

September LDR Meeting will vote on Changes to LDR Age Group Criteria.

The fall LDR meeting will debate and vote on two rule change proposals at the Fall USATF-NJ LDR meeting Wednesday, September 29th that could effect how age groups are determined for the 2011 NBGP year. The two proposals attempt to address issues on how to deal with age group changes. This item is on the agenda for the fall meeting rather than the first meeting in 2011 since the outcome may effect how the 2011 NBGP year is scored.

Proposed Rule Changes Individual Grand Prix Proposal 1:

F. Masters Athletes who change age groups during a calendar year:

1. An athlete's age on January 1 will determine his/her NBGP age group for that entire year, except as otherwise permitted in F.2 below.
2. An athlete who changes age-groups after Jan 1 during any calendar year may be scored in his/her NEW age group for that year ONLY if he/she request, in writing (within email is preferred) to the USATF-NJ office, PRIOR to January 1 of the competitive year, that his/her name be moved into the new age group as of his/her birthday that year. In so doing, the athlete understands and agrees that his/her total NBGP scoring for the year will not begin until his/her birthday. *Athletes who join USATF-NJ as a new member after the deadline requirement who wish to compete in there new age group must request to be scored in his/her New age group, in writing to the USATF-NJ office, Prior to competing in any Grand Prix event as a USATF-NJ member. Scoring will not begin until his/her birthday.*
3. The above policy applies only to NBGP scoring, not to individual and team Masters Championship placing in any race. Masters place in their age division according to their age on race day.

The first proposal leaves the existing rules in place and addresses the issue of new members coming into the association and gives them the opportunity to decide which age group they may enter prior to competing in any NBGP race.

Proposed Rule Changes Individual Grand Prix Proposal 2:

F. Masters Athletes who change age groups during a calendar year:

1. An athlete's age on **December 31st of the competitive** year will determine his/her NBGP age group for that entire year.
2. The above policy applies only to NBGP scoring, not to individual and team Masters Championship placing in any race. Masters place in their age division according to their age on race day.

This proposed rule change is more sweeping in nature and places all runners within their New age group. There would be no holding of points until the runner ages into the age division. Theoretically a runner that turns 40 on December 31, 2011 could win the Masters 40-44 age division having competed as a 39 year old runner the entire year.

The September 29th LDR meeting is also the time for submission of proposals from USATF-NJ members for NBGP Individual and Team rule changes for 2011. The proposals will be reviewed and will then be voted on at the first LDR meeting in 2011. If you would like to propose a rule change, please come to the meeting with a written proposal and any supporting data and analysis for consideration.