

Statement on Refund of Hardrock Application Fees

For the past three years, the Hardrock Hundred has charged applicants to our lottery a \$10 fee. The legality of this has been questioned in light of recent settlements involving the World Triathlon Company (owner of the Ironman events) and the New York City Marathon over fees charged to enter their lotteries. Our fee has always gone towards charitable donations and to administering our race, and no member of the Hardrock Board of Directors or Run Committee has ever directly benefitted from this fee. Nevertheless because of the uncertainties in this area of the law, the Hardrock Board decided at their December 3 meeting to discontinue the practice and to offer a refund of the lottery fees collected for the 2015-2017 Hardrocks. The Board has also decided to eliminate the lottery fee in the future.

The details of how this refund will be conducted will be announced in upcoming weeks. It will be available on request for a limited amount of time, after which any application fees not refunded will be transferred to the Hardrock charitable funds. Hardrock, through the Joel Zucker Memorial Scholarship Fund, has awarded over \$67,000 in scholarships to graduates of high schools in the Hardrock area. Other charitable non-scholarship awards have been made to support the Silverton schools.

The application fee has provided a substantial portion of the Hardrock revenues for the last three years. This resulted in the Hardrock being in better financial condition, which allowed us to enhance some of offerings during race week and to contribute more funds toward charitable giving. Depending on the demand for refunds, the Board will be evaluating options to ensure the event stays in good financial health. These may include future increases in entry fees, reduction in charitable giving, reduction in operational expenses, and seeking more corporate sponsorship. The actual methods will be decided over the next year.