



2010 International Relations Committee Report

Introduction

The 2009 triathlon season marked the end of the third quadrennial of Olympic triathlon. It was a year full of achievements on the international stage. US athletes performed outstandingly in many events on many continents. While no medals were won in the Olympic Games, our athletes continued to strengthen. U.S. Olympian Jarrod Shoemaker brought home a world championship in duathlon when he won ITU Duathlon Worlds in Concord, North Carolina at the end of the season.

2009 Accomplishments

- 1) The USA Triathlon International Relations Committee was instrumental in working to bring the Dextro Energy ITU World Championship Series race to the United States in June 2009. This wildly successful event produced tremendous press coverage for USAT and our athletes. Committee member Jarrod Shoemaker traveled to Washington twice to assist in event promotion activities with Mayor Adrian Fenty.
- 2) The Committee successfully placed USA Triathlon members (volunteers and staff) in leadership positions and on many ITU Committees for the next quadrennial, fulfilling a primary goal set for 2009. We now have the following USAT representatives on ITU Committees:

Melissa Merson – ITU Executive Board
Doug Hiller – ITU Medical Committee
Joyce Donaldson – ITU Technical Committee
Celeste Callahan – ITU Age Group Committee
Gale Bernhardt – ITU Constitution Committee
Candy Cheatham – ITU Women’s Committee
Jeff Dyrek – ITU Multisport Committee
Jon Beeson – ITU Paratriathlon Committee
Scott Schnitzpahn - ITU Coaching Committee

- 3) USA Triathlon for the first time was represented on the roster of ITU Technical Officials assigned to officiate at the Beijing Olympic Games in August 2009. Only officials with the most experience, greatest expertise, and highest levels of judgment are selected to work these most prestigious events. Joyce Donaldson, the USA’s highest ranking ITU official, was selected by the ITU to officiate at the Beijing Games, a tremendous honor both to Joyce and to USA Triathlon.





2010 Objectives

For 2010, the IR Committee plans to support the individuals named above as they develop their roles within the committees. Each ITU committee has its own goals and objectives for the coming year(s) and we will work to support our members in their roles and efforts working within those committees. ITU is developing new strategies and protocols under President Marisol Casado. Further opportunities for us to work across borders hopefully will emerge as Marisol assumes her new position as a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The USA Triathlon International Relations Committee has since its inception had as a goal the consolidation of the multiple rulebooks used in triathlon into one global program. The Committee has a taskforce led by Charlie Crawford, tasked with identifying ways to merge existing rulebooks into more streamlined policies that can be used across race platforms in varying events. The taskforce has studied all English language rulebooks, setting the stage for a discussion and progress on unifying the rules of our sport particularly to enhance athlete safety.

The reconciliation of the International Triathlon Union with the World Triathlon Corp. that has taken place this year opens the door for further progress in this area. The USAT International Relations Committee will seek this year to arrange a “rules summit” with participants from USAT/ITU and WTC to explore ways to work together towards this mutually beneficial goal of one rulebook for triathlon.

Conclusion

Just a few years ago, it would have been a reach to imagine USAT represented on the ITU Executive Board and nearly every ITU Committee. Today, we have hosted one of the most prestigious events in the world, showcasing our nation’s capital in a positive light. Elite athletes from around the world ranked our race as one of the best in the series. Representatives from USA Triathlon sit on nearly every committee within the International Triathlon Union, and on the Executive Board.

Submitted by:
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