

The Truth in Triathlon

Step Up For Soldiers **WILL NOT HOLD** the Double Sprint Triathlon this June in the Town of Kure Beach. The reasons to follow. I apologize to athletes who have signed up for our first Triathlon, sorry if we ruined your week end.

Let's start with a correction of what appeared on an Event Planning site and event application page. Step Up For Soldiers **DID NOT and WAS NOT part of any takeover of a triathlon date.** AS far as I know the Town did not plan on TAKING OVER this event. Our two charities Step Up For Soldiers and Kure Beach FD Ocean Rescue planned to have a fundraiser. The date was open due to the Town of Kure Beach and the event planning company not being able to come to agreement on past invoices as far as I know.

Sometime in February I was made aware of a problem with an event planning company and the Town of Kure Beach. A Town Commissioner asked If Step Up would like to organize a Triathlon in Kure Beach; I agreed to give it a try. I asked the Head Life Guard (Ocean Rescue) if they would share this event with Step Up For Soldiers. Both organizations are all volunteer organizations returning all money to their charity.

The event planning company has every right to run events for a profit, we still live in America. Our military fight for his right to prosper.

My humble opinion the Channel swim was organized to hurt our event in Kure Beach and thus hurt our charities.

Step Up For Soldiers is an all volunteer organization, No Board members get Paid, and there are NO salaries. We are here to assist the young Military Service Members and their families returning with loss of limb and mobility issues.

It is my opinion **Step Up For Soldiers has been targeted because we attempted to hold a Triathlon in the forbidden town of Kure Beach.** I cannot take the chance to lose money the Charity raised so we have to cancel this event until we can get a date that is free from aggression from outside organizations. If Step Up For Soldiers were a business I would continue with this event, but I cannot jeopardize Step Up For Soldiers treasury to fight an untruth and injustice. We raise money so that we can assist our wounded service members not fight with angry organizations. For these reason we will refund all money and apologize to those athletes who signed up for our event.

Most important Keep Training, it makes us better people.

Sincerely

Thomas Russell