

## **Kids of Steel® Committee 2004 AGM Report**

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Submitted by: Nancy Drad

**Program Summary:** The program is designed to provide a non-competitive, entry-level initiation to the sport of triathlon for youth. Goal is to develop a province wide, regionally based program for youth to participate in the sport through the Kids of Steel® program.

### **Races:**

- 2004 was an extremely busy year for triathletes in Manitoba with a total of 9 provincial series races, 3 Northern event, 7 MB Games Qualifier races (some were combined with race series events) and the MTS MB Games Provincial Final, totaling:
  - TOTAL KOS EVENTS (including MB Games Qualifiers)      18
  - TOTAL PARTICIPANTS (including try-a-tri)                      1148
  
- A Sanctioning agreement was created and approved for regional events, which wish to use the Kids of Steel® trademark but not be part of the provincial series. It outlines the requirements/benefits of becoming sanctioning. All 3 Northern events accepted the agreement and we were able to offer them some small benefits and promotional assistance.
- A change of venue was made to the Brandon Kids of Steel®, Curran Park is the new venue and was a very well run first event.
- A great big THANK YOU to all the Kids of Steel® race directors, race volunteers and Triathlon MB staff for giving their time, energy and expertise.
- A major hurdle this year was the weather. It simply did not cooperate. There were 4 races where the swim was shortened, 1 race where the swim was cancelled and only 3 races where the weather was above 18 degrees Celsius. Not a great way to introduce newcomers to the sport. In fairness to the athletes, it was amazing to see the large number of participants.
- Including the Try-a-Tri for adults at the Kids of Steel® events continues to be popular and it is recommended that this continues.
- The 6 & 7 year-old category was introduced at 6 events, and was very popular. We found families would go to the events where all the categories were offered. Next year's race directors will be encouraged to add this distance to their event.

### **Officiating & Safety**

- There was no shortage of officials at any of the KOS events. Thanks to everyone involved for helping keep the races clean and fun.
- The water temperature and gusting winds made some conditions less than favourable. At each event, the race director, officials and Tri MB Board members met and decided the direction the race would take. Some swims were shortened and the Riding Mountain Kids of Steel® event saw the swim portion cancelled for the under 12 year old categories as the water temperature demanded a mandatory wetsuit swim. Wetsuits were provided for all participants in the Regional Championships categories.

### **Training and Clinics**

- The popular Teen Tri Program of 2003 was not so popular in 2004. The coaches did a marvelous job but the attendance was disappointing. The weather might have been a factor.
- It is suggested that the Teen Tri Program continue for 2005 with some more promotion of the program and at the end of that season re-evaluate the program.
- Rural clinics were not offered this year, but the teen tri program did re-locate to rural areas the Thursday before a Kids of Steel® if that community was hosting an event.

### **Next Steps**

- Continue to promote Kids of Steel® events, especially in the rural communities.
- Continue with the swim/run series off-season.
- Sit all race directors down prior to the season and set the calendar together.
- Work on providing off-season clinics and training for all youth athletes (6 to 19).
- Work with the recreation centres and fitness facilities offering youth triathlon programs; advise them of the Kids of Steel trademark use agreement.
- Combine the Kids of Steel and Youth committees, which have overlapping responsibilities into one committee.