

AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Introduction of Business:

I move that: AVA create a national certification program for AVA Trailmasters.

Summary of Proposed Action: This action requires funding from AVA to develop training and certification materials. Once implemented, the program should be self-sustaining.

The purpose of the certification program is to improved the quality of AVA event routes through comprehensive training and give recognition to those with exceptional route planning expertise.

The first step would be to appoint a National Trailmaster to work with the AVA Training Committee to develop a Trailmaster training program.

The program must be rigorous and detailed, with written course materials and a required final examination for satisfactory completion. Completion of the certification course should provide positive recognition for the participant, including at least a completion certificate, a “certified” Trailmaster patch and an ID card. A course fee would be established to help offset the cost of continuing certification. AVA should consider offering an initial discount to member clubs to promote the program. But there should be a course fee to add to the perception that the course has value.

Course materials would be based on the AVA Event Handbook, safety considerations, elements which ad quality to events, administration requirements for AVA events and general knowledge of all aspects of volkssporting. The materials must be thorough, making use of photos and visual graphics to illustrate points. They must also be packaged so that the participant can study and his/her own pace to prepare for the certification exam. The exam must contain both written and oral questions, on-the-ground practical tasks administered by certified Trailmasters. A system of periodic re-evaluation or certification renewal is also required.

Once the reputation of “Certified Trailmaster” is established, AVA may choose to market the training program to non-AVA organizations for a fee – its certified ability to create safe, quality event routes. AVA may later wish to require the participation of a certified Trailmaster in the planning of any event to which AVA lends its name.

For recognition, AVA should consider a national award (Trailmaster of the Year or Trailmaster of the biennium – to be presented at the biennial convention) to recognize excellence in creation of quality events.

Motion Made By: Wayne Holloway for Training Committee and Longview Border Crossers, AVA530

Seconded By:

Action:

Motion Carried

Motion Failed