

BAR/BAT 2009 Statement

During the Summer of 2008 the ACA Board of Directors began discussing ways to effectively manage the length of closed course race days. At the same time an early proposal was submitted to add 35+ Cat 3 and 45+ Cat 4 to the BAR/BAT program. The Board and staff developed a plan to attempt to meet both needs. This plan was presented for input at the fall promoters meeting, the annual meeting, as well as a follow up meeting dealing solely with BAR/BAT. There was little feedback at the promoter's meeting, the addition of new categories did *not* meet a positive review at the annual meeting yet very few were opposed to it at the dedicated Master's BAR/BAT meeting. A significant amount of membership and racing data was compiled after the annual meeting but before the Master's BAR/BAT meeting in effort to determine what changes the incoming Board should make, if any, for the 2009 BAR/BAT Policy.

The incoming Board agreed with the one of the outcomes of the annual meeting that BAR/BAT be used to help control the length of closed course race day. The mixed results from the annual meeting and BAR/BAT meeting showed that support for 2 new categories was not as evident. The board reviewed data and debated the impacts of adding these categories. After much deliberation the new categories were approved with 3 dissenting votes.

Please take time to review the changes to the BAR/BAT Program for 2009. Very little has changed for road races, hill climbs and time trials. A switch to a 3 group system with confined race days has been made for closed course races. Promoter applications for the 2009 BAR/BAT Program will be accepted until Friday January 30th. A tentative BAR/BAT schedule will be available late in the second week of February.

Please feel free to contact the ACA staff or Board with questions.