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Policy on Sanctioning RAAM Qualifier Events

Background

The UMCA sanctions a set of RAAM qualifiers for several reasons:

- a) Qualifying for the Race Across AMerica provides a challenging goal for many riders, even if for financial, logistical, or other reasons, some never make it to the RAAM starting line. Being "RAAM Qualified" holds high status in itself.
- b) A qualifying system provides objective standards to allow riders to compete in RAAM, not subject to decisions by the RAAM Director which may be perceived as unfair.
- c) Although no qualifying system is perfect, the current one does provide an opportunity for riders to test whether they are ready for RAAM, and to do so in the context of competitors.

Policy

On February 19, 2004 the Board of Directors has adopted this Policy on Sanctioning RAAM Qualifiers by a vote of 13-0, with two abstentions. As specified in the UMCA, Inc. Bylaws, Article 4, Section 10, the Board has delegated to the Managing Director the responsibility to sanction RAAM qualifiers. To help promote challenging qualifiers with good fields, the Managing Director will use the following criteria for sanctioning qualifiers:

- 1) **Rules:** All qualifiers must have a published set of rules and must obey the traffic laws. RAAM-style qualifiers which require a Personal Support Vehicle must comply with RAAM rules including no drafting and proper use of a personal support vehicle.
- 2) **Duration:** A qualifier must be at least 400 miles (or 24 hours) long.
- 3) **Drafting:** RAAM qualifiers are non-drafting events.
- 4) **Field:** If an event draws fewer than five solo starters, it will be on probation the next year to demonstrate its ability to draw a good field. If for two successive years an event does not have a starting field of at least five solo riders the UMCA may withdraw sanctioning. Riders who ride a sanctioned qualifier are still eligible to qualify, even if fewer than five solo racers start the event.
- 5) **Membership:** In a RAAM qualifier all solo and tandem riders must be UMCA members. Relay team riders do not need to be UMCA members.
- 6) **Officiating:** A qualifier must have adequate officiating, at a minimum three separate officials: one with the lead riders, one with the middle of the field and one with the rear. A qualifier that draws a large field or has an extended course or duration may require more officials in order to achieve adequate officiating.
- 7) **Insurance:** The organizers of a qualifier must have liability insurance with the UMCA, Inc. named as an additional insured.
- 8) **Sanctioning:** The UMCA will sanction one qualifier per section of the country / continent in a given season. No new qualifier will be sanctioned that would take place within approximately 1000 miles and two months of an existing qualifier.

9) Appeals: If a rider believes that a race official has made a decision that a) violated the event rules and b) was unfair to the rider and c) affected the rider's qualifying for RAAM then the rider may appeal the decision to the UMCA, using the UMCA's Appeals Policy.

Implementation

Given the importance of the RAAM qualifiers, the UMCA actively supports these events. The Managing Director and the Board Representative of the RAAM Qualifier Directors are delegated responsibility to develop procedures to implement the above policy and to provide the services below. In developing these procedures, they will consult with the RAAM Qualifier Directors.

UMCA Responsibilities

The UMCA will support the Qualifiers by:

- 1) **Insurance:** offering liability insurance to US qualifiers at a reasonable rate;
- 2) **Advertising:** providing complimentary advertising in *UltraCycling* magazine;
- 3) **Letter of Invitation:** providing space in *UltraCycling* for each Race Director to write a letter inviting riders to race;
- 4) **Calendar:** listing RAAM qualifiers on the inside front cover of each issue of *UltraCycling* magazine;
- 5) **One-day Memberships:** offering to racers a one-race membership in the UMCA;
- 6) **Membership list:** providing on-line an up-to-date membership list to help the Race Directors verify memberships;
- 7) **Consultation:** consulting with Race Directors on marketing, logistics, rules, etc.;
- 8) **Rider Recognition:** recognizing RAAM qualified riders in *UltraCycling* and with custom plaques; and
- 9) **RAAM Qualified:** determining who qualifies for RAAM and maintaining the master file of RAAM-qualified riders.

RAAM Qualifier Responsibilities

The RAAM Qualifier Race Director supports the UMCA in the following ways:

- 1) **Promotion:** displaying the UMCA logo and phrase "RAAM Qualifier" on the race's brochure and website;
- 2) **Membership:** verifying that all solo and tandem riders are current UMCA members;
- 3) **Rider tracking:** tracking rider progress through time stations and making those data available to racers and crews;
- 4) **Results:** providing complete results to:
Lee Mitchell, UMCA Chair, Qualifying for RAAM, raam-qualifying@ultracycling.com
John Hughes, UMCA Managing Director, director@ultracycling.com, and
- 5) **Press Release:** providing a press release on race conditions, how the race developed, unusual incidents, etc.

Questions?

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