



INTERNATIONAL TRIATHLON UNION

PARA-TRIATHLON

AGENDA COACHES MEETING

Beijing 10 September 2011

Tentative hour 8:30 – 10:30am

JUNDU VILA No.12 Shuiku Road, Changping District, Beijing 102200,
China

Room 10 – Jundu Toruist Villa

- **Para-Triathlon today: facts and Figures**
- **Challenges to compete**
 - **NF Support & Integration**
 - **Financial**
 - **Sponsors**
 - **Grants**
 - **Governmental support**
 - **Classification review**
 - **Level and Spread of events worldwide**
 - **Ranking System**
- **Feedback**
 - **Rules/Regulations**
 - **Equipment**
- **The Road to Rio 2016 PG**
 - **NFs Approach and Plans for 2012 and 2013**
 - **Race Formats: Split of Para-Tri (long term)**
 - **Qualification Period 2014-2016**
 - **National Championships**
 - **Continental Cups**
- **ITU Para-triathlon Coaching Certification**
- **ITU Support**
- **Working Groups**
- **Social Networks Group creation**



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ITU Members:

Sarah Springman (ITU Vice-President and Executive Board Member)

Grant Darby (ITU Paratriathlon Committee Chairperson)

Marguerite Christophers (ITU Head of Classification)

Eric Angstadt (ITU Technical Operations Coordinator)

Eric Angstadt (EA) welcomed everyone present at the meeting. The following nations (in alphabetical order) were present either through their NF representatives or coaches or athletes:

ARG

AUS

BRA

CAN

ESP

FRA

GBR

NED

RUS

USA

Facts and Figures.

The figures for participation in the last two seasons were reviewed, by category and by gender. The importance of achieving sustainable figures and participation for the different categories was highlighted. EA presented the timeline from the present to RIO 2016, indicating that the Qualification Period will begin in 2014.

This means that the seasons 2012 and 2013 are really the period in which significant changes may be implemented to paratriathlon, particularly in Classification.

EA asked the different representatives how they operate on a national level, resources they can use from their NFs, what is the interaction with the respective Ministry of Sports or likewise organizations on a national level.



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EA highlighted the importance of always liaising through their NFs without forgetting the role National Paralympic Committees will play when RIO 2016 comes into scope.

Teams and coaches need to ensure they target the key people in each NF to ensure the communication is clear and precise on all topics related to paratriathlon.

Nations also recommended for ITU to create a monthly newsletter on paratriathlon where main topics are highlighted and easier to follow up on.

EA stressed the importance on receiving feedback from the nations on any topic that may affect the sport, ensuring that their NFs are ALWAYS copied and in the loop of discussions.

Ranking System and Events

EA explained the intention of creating the paratriathlon ranking system, process that has already been drafted and initiated by Enrique Quesada (ITU Sport Results Director), considering the WCS, Continental CH and National CH at present. This would help establishing different level of races with each of them offering a “reward” to the competing athletes. This could maybe lead to the future to a season trophy, etc.

There might be possibilities to host stand alone paratriathlon races in the future, but this needs to fit within the overall strategic plan in terms of viability and sustainability.

Also, within the WCSeries, it was discussed that despite all of them hosting the paratriathlon category, some of the series could be scoped and targeted potentially as the stand alone races in the season, with a strategic regional spread, trying to maximize the value and investment that both athletes and ITU are making towards these events.

The athletes expressed several points related to the above matter:

- The creation of a calendar that could include all paratriathlon related activities, so everyone knows what’s going on, when and where.
- They also expressed their concerns to get started in the sport, the costs (particularly for some categories like TRI1 and 6, travel logistics and so).



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- The concern was that in many ways the sport is still quite amateur, and the athletes really need to know many months in advance what events to target in their seasonal plan, to engage sponsors and sort out the necessary logistics.
- The athletes mentioned that in the ideal scope at WCS events, the race be held on separate days than the age groups, 2 days apart ideally, because it really offers them the possibility of engaging age group athletes to help and act as handlers for instance. EA expressed that ITU can try to accommodate this request in some cases, but in others, due to the constraints with some LOCs in items such as road closure and duration of the races it may not always be possible.

In general the present people at the meeting agreed that it is fundamental to create more awareness of paratriathlon through the age groups.

Classification review:

In order to prevent the meeting from extending itself too much, the discussion about the general disagreement with the composition of the profiles in the current category system was discarded from this meeting. Instead, what is being done about it and the way forward was what EA wanted to focus on.

EA explained the complete process of what will take place regarding the complete review of the classification system:

- A complete review of the current classification system is required from the International Paralympic Committee as a condition to the acceptance in the Paralympic Games Programme.
- The current profiling system is not accepted as a valid measuring tool, as it is generic and not sport specific. Some aspects of it and some of the physical tests in has may be valid when demonstrating the direct relation they may have with the activity in paratriathlon.
- ITU needs to put together a research group that can design the base structure and framework of a new system that has scientific and medical evidence, and shows a clear relation with the levels of impairment and the sport itself.
- We need to be realistic and devise viable objectives, not everything at once or we could fall short from the expectations.
- IPC is willing to assist in this process and monitor in order to provide guidance and recommendations. In some cases, we may be able to use existing elements from IPC Swimming, UCI Para-Cycling and IPC Athletics.



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- Dealing with Transitions is definitely in the scope, but at first glance seems so complicated that will need more time for a detailed analysis.
- Two samples that are only draft mappings, were included to show the nations a preliminary draft that has come from initial research. This may help provide further input and allow people to draft other suggestions or ideas.
- ITU will work on this project (lead by EA) to identify the players, the key lab tests that may be done, and the funding of meetings throughout the winter, in order to determine possible implementations and changes during seasons 2012-2013.

Factor System and Categories

The outcome of the research in classification will determine certain proposals, that the Paratriathlon Committee will have to recommend or decide on. This goes hand in hand with the implementation of a factor system for all the categories, allowing athletes with different class or profile to compete for the same medal, as done in sports like Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, etc. How this factor for each class will be applied into the race is a separate discussion, with having the start done in different waves (or staggered start) being the preferred option as of today. This would allow the most spectacular outcome, allowing for tight finishes and first athlete crossing the line being the winner.

EA explained that the outcome of the sports categories and competition format, will be the key elements to ensure a "long life" in the Paralympic Games Programme" as it is a tight race for all the existing sports in the programme, and a thorough review from the IPC will be made after Rio. *"We got there, but we need to remain"*

In this regard, we need to ensure the sport has a clear balance between Universality, Quality and Quantity, and the figures in existing categories must be sustainable for both genders. Female participation is a weak point and this is a collective effort that needs to be made by everyone.

Rules Revision:

EA encouraged athletes and coaches to send feedback on rule proposals and changes, especially now at the end of the season. He also stressed the importance of ensuring that athletes KNOW the rules and are familiar with them, as well as anti-doping procedures.

- GBR expressed their concern about some existing rules not being reinforced; this is some internal reviewing ITU needs to do so whatever strict measures need to be applied, they are enforced as of next season and athletes start understanding that being elite is



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not just being in this races, professionalism should go both ways and athletes have as much importance and responsibility in their behaviour and acting as ITU does as the international IF for the sport.

- Examples about this were Equipment Check, drafting that has occurred at times, etc

Development

Development of the sport will obviously be a key element in the next 4 years before the 2016 PG. Some nations with existing programmes will also work in this manner, and are willing to engage other nations within a regional scope.

This is the case of Brazil, where representatives expressed that they have contacts with ARG, CHI, COL and VEN to initiate sharing programmes. Also, with the Cooperation of USA and CAN this could eventually lead into creating an American Continental CH.

Rob Noordzij, from NED put together a development Working Group together with USA, CANADA, SPAIN, FRANCE, GBR and of course NED. They will be happy to provide guidance to emerging nations.

EA communicated the intent to host a development camp for paratriathlon in Israel prior to the ECH, but there are no further details at this point in time to be offered.

Coaching Certification

In connection with the ITU Development Committee, ITU has a National Federation Coach Education Accreditation Programme in place whereby federations with existing coach education programmes can apply to ITU to have their federation programmes accredited.

The intent would be to do something similar for Paratriathlon coaching and both GBR and CAN offered to share the coaching certification process and documentation they have in place to come up with a common model valid for all nations based on best practice.

EA should follow up with these nations and Libby Burrell (ITU Director – Sport Development) to draft the initial plan.

Handlers Discussion

EA brought up this matter as a topic for discussion, with the intent to define the scope and need for this group.

- This goes hand in hand with certain levels of impairment



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- Aim to minimize the activity upon water exit
- Well trained handlers for swim exit (ITU & LOC responsibility)
- Athletes clearly wish for a "Handlers Familiarization", which is happening in a way, but we need to define a better timeline and clear actions to be learnt.
- The idea of a "handler certification" was tabled.
- If we end up having start in waves, this would minimize the hecticness on water exit.
- ITU's aim to transfer as much as possible all interaction with personal handlers exclusively to the transition area.
- Clear process for prosthesis handling upon water exit, valid regardless of the FOP layout.

Around the table Discussion

EA wanted the nations that had not participated too much in the discussions to give a brief update on their views:

- FRA: France has a national series of races, around 6, which are not ITU sanctioned and are run under the French Classification System. Hopefully with the new system, the French Federation is willing to adopt this system opening the possibility of having international participation in those series in a near future. EA will liaise with the French federation on this matter.
- RUS: Russia presented a female paratriathlete (TRI4) in Beijing for the first time, and is supported by the Ministry of Sports and the NF, so we can expect more Russian athletes in a near future.
- ARG: they have 6 athletes in total, only 1 having made international appearance, but working on bringing the others to elite level and liaising with Brazil for all ongoing activities in South America.
- ESP: around 60 athletes but only 14 that are at elite level. Definitely a country that can help plan for development at an international level, but need more internal NF support.

EA thanked the attendees once again and will distribute the minutes and presentation to all the NFs and coaches and athletes who provided their email for follow up.

EA also wants to release a survey to identify the real number of athletes in each nation and what disability groups are there.