

FW Masters Membership Survey: 5-year Age Group issue - Indicate your opinion by: 1 - strongly agree, 2 - agree, 3 - no opinion, 4 - disagree, 5 - strongly disagree

___ Institute 5-year age classes for the Far West Masters, as is done at the National level for the National Championships and Regional Championships.

This proposal was included in our earlier membership survey as one way to increase race starts and/or retain members, but the response was not conclusive, and we are hoping for more and better input from our membership. The FWM Board, at its fall meeting, remained divided about this proposal, and instructed Sandy Hogan to do a more in-depth survey and send it out for member input. Please give this issue thought, submit your survey, and include any comments you might have. Include your bib number on the survey (please don't submit one for 2 people). All results will remain confidential.

Rationale FOR (quotes, indicated by “” are from original survey):

- Consistency with regions (other than Northern)
- More racers get awards and recognition: e.g. The Open Seed added 2 new classes (men's and women's), and increased the number of folks getting awards. This resulted in medals for many in the larger classes who may not have medaled before, but who now regularly earn medals and annual awards in their class.
- In the older classes, especially, there is a definite physical difference between those entering the class and those getting ready to “graduate” (e.g. 70 vs. 79; 60 vs. 69, 50 vs. 59).
- “I was almost 10 years older than X when X moved into my class; it was pretty discouraging”
- “I would like to see the 50's for men divided into 5-year age increments. It would spread the big pack & promote more competition & opportunity for podium”*
- “Only where more than 10 in a class”*
- “My reasoning is that other regions have 5 year age classes”.

Rationale AGAINST (including quotes “” from original survey):

- Extra medals would be needed for new classes (especially for men's classes)*
- Awards ceremonies would be longer
- Far West tradition is to have 10 year age classes
- “Do we need an additional expense?”*
- “Five year age classes waters down the competition and makes winning less rewarding. I took pride winning races as the oldest in my class”
- “Some classes would be too small if we went to 5-year classes. The best would be to do the men, not the women”* (see *notes below)
- “Not enough racers now to justify doing this”

***Notes:**

- Ski areas furnish the awards; there would be no cost to FWM
- Creating only one or two 5-year age classes (e.g. men's 50's) based upon a required minimum (e.g. 10) is practical on an annual basis only, for computer program, annual awards, and record keeping reasons.

- Analysis of numbers of competitors from last 40 races (current season, 2007, 2006) show that additional medals would be needed consistently for the men's 50's and 40's; less frequently for the 60's and 70's. The analysis overstated the required medals, as it assumed that the competitors were evenly divided between younger/older, minimum class of 6 (not 10), and included all DSQ's and DNF's.

Comments:

You may fold this survey so that the address and return address (with bib number) are clearly shown, or just put it in an envelope. Your responses are confidential.

Bib number_____

(add postage)

**Far West Masters survey,
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