conference race must be sent to the Director within two weeks of the event unless otherwise specified and approved by the Director prior to the start of the race. The Director or his/her designee will compile the results and will have point totals available within two weeks of receiving the race results.

- 5.6.2 The Conference Championship race shall be scored in compliance with Section 5.7 below.
- 5.6.3 The Director shall provide the overall awards for Conference Championships. Team membership fees shall be used to purchase or subsidize the purchase of Conference awards.

5.7 CONFERENCE SCORING

- 5.7.1 The following table determines how many events count toward the team and individual omnium. If possible, the season shall balance the number of races located in the western and eastern regions of the Conference.

(Total # of Races, # Scores Counted) – Per Respective Season (Summer and Winter/Indoor)

- (1, 1)
- (2, 2)
- (3, 2)
- (4, 3)
- (5, 3)
- (6, 4)
- (7, 4)
- (8, 5)
- (9, 5)
- (10, 6)
- (11, 6)
- (12, 7)
- (13, 7)
- (14, 8)
- (15, 8)
- (16, 9)
- (17, 9)
- (18, 10)
- (19, 10)
- (20, 11)

- 5.7.2 If an event is cancelled after it has been scheduled on the conference race schedule, it will no longer be counted in the total number of Races for that season.
- 5.7.3 The Conference may vote to allow bonuses such as double at Conference events. If approved, bonuses would be applied to both the individual and team scores.

5.7.3.1 Points will be worth double at the annual MECTC Championships and half during the Winter/Indoor Triathlon season compared to regular summer races. Winter/Indoor Triathlons are not counted towards any qualification points for the Collegiate National Championship.

5.7.3.2 Race Point Scoring Breakdown

| | Pts to 1 st place individual | Pts to 1 st place team |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Conference Championships | 400 | 200 |
| Regular Summer Races | 200 | 100 |
| Winter/Indoor Races | 100 | 50 |

- 5.7.4 Dual Races: To account for a diluted competitive field, dual races are scored half as deep as normal events in individual competition, using the point values from odd placings only. (1st place gets 1st place points, 2nd place gets 3rd place points, 3rd place gets 5th place points, etc.). Team scoring is unchanged. This rule is in effect for every season where dual race weekends are approved by the Board. Dual race weekends must be approved prior to the start of the race season.
- 5.7.5 Two Racing Distances at a single event: If a MECTC race offers two different collegiate distances (i.e. a collegiate sprint and Olympic distance triathlon) the larger of the two races (the Olympic) will be the point-scoring race for the MECTC and the other race will run without individuals from the MECTC scoring. If this is the case the point scoring collegiate wave needs to be promoted as the MECTC Collegiate Division and the other race distance as the Collegiate Wave only to avoid any confusion on which distance will help in MECTC scoring.
- 5.7.6 The MECTC scores a maximum of **four** male participants and **four** female participants per school toward the team total. Other participants from that school displace other competitors; they retain the points as individuals but the points are not awarded to the team. Totaling a team's individual points to the given depth determines each team's placing at each event. Team points are then awarded based on these placings.
- 5.7.7 **CONFERENCE TEAM POINTS**
Team points at each race are awarded on a linear scale.

| Place | Points |
|-------|--------|
| 1 | 100 |
| 2 | 90 |
| 3 | 80 |
| 4 | 70 |
| 5 | 60 |
| 6 | 50 |
| 7 | 40 |
| 8 | 30 |
| 9 | 20 |
| 10 | 10 |

5.7.8 **CONFERENCE INDIVIDUAL POINTS**

Individual points at each race are awarded on a linear scale based on the following formula:

$$\text{Points}(p) = F - [(F/50) * (P-1)]$$

- F = # of points given to 1st place: 200 pts for championship, 100 Summer Races, 50 Indoor Races
- D = depth of scoring: **Top 50 places for each Gender**
- P = the place of each competitor

| Place | Conference Championship Points | Summer Triathlon Points | Winter/Indoor Triathlon Points |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 200 | 100 | 50 |
| 2 | 196 | 98 | 49 |
| 3 | 192 | 96 | 48 |
| 4 | 188 | 94 | 47 |
| 5 | 184 | 92 | 46 |
| 6 | 180 | 90 | 45 |
| 7 | 176 | 88 | 44 |
| 8 | 172 | 86 | 43 |
| 9 | 168 | 84 | 42 |
| 10 | 164 | 82 | 41 |
| 11 | 160 | 80 | 40 |
| 12 | 156 | 78 | 39 |
| 13 | 152 | 76 | 38 |
| 14 | 148 | 74 | 37 |
| 15 | 144 | 72 | 36 |
| 16 | 140 | 70 | 35 |
| 17 | 136 | 68 | 34 |
| 18 | 132 | 66 | 33 |
| 19 | 128 | 64 | 32 |
| 20 | 124 | 62 | 31 |
| 21 | 120 | 60 | 30 |
| 22 | 116 | 58 | 29 |
| 23 | 112 | 56 | 28 |
| 24 | 108 | 54 | 27 |
| 25 | 104 | 52 | 26 |
| 26 | 100 | 50 | 25 |
| 27 | 96 | 48 | 24 |
| 28 | 92 | 46 | 23 |
| 29 | 88 | 44 | 22 |
| 30 | 84 | 42 | 21 |
| 31 | 80 | 40 | 20 |
| 32 | 76 | 38 | 19 |
| 33 | 72 | 36 | 18 |
| 34 | 68 | 34 | 17 |
| 35 | 64 | 32 | 16 |
| 36 | 60 | 30 | 15 |
| 37 | 56 | 28 | 14 |
| 38 | 52 | 26 | 13 |
| 39 | 48 | 24 | 12 |
| 40 | 44 | 22 | 11 |
| 41 | 40 | 20 | 10 |
| 42 | 36 | 18 | 9 |
| 43 | 32 | 16 | 8 |
| 44 | 28 | 14 | 7 |
| 45 | 24 | 12 | 6 |
| 46 | 20 | 10 | 5 |
| 47 | 16 | 8 | 4 |
| 48 | 12 | 6 | 3 |
| 49 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 50 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

6 COLLEGIATE NATIONALS QUALIFICATION

6.1 OVERVIEW

- 6.1.1 The MECTC is awarded qualification slots to the Collegiate National Championship by the Collegiate Committee, which are to be allocated to its members based on a competitive race schedule.
- 6.1.2 A slot allocation only gives the team the ability to register one of a team's members for the collegiate national championship. Once given a slot, the team will register through USAT's website. At that point the conference no longer has any control or bearing of the transaction. It is a transaction between USAT and the collegiate club, and the conference is no longer involved, and cannot give any refunds or registration transfers.
- 6.1.3 The basic requirements for slot allocation from the Collegiate Triathlon Bylaws and Rules require that the conference:
 - 6.1.3.1 80% of Slots must be allocated via the Conference Team Omnium in the form of "Team Slots" (packages of 7 individual slots given to a single team).
 - 6.1.3.2 10% of assigned slots be distributed to via roll down of individual omnium.
 - 6.1.3.3 The remaining 10% be held initially for special distribution (e.g. extraneous cases) and later re-assigned to Individual allocation
 - 6.1.3.4 If any team slots remain after the team allocation via the team omnium, those slots will be re-assigned to Individual allocation.
 - 6.1.3.5 A team awarded a team slot allocation (7 slots), is not committed to using all of those, and should notify the Collegiate Commissioner before February 15th if they do not intend on using any of their slots. They can then be redistributed through the individual omnium.
 - 6.1.3.6 Regardless of how a slot allocation was earned (individual or team), the slot is awarded to the team who may fill it with any eligible member on the team. However, in order to be eligible for Nationals one must have competed in one collegiate race in the same "race year (1.4.17)" of the national championship they wish to compete in. Incoming freshman may fulfill this requirement by racing in a collegiate event in the non-scoring (age group) division.
 - 6.1.3.7 A team may be awarded bonus slots on top of a team slot by the conference, but in no case shall a team be awarded more than 12 spots total (team +individual) per gender.
 - 6.1.3.8 Only one team from a school may be entered in the National Championship, even if the school is capable of entering multiple teams.
 - 6.1.3.9 The Exec/Board has the power to amend or add any further criteria on top of the basic requirements.
- 6.1.4 Scoring for teams and individuals for the Conference Championships and Conference Omnium will follow scoring procedures. (section 5.7)
- 6.1.5 Entities that are up for qualifying include male teams, female teams, individual males, and individual females.

- 6.1.6 The specific number of eligible points the MECTC has for distribution to its teams and individuals is determined by the Collegiate Committee between August 1st and September 1st.
- 6.1.7 At Max: a team can only qualify 12 males and 12 females.
- Individual Male Qualification = 1 Male spot for just that individual
Individual Female Qualification = 1 Female spot for just that individual
Male Team Qualification = 7 Male spots to be determined by team
Female Team Qualification = 7 Female spots to be determined by team
- 6.1.8 Individuals can only qualify in one manner with other spots rolling down to next unqualified spot. Any individual may not be responsible for earning his/her team more than one slot allocation.
- 6.1.8.1 If a team is awarded a team slot allocation, that team's top 7 members will be ignored in the individual omnium and the conference championship individual results for the purpose of slot allocation.
- 6.1.8.2 A team may not be awarded a team slot through both the conference championship and the conference omnium. Once awarded a team slot through the conference championship, the team will be ignored in the team omnium for the purpose of slot allocation.
- 6.1.8.3 If a team is awarded a team slot allocation, that team may still earn 5 additional slots through their 8-12th place members in the individual omnium, and their 8-12th place members in the Conference Championship individual results.
- 6.1.9 Qualification will come through direct qualification at the Conference Championships and through the Conference Omnium point scoring directly after the last summer race.

6.2 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP – NATIONALS QUALIFICATION

- 6.2.1 The number of slots allocated for direct qualification through the Conference Championships is based on the total number of slots the conference receives (6.1.6).
- 6.2.1.1 Between 15%-25% of the total slots received by the conference, will be awarded directly at the conference championship. Those slots will be split roughly 80/20 between team slots and individual slots.

6.3 CONFERENCE OMNIUM STANDINGS – NATIONALS QUALIFICATION

- 6.3.1 All conference individual and team spots for Collegiate Nationals not distributed at the Conference Championships will be allocated through the Conference Omnium Standings from just the Summer Race Schedule (from the conclusion of Collegiate Nationals to the last summer race).
- 6.3.2 Conference team and individual standings will be kept in accordance to scoring and procedures. (Section 5.7)
- 6.3.3 Final spots will be distributed following the final race of the Summer Racing Season.

6.4 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- 6.4.1 If a team has any individual slots that it does not intend on filling them, the team should notify the Collegiate Commissioner or Conference Director by February 15th. If a team has already registered and purchased the slot, it can no longer be transferred and the conference does not have the ability to re-allocate it. The conference does not have the power to grant any refunds or transfers of a registration. USAT's current policy is to not grant any refunds or transfers once the transaction has taken place. So a team should only purchase an awarded slot if it intends to fill it.

7 CONFERENCE AWARDS

7.1 CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

7.1.1 There will be a Conference Champion award in the following categories:

- Individual Male – Top 3 Places
- Individual Female – Top 3 Places
- Team Male – 1st Place
- Team Female – 1st Place
- (Co-Ed) Team Male + Female – 1st Place

7.2 CONFERENCE OMNIUM AWARDS

7.2.1 Conference Omnium Scoring include all races throughout the fiscal year ending at Collegiate Nationals (Summer and Winter/Indoor Race schedule combined).

7.2.2 Men's and women's individual MECTC championship titles shall be determined based on the season's omnium point totals. A plaque is awarded to first place, and gold, silver and bronze medals awarded to first through fifth places.

7.2.3 The MECTC team title shall be determined based on the season's omnium point totals. At minimum, a large plaque or trophy is awarded to the first place, and (if possible) smaller awards/plaques are given to second and third places.

7.2.4 In the case of a tie on total points, the tie will be broken in the favor of the athlete or team that has:

- The most first place finishes or, if still tied, the most second place finishes, the most third place finishes, etc., or if still tied;
- The highest placing in the last race, or the race nearest the last race of the omnium in which at least one of the tied athletes or teams placed.

7.2.5 The Conference awards shall be distributed at Collegiate Nationals every year. Collegiate Nationals will be the last race recorded into the Conference Omnium standings.

7.2.6 It is the responsibility of the Director to obtain all team and individual awards. The Director, or a designated representative, must be in attendance to distribute year-end awards.

8 BYLAWS

8.1 NAME, PURPOSE, AFFILIATION

- 8.1.1 The name of this organization shall be the "Mideast Collegiate Triathlon Conference (MECTC)".
- 8.1.2 The purpose of the MECTC shall be to promote competitive triathlon for students at colleges, universities, and similar degree-granting institutions in the Mideast United States.
- 8.1.3 The MECTC shall be an association of the post-secondary schools located in the Mideast with the Mideast United States.
- 8.1.4 The MECTC shall be an official organizational branch of United States of America Triathlon (USAT) though independent of said parent organization.

8.2 EMBLEM

- 8.2.1 No person or organization may use the name or emblem of the MECTC in advertising, soliciting good or services, or promotions without the EXPRESS WRITTEN consent of the MECTC Executive Board and Conference Director.

8.3 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- 8.3.1 The governance of the MECTC shall be vested in its Executive Board. The members of the Board shall consist of one representative, Team Rep., from each Conference school.
- 8.3.2 Team Reps serve a one-year term, beginning with the annual submission of the MECTC Team Membership Application, as set forth in the Membership section. In the event a Team Rep resigns before his or her term has expired or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term, the team must immediately fill the position with another member.
- 8.3.3 Official business may be conducted over the Internet, using online voting tools.
- 8.3.4 The Board shall have the following standing committee(s).
 - 8.3.4.1 The Rules Committee shall be responsible for creating, interpreting, and amending the rules under which MECTC competitions are held. The Director shall, with advice of the Board, interpret the racing rules in periods between meetings.
- 8.3.5 The Board may establish, regulate and disband other committees as necessary to achieve the purpose of the MECTC.
- 8.3.6 The Board may set other requirements for its committees as needed.

8.4 AMENDMENTS

- 8.4.1 The Director may amend at an official meeting of the board subject to a ruling majority vote of the Exec in favor of ratification.
- 8.4.2 Any Executive Board Member may propose an amendment. Such a proposal shall be submitted in writing at least fifteen days prior to the Board meeting at which it is to be voted upon. The amendment must include:

- The name of the proposal
- The reason for the proposal
- The affect of the proposal, if adopted
- And a version of the portions of the bylaws to be amended that indicates what is to be added, what is to be deleted, and what is to be changed.

9 MECTC CHAMPIONS

9.1 INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM OMNIUM CHAMPIONS

9.1.1 2009-2010 MECTC Overall Omnium Champions
Combined Team: **Men:** **Women:**
Individual Male: **Individual Female:**

9.1.2 2010-2011 MECTC Overall Omnium Champions
Combined Team: **Men:** **Women:**
Individual Male: **Individual Female:**

9.2 TEAM CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP RACE WINNERS

9.2.1 2009 Champions
Combined Team: University of Illinois **Men:** Michigan State **Women:** Purdue University
Individual Male: Colin Riley - Dayton **Individual Female:** Erin Anderson - Iowa

9.2.2 2010 Champions
Combined Team: **Men:** **Women:**
Individual Male: **Individual Female:**

10 CURRENT MWCTC DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

10.1 MECTC Director – Matthew Swartz, matthew.c.swartz@gmail.com, (614) 306-5049