

# **RATS Qualification Awards**

## ***Purpose:***

The purpose of this policy is to present a framework allowing the RATS committee to award \$2000.00 in travel bursaries to athletes who have qualified for regional or world championship races, encouraging participation in the sport at the highest age-group levels. Generally these travel bursaries will vary between \$200 and \$1000.

Specifically, these awards are to help RATS athletes fund travel to compete in Age-Group qualification world championships overseas, including ITU worlds, Ironman World Championship, Xterra World Championship, and Multisport World Championship.

## ***Timeline:***

- 25th March 2010 – Awards are officially announced to be open for that. \*Note that if the committee does not believe that the finances are acceptable for allowance of these awards, then they may not be awarded for that year.
- 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010 – Awards Application Closes
- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Decisions notified to Athletes by mail

The Awards are for qualification for races in the 2009/10 season (starting 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009) only. Unusual qualification timing must be considered by the committee, but in general, these awards should allow for a time gap between qualification, award, and participation in the event itself, so no backdating of the award past 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009 is foreseen.

## ***The Application:***

The application to the committee is a letter, 10 point font minimum, 2 pages maximum. The letter needs to contain the following information.

- The event you have qualified for, where you have qualified for it, and what your placing was to qualify. All relevant details about the qualification are necessary.
- A written indication that you will be attending the event.
- A paragraph summarizing the support you have given the club in the last two years (Volunteerism, Financial support for events, sponsorship, etc.).
- Your intentions for the funding (Travel, Hotel, Meals, preferably Entry to the event)
- The letter must include the following statement as a final sentence: "I, (insert name here) agree to use this funding solely for the purpose of travelling to (insert championship and date here). I understand that if, for any reason, I chose not to attend this event for the purposes of competing, that I will be required to return the full value of this award to the Rotorua Association of Triathletes. Failure to do so constitutes a breach of agreement and I will be held liable for the award sum.

## ***Limitations and Qualifying Criteria:***

Limitations and qualifying criteria to be put on the award are under the final jurisdiction of the committee. These limitations may be changed from year to year, but need to be transparently announced to the member population as early as possible within the calendar year, and at least prior to calling for nominees. Limitations and stipulations recommended as follows:

- A single person may only apply for an award once a year, irrespective of the number of events they have qualified for. They may, however, include all of those events that they intend on competing in within the same application.
- Proof of qualification must be included in the application (intention to qualify is not suitable)
- The applicant must have been a member for 12 months prior to any application being made.
- The maximum award is \$1000, but this may be reduced in order to make more than two awards. Note that awards are NOT based on financial need. The club will not chose awards based on arguments such as "If I don't get this award, I won't be able to go". The Major qualifying criteria are the qualification for the event, and your support of the club.
- A Brief CV of volunteer work within the club must be submitted within the letter
- Successful applicants will be required to produce a newsletter or webpage editorial about the event, as well as agree to media coverage of the award and their trip to the championship.
- If a successful candidate decides that they cannot go to the event, then the Funding must be forfeited.
- There are some 'world championships' where qualification is not required. If an athlete is attending such an event, then a resume of top finishes will be required to determine the quality of the application.

### ***How the Award Applications Are Assessed:***

The Award nominations are gathered and assessed by a panel of three committee members. If more information from nominees is required, then this committee shall obtain the necessary information. In general, the Committee will assess:

- The merit of the qualification (have you actually qualified?)
- The contribution the individual has made to the club (as described above) and as included by the applicant on their resume
- The number of Qualifying Athletes.

From the panel discussion, a list of acceptable candidates is ratified by the Committee, and all candidates are notified by mail of their status.

There is no appeal to this process. The Committee's decision is final. Any modifications to this process rest with the Committee. Decisions to award specific amounts based on the costs to be incurred by the athlete shall rest with the committee. These may normally be assessed based on the distance to be traveled to the event.

### ***Contact:***

- Questions or more information can be obtained by contacting the RATS secretary, either by post:
  - RATS, PO Box 372, Rotorua
- Or by email:
  - [info@rats.org.nz](mailto:info@rats.org.nz)

**Good Luck!**