

Feb. 1 2025: OBRA Annual Meeting

Board Members In attendance: Kara Bittner, Stacy Westbrook, Scott Hillson, Clint Culpepper, Christy Hawkins, Jacob Rathe

Staff in attendance: Chuck Kenlan, Jen Feathingill, Terri Camp, Tony Kic

Meeting Notes

Board President's Welcome

Staff Reports

- Membership - Jen
 - 2,000 members
 - Lots of novice racers, lots of one day licenses
 - Remember to be welcoming to new racers, there are a lot of them!
 - OBRA will send new racing numbers this year, and will send new numbers in 3 years
 - Sellwood is sponsoring the new numbers
 - Jon Pearson doesn't like the numbers without years on them, says "it's a nightmare"
 - Too many racers racing out of category, not being checked at registration
 - Jen will review all results and categories over President's Day weekend before sending out new licenses
 - Upgrade policy updates
 - Needed to align more closely with USAC to maintain our reciprocity agreement
 - Make it easy and clear how to upgrade, reduce mandatory upgrades
 - ckenlan@obra.org Could you send the document of upgrade changes to the Board so we've seen it?
 - Jon Pearson raises concern about "beginner" racers not moving out of the category. Jen says the new policy is to move racers out of beginner/novice after 10 races.
- Marketing - Chuck (Joel unable to attend)
 - Sponsorship programs - Bike Tires Direct, Thompson Bike Tours, A2 Bikes (new), Rudy Project, Otto Lock, HiFi Wheels. Joel builds and maintains these relationships.
 - iContact email - 20% registration increase for Mudsliger Events promo emails
- Equipment - Tony
 - We have a ton of equipment!
 - Yes, we have lights!
 - OBRA loans stuff to local schools and non-profits just so equipment gets used
 - .75c per rider surcharge for promoters to use equipment
- Officials - Terri

- Only works for OBRA now, has retired from her other job
- Two new officials, Robin Cummings and Halen Harrison
- No longer have Officials Training classes, taking a more hands-on approach at events to train new officials
- Executive Director
 - Review change in Racer Days from 2021-2024
 - Fewer CX racers, similar number of events/races as 2023
 - Only 1 TT on the 2025 calendar
 - Doing research to convert one day racers to members
 - Consider day racer discounts toward membership
 - BMX gives a single day license, then requires membership after that initial race
 - Discussion of NABRA
 - Jon Pearson wants to pay less money, use NABRA insurance, not pay officials
 - Concerned about cost per racer, despite investments in equipment and systems (porta potties, chip timing, venues)
 - Labor is majority of cost, paid workers for course setup/etc.
 - Discussion of cost of officials
 - Previously CX races required 10 officials, now with chip timing it's 2-3
 - Liability Waivers - required to be covered during event
 - Oregon Cup - Doing a Pacific NW Cup with 2 WA races, 2 OR races
 - Championship Races are shaping up
 - US Pro Cup event at Washougal Short Track
 - Juniors Crit - Bend Crit
 - Corn Cross - stand alone, not part of Harvest CX
 - Question about OBRA's relationship with USAC, asking if it's positive
 - Membership form question from promoters
 - Paper forms are a problem, racers need a receipt in some way
 - Switch from paper to iPads for memberships and registration at events
 - This would also help OBRA with one-day racer contact info
 - Discussion of juniors and USAC points, especially in regard to national ranking and points - have asked USAC for documented rules for rankings
 - Question about reviving a Track program

Rule Proposals

- 7.10.1 Freewheel Requirement
 - Add 7.10.2 Freewheel requirement exception
 - Is the rule necessary? And can officials decide at the last minute to allow a fixed gear bike to be part of a freewheel race?
 - Does this need to state that fixed gear has to be a separate category?
 - The Chief official and Promoter must agree to have a separate category in advance of the event date and have category information published on the flyer.

- AMENDED LANGUAGE:
A fixed gear may be used in cyclocross races where all competitors are similarly equipped in a specific fixed gear race category.

Free wheeled and fixed gear bicycles may be mixed in the same course when separate fixed gear and free wheeled categories are offered. This must be approved by the Chief Referee in advance of the event and included on the race flyer.

- Transgender Elite Competition update for MTB
 - Rule passes
- Elite Transgender Medical Clearance Form Requirement
 - Revised suggestions in *italics*:
Any member who desires to avail *themselves* of this Elite Competition Transgender Policy shall submit to OBRA's Executive Director a signed copy of the OBRA Medical Clearance Form which states that (1) the member's gender identity is female and (2) an attestation from a medical professional that the member's total testosterone level in serum has been below 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months prior to the member's first competition. OBRA will not accept actual test results or other medical records from a member and any such documents received by OBRA will be destroyed immediately. *If OBRA's serum level requirements change, a new Medical Clearance Form will be required.*
 - Rule passes
- Gravel/Gran Fondo 22.3.5 Lights
 - Concern about 100 blinking lights in a large pack
 - Concern about people traveling for a race not having a light and being denied the ability to race
 - Concern about lights for older racers and people with eye conditions
 - Concern about managing a lights requirement from a promoter's perspective
 - Promoters would put "lights encouraged" on their flyers, concerned about turning racers without lights away
 - **Include "lights encouraged" in the language OBRA requires on flyers for gravel/gran fondo events**
 - Suggestion to amend rule to require it only when solo or in a small group
 - Suggestion to amend it to require promoters to encourage lights
 - Suggestion to amend it to have a solid light, not flashing
 - Question: How and when is this enforced by officials?
 - Most equipment rules don't have an enforcement component written into them.
 - Could OBRA partner with PDW or BTD to have spare lights available for promoters?
 - Rule does not pass as written

New Board Members

- Chloe Spritz
- Patrick Parish - Not able to attend meeting
- New members voted in