

submitted by Chuck Hooker on the CTC discussion list.

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MYRTLE BEACH – The USA Triathlon has selected Myrtle Beach as the site of the 2010 USA Triathlon National Championship Festival.

According to a press release from the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, the event will be held Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010.

This first national championship held by an Olympic governing body in the Myrtle Beach area is expected to attract between 2,000 and 3,000 athletes and several thousand spectators.

"Hosting this premier sporting event gives us the opportunity to showcase all the incredible assets our community has to offer athletes and their families," said Brad Dean, MBACC president and CEO. "We welcome USA Triathlon and look forward to a long relationship that potentially includes additional events of this caliber."

"USA Triathlon is excited to be working with the city of Myrtle Beach and the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce," said Jeff Dyrek, national events director, USA Triathlon. "Myrtle Beach is a great family destination and will not only provide the athletes a great race but also an experience that the whole family will be able to enjoy."

The multisport festival will consist of three separate races—USAT Long Course Triathlon National Championship, USAT Club National Championship and Myrtle Beach Sprint Triathlon—as well as the Multisport Festival & Expo.

The Long Course Triathlon requires all athletes to qualify to compete. The Club and Sprint events are open to any athlete. The course distance requirements are as follows:

Event Swim Bike Run

Long Course Triathlon 1.2 miles 56 miles 13.1 miles

Club 0.9 mile 24.8 miles 6.2 miles

Sprint 500 yards 13 miles 3.1 miles

The hub of the event will take place at Marina Inn at Grande Dunes.

The swim portion will occur in the Intracoastal Waterway with the start and finish at the Ocean Club at Grande Dunes.

The route for the bicycle segment starts at the Marina at Grand Dunes and continues on the southbound lanes of U.S. 17 Bypass to Robert Grissom Parkway.

The participants will bicycle on the northbound lanes of S.C. 31 to the S.C. 9 interchange and return the same route to the marina.

The run portion will take place on U.S. 17 Bypass between Marina Inn Parkway and 48th Avenue North.

The courses are designed to be the safest possible routes for the participants and to have the least impact on local traffic.

Staging such a sporting event requires collaboration of local, state and federal agencies.

The S.C. Department of Transportation authorized the closing of a portion of S.C. 31 for the bicycling segment of the competitions.

The U.S. Coast Guard and S.C. Department of Natural Resources are closing the Intracoastal Waterway to boat traffic during the swim portion.

Horry County and the city of Myrtle Beach are playing key roles in traffic control and emergency planning.

"Capturing this event for our area was really exciting—and it took teamwork," said Liz Gilland, chair, Horry County Council.

"We had to overcome some initial reluctance by SCDOT to close the highway, but we managed to convince them of the importance of the triathlon. I'm confident that this race will throw the door wide open to other events, even up to the Olympic level."