

# ***USAT Announces***

## ***Long Distance Series Races***

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (Dec. 5, 2005)** – In its continuing campaign to showcase a selection of the best USAT sanctioned events, USA Triathlon will partner with Ultramax Events to produce the 2006 USAT Long Distance Grand Prix Series.

USAT's re-launch of the Grand Prix concept in 2006 will focus on its core disciplines: youth, sprint, intermediate and long distance as well as short and long course for duathlon.

"The USAT Long Distance Grand Prix Series will provide a significant challenge for athletes looking to test their skills at a longer distance," said Jeff Dyrek, USAT national events director. "Instead of building the series, as we have with other disciplines, we are partnering with the marquee series at this distance, which will culminate with the USAT Halfmax National Championship and the ITU World Championship."

The dates for the series, the USAT Halfmax National Championship and the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Long Distance Triathlon World Championship (Nov. 19 in Canberra, Australia) are posted to the USA Triathlon web site at [www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org). Race web sites have also been provided and athletes should check these sites for more race information as it becomes available. Due to the timing of the world championship, only select races will serve as qualifiers.

"USAT is taking huge steps to better promote our brand of age group racing and the Long Distance Grand Prix is the crown jewel in that discipline," said USA Executive Director Skip Gilbert. "Our development of the Grand Prix Series across the four distance disciplines in triathlon and the two in duathlon is intended to celebrate the more than 1,800 sanctioned races and 800 race directors who embrace the benefits USAT provides."

"We are extremely proud and pleased to announce the partnership between U.S. Half Triathlon Championship and USA Triathlon's Long Course Championship," said USA Triathlon Halfmax National Championship Race Director Mark Livesay. "The new partnership gives the U.S. Half Championship a new face, and forms an exciting new series that is focused entirely on age group athletes and allows age groupers to compete at the highest level."

The [www.halfmaxchampionship.com](http://www.halfmaxchampionship.com) site has updated qualifying information, and a list of the current qualifying events.

There is more information about the USA Triathlon Grand Prix Series posted to the USA Triathlon web site at [www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org).

USA Triathlon is the national governing body for triathlon, duathlon, aquathlon and winter triathlon in the United States. USAT sanctions 1,800 races and connects with more than 60,000 members each year, making it the largest multi-sport organization in the world. For more information on this and other stories related to USA Triathlon, please contact communications

and media relations manager B.J. Hoepfner Evans at 719-597-9090, ext. 105 or at [BJ@USATriathlon.org](mailto:BJ@USATriathlon.org). Please visit USA Triathlon's web site at [www.usatriathlon.org](http://www.usatriathlon.org).

#### 2006 USA Triathlon Long Distance Grand Prix Series

April 22: Kinetic Half (Spotsylvania, Va.)

May (exact date TBA): Deuces Wild Triathlon Festival (Show Low, Ariz.)

May 6: White Lake Half (White Lake, N.C.)

June 3: Mooseman Triathlon (Waterville, Valley, N.H.)

June 4: Georgia Rock n' Roll Man (Macon, Ga.)

June 25: MedExpress Mountaineer Triathlon (Morgantown, W. Va.)

July 16: Musselman Triathlon (Geneva, N.Y.)

July 23: Spirit of Racine Triathlon (Racine, Wis.)

Aug. 19: CATSHalf Tri (Arkadelphia, Ark.)

Aug. 20: Great Buckeye Challenge (Waynesville, Ohio)

Sept. 10: PrairieMan Long Course Triathlon (Grand Prairie, Texas)

Sept. 16: Grand Columbian – Long (Grand Coulee, Wash.)

Sept. 16: USA Triathlon HalfMax National Championship (St. Louis, Mo.)

Nov. 12: Miami Man Triathlon – Long (Miami, Fla.)

Nov. 19: ITU Long Distance Triathlon World Championship – Canberra, Australia