

Minutes 2002 ITU Athletes' Committee Meeting
World Championships, Cancun, Mexico
November 8th 2002, 6:15 PM

Present: Cedric Deanaz (new elected European male rep, congrats!!), Kathleen Smet and Isabelle Turcotte Baird (new Chair)

During race meeting, discussions also with Andy Kelsey and Conrad Stoltz

Report 2002: -Greg Welch (past Chair) stated that he congratulated ITU for implementing the world cup series and keeping it alive after set backs with marketing company. He had no calls or emails from any of the other athletes.

-Input & feedback was given to ITU about the Athlete Code of Conduct

-Input & feedback was given to ITU and USATriathlon about the whole issue of conflicting dates for Corner Brook World Cup and Life Time Fitness Triathlon in USA. Feedback was also given to ITU about the "prestige status" announced by ITU for Corner Brook World Cup which was felt unfair to athletes who did not have Corner Brook race in their race schedule and was very late for them to make changes in their racing schedule.

-Input & feedback was given to ITU about their World Cup shows (TV) and congratulated ITU for their great job on the website videos. It is very beneficial to Athletes.

- The first IOC Athletes' Forum. My report given to athletes' representatives in Cancun, please also see my report in the ITU Updates # 20 on website.

Olympics: discussion about the ITU Olympic Qualification policy. Selects more the best triathletes in the world now that # country with 3 spots is increased to 9 (from 6 in 2000). Athens: it should officially be, in 2003, a test event by being an International race or World Cup, on the same proposed Olympic course.

Pontoon Draw Change: where team managers or coaches for athletes NOT present at the race meeting get the "pick" AFTER all athletes present have done so. Very good and Fair.

ITU Constitution: does not say much about our committee and is not updated. Should update and include objectives.

Women in World Cups: field not very deep. Appears to be issues in some countries where women do not get funding for world cups and men do. We should work with ITU Women's Committee to ensure women get same opportunities then men to compete in World Cups or International ITU events.

ITU International Races: event organizers are not always respecting or implementing the ITU rules. E.g.: for start procedures, some races have disorganized beach starts and unfair start to athletes (especially in South America) or others have no control of the "start" and as soon as an athlete decide to start swimming or dive, then they "start the

gun” and it goes (especially in Europe). They do not call for a false start, they do not control the athletes in fault. There should be International ITU consistency with procedures and rules. We recommend pontoon start at all races, as much as possible. Each position on pontoon or start line should be according to a race number, so every athlete is ensured a place and also sufficient space. Carpet should be used at all times (pontoon and beach).

Anti Doping: we feel there should be more doping tests. There should be tests at all World Cup events. And there should be more blood testing.

Recommendations to ITU: adding to what has been mentioned above, the committee feels it should meet at least twice a year to improve communication and work on different sport related business/issues. It could choose a World Cup where most of the athletes’ representatives would be and the usual Congress at World Championships. We feel that all athletes’ representatives ie all members of the committee should be present at the Congress. So far only the athletes qualified to compete at the Worlds Championships are present. The others are unable to attend because of financial reasons. This year I was there because I was a Team Manager for Canada, thus my national federation paying my way. We see two solutions to this problem: 1- ITU funds every committee member that have not qualified to the World Championships to the Congress (considering that qualified athletes have already their way paid by their national federation). 2- members/athletes not qualified get funds from the hosting World Championships city. It is most likely possible to make this as a requirement to the hosting cities. Many other Olympic sports athletes’ commission do this that way.

To Do List!: adding to what has been mentioned above, the committee should first of all improve its *communication*. Should be in contact on a more regular basis and deal with issues as they arise. Should also be more in contact with all ITU athletes. Will ask ITU to provide email address of all athletes if possible, or at least the top 125.

The committee should set *objectives* for the year, for the long term and ongoing ones.

The committee should be involved at different level of the ITU, e.g. Technical Committee, sport development, Olympics plans.

The committee encourages athletes to get involved in their National Federation or National Olympic Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM, just in time for the Athletes race meeting. Isabelle Turcotte Baird

