



2013 International Relations Committee Report

Mission

The International Relations Committee works to enhance USAT's participation in international activities related to triathlon, primarily within the governance structures of the International Triathlon Union and the Pan American Triathlon Confederation. The IR Committee advises the USAT National Board on matters related to international relations and recommends appropriate policies to support and enhance opportunities for all multi-sport athletes to compete in international events and participate in multi-sport related international activities, as outlined in our by-laws and further directed by the national board. The committee also is charged with reviewing recommendations and nominations for policies and persons related to these activities.

As part of USAT's strategic goals, we support the objectives set by the board in recent years to improve our international relationships. These include efforts to:

Strive for increased USAT involvement in ITU governance.

Open direct lines of communication, responsibility and authority with ITU.

Strive for a global rulebook.

Pursue and make progress on common protocols to eliminate use of performance enhancing and other illegal drugs in multisport.

Facilitate global philanthropy toward better relations with multisport federations in all countries.

Join with ITU on international initiatives such as coaching enrichment programs and other educational outreach.

2012 Accomplishments

The USAT International Relations Committee continued to enjoy great success in 2012, beginning with its support for the ITU effort to win inclusion of paratriathlon in the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. ITU Paratriathlon Committee member Jon Beeson contributed enormously to the successful effort, conducted over many years with help from many people, to bring paratriathlon to the medal ranks. The IR Committee, along with USAT staff and others, engaged in media and lobbying efforts to support the successful bid, all in





coordination with the ITU and the ITU Paratriathlon Committee. Committee member Sarah Reinertsen also was instrumental in this effort. The committee also helped organize an event at the Challenged Athletes Foundation for the ITU and USAT board members during the ITU San Diego World Triathlon Series events in May.

The IR Committee coordinated an ITU delegation visit to the Triathlon America annual conference in San Diego in February, where ITU President Marisol Casado presented the opening keynote address on the role of the international federation in Olympic sports. The ITU delegation, including the IR Committee chair, also attended the International Olympic Committee's 5th World Conference on Women and Sports in Los Angeles and the annual SportAccord Convention in Quebec City, where discussions with potential WTS and other event host cities took place.

Edmonton

USAT President Bob Wendling led a US delegation to the Pan American Triathlon Confederation Championships and Congress in Edmonton, Alberta in July. Wendling, PATCO's treasurer, was joined by delegates Melissa Merson, member of the PATCO Executive Board, and Patricia Walsh, the PATCO paratriathlon gold medalist.

ITU San Diego World Triathlon Series & U.S. Olympic Trials

USAT hosted a record number of draft legal triathlon events in 2012. The highlight on the calendar was the ITU San Diego World Triathlon Championship & US Olympic Trials. Thousands of age group athletes raced on a course adjacent to the original course used for the first ever triathlon in the United States. They then witnessed the elite athletes competing in the ITU WTS event. At the elite events, the US completed its Olympic roster for the London 2012 Olympic Games with thousands of spectators at the venue and along the beach watching the thrilling race finishes.

The San Diego event received \$40,000 in US Olympic Committee solidarity grant funding in 2012, including monies earmarked for the US to host the first meeting of the ITU Executive Board in a decade. Earlier in the year, the IR Committee coordinated meetings between ITU President Casado and USOC Chief Executive Officer Scott Blackmun that resulted in awarding of the USOC grant, more than double the awards received in recent years.

While in San Diego, IR Committee members arranged the CAF event mentioned previously, and a dinner at Sea World for USAT and ITU board members. The committee also coordinated a lunch for the ITU Executive Board hosted by the board of Triathlon America. This lunch proved to be a seminal event that led to the organization's hosting of the post-





Olympic Triathlon reception for the global triathlon family in London and its re-organization as Triathlon Business International. TBI will be sponsoring a global triathlon conference in London in the days leading up to the ITU World Triathlon Series Grand Finale and Congress in London.

London 2012 Olympic Games

USAT President Wendling led the US delegation to the London 2012 Olympic Games, the quadrennial's most important international events. IR Committee member Joyce Donaldson, a member of the ITU Technical Committee and the highest-ranking US ITU technical official, participated as an official in the Olympic Games. Selection for the Olympic Games is the highest honor an ITU technical official can receive.

Wendling and USAT CEO Rob Urbach attended an historic, first-ever meeting of national federation presidents with the ITU Executive Board in Great Britain's Parliament office buildings. The committee chair hosted USOC CEO Blackmun during the women's triathlon competition, giving USAT a unique opportunity to present our sport in its highest form to the chief Olympic decision maker. Blackmun later told the Olympic Congress in Colorado Springs that watching Sarah Groff battle up to the race leaders in the closing miles and minutes of the race, and her exciting albeit unsuccessful charge to try to capture the bronze medal, was the most exciting thing he'd seen at the Games.

The IR Committee also worked to facilitate the Triathlon America/TBI sponsorship of the closing reception at the Lido in Hyde Park following the end of the Olympic race events. Both the men and women's events featured exciting unpredictable races in front of unprecedented massive crowds. The photo finish in the women's race was the closest in Olympic history. The traditional post-race gathering of the NFs, triathlon sponsors, IOC members, and other friends of triathlon marked the end of the Olympic quadrennial and celebrated a period of tremendous growth in participation, development, and professionalism in our sport.

IR Committee Facilitates ITU-WTC Cooperation

IR Committee member Paula Newby-Fraser, who has led committee efforts to enhance sport governance relationships with international triathlon race management companies, hosted ITU President Casado in Kailua-Kona, HI and the IR committee chair, for the Ironman World Championship, an historic first for an ITU president since triathlon became an Olympic sport. Newby-Fraser and the committee chair facilitated a successful meeting between Casado and WTC CEO Andrew Messick exploring options for possible future collaboration, including efforts to combat anti-doping in triathlon.





Since the committee's creation, one of the IR Committee's goals has been to promote the harmonization of competition rulebooks. The committee has supported efforts in recent years to grant helmet waivers for international athletes competing in the Ironman World Championship in Hawaii. The committee also notes that WTC now supports ITU rules around the world, simplifying the current challenge of blending USAT, ITU, and WTC rules. WTC management representatives met with the ITU delegation during the Triathlon America conference to discuss continued progress on rules harmonization. The committee would like to see continued efforts on USAT's part to harmonize rules and officials programs and make whatever progress is possible through an ongoing dialog with our international partners.

Auckland Grand Finale & ITU Congress

The USAT IR Committee fulfilled its mandate to review candidates for ITU Executive Board and Committee positions to be elected at the Auckland Congress this year and presented them to the board. This is one of the core functions for which the committee was created. The committee also reviewed the international resolutions submitted to the ITU Congress for consideration and presented the board with recommended positions for the proposals.

The committee notes that its membership has been carefully constructed to include representatives with experience in international relations who represent all the various constituencies in our international relations. The committee continues to urge the board to select candidates and committee members with professional qualifications and sports governance experience in international relations.

Most of the US delegation present worked diligently at Congress to win election of US candidates. While two candidates were not elected to major ITU positions, seven others were successfully voted onto ITU Committees including five incumbents.. In addition, Susan Haag was newly elected to the ITU Women's Committee, replacing former USAT Secretary Candy Cheatham, who served admirably for four years on that committee. USAT athlete director Steve Sexton also was elected for the first time to the ITU Athlete's Committee, replacing Jarrod Shoemaker.

In addition, the committee chair prepared the nomination for and worked for the selection of former USAT Secretary Celeste Callahan, a member of the ITU Age Group Commission, to be the first winner of the ITU's Women's Committee Award of Excellence. IR Committee member Callahan accepted the award at Congress, delivering a speech about the history of





women in triathlon, urging all NFs to work hard to recruit and more women in sport governance.

Attendance at Congress by USAT members serving on ITU committees has been limited the past two years due to inadequate budget requests by the Committee. We expect that practice will change in 2013. The committee is concerned that after working hard to elect USAT representatives to important positions on ITU Committees, that these individuals then are unable to attend the 2013 annual in-person meetings of those panels. The committee will submit a more realistic 2013 budget and we urge the board to fully fund travel and accommodations expenses to permit all USAT representatives to attend requisite meetings.

2013 Objectives

WTS - The USAT IR Committee is confident the ongoing success with WTS events and additional opportunities for draft-legal racing in the United States can be sustained. Despite the lack of senior-level ITU support for the US Executive Board candidate in the Auckland elections, the US will continue to fully support the ITU executive board and their policies.. The committee consensus continues to support the original USAT bid to ITU for San Diego, which also called for USAT to host the ITU WTS Grand Finale and Congress in 2014, the 40th anniversary of the first-ever triathlon in San Diego.

Solidarity - The committee continues to support solidarity efforts coordinated with ITU for the maximum benefit of international sport development. One of the key goals of the USOC International Grants program is to support activities of our international federation, especially in sport development. While key aspects of the IR grant program historically have involved the IF and the IR Committee, the committee was excluded from participating in the 2013 grant application process completed in 2012. Committee members remain interested in helping to develop solidarity funding requests for international capacity building. The committee also is interested in bringing to fruition efforts with our international partners and USAT staff to best support initiatives such as athlete exchanges, coaching enrichment programs, training camps, and other educational outreach. The committee stands ready to review any proposals or plans for any of our programs and activities and events with an international component and to assist in any way.

ITU Officials Program - The committee remains concerned there is inadequate support and funding for the ITU officials program within USA Triathlon. Technical officials working at ITU events in the United States do not receive financial support equal to that of USAT officials working USAT events and often receive no financial support at all. They must provide their own uniforms, etc., as well. If the US hopes to grow the draft-legal race circuit





to support elite athlete development and also continue to offer the current or even an expanded array of WTS and Continental events, then a greater commitment to adequate funding for officials is required.

Unlike any other NFs, USAT maintains separate funding and training for USAT and ITU officials. It is challenging to recruit separate teams of officials for ITU events, especially when we have hundreds of credentialed USAT officials. The committee reiterates its past request for USAT to develop an appropriate ITU Level 1 training module to add to USAT officials' certification training as soon as possible to ensure we are able to provide qualified, funded officials to all race directors desiring to produce ITU and other styles of races.

Conclusion

The International Relations Committee had a very successful year helping USAT enhance its standing in the international community despite its differences with the board. Since the beginning of the last quad, the committee has vastly enhanced opportunities for USAT members to serve on ITU Committees/Commissions and regional boards and committees. As a result of our efforts, many more USAT members are involved in the decision-making and policy development of international triathlon sport governance. We have helped develop capacity-building programs in other parts of the world and are working to grow strategic relationships with our neighbors in sport.

The committee hopes the board will work with it at the beginning of the new quadrennial leading to Rio, the first Games in the Pan American region since Atlanta 1996, towards building more opportunities for our athletes, age groupers and elites alike. The committee would like the board to meet with the entire committee as soon in 2013 as possible to discuss strategic initiatives in international relations for the next four years.

We look forward to another successful year helping USAT promote triathlon wherever in the world Team USA athletes compete.

The following individuals, nearly all of whom represent USAT in an international triathlon role, served USAT on the International Relations Committee in 2012:

Melissa Merson – ITU Executive Board (2008-2012), PATCO Executive Board

Jon Beeson – ITU Paratriathlon Committee

Gale Bernhardt – ITU Constitution Committee

Celeste Callahan – ITU Age Group Commission

Candy Cheatham – ITU Women's Committee

Charlie Crawford - USAT Commissioner of Officials





Joyce Donaldson – ITU Technical Committee
Jeff Dyrek – ITU Multisport Committee
Doug Hiller – ITU Medical Committee
Sarah McClarty – Athlete Representative
Paula Newby-Fraser – International Race Management Company representative (WTC)
Bob Wending – USAT President, PATCO Treasurer
Sarah Reinertsen – Athlete Representative
Andy Schmitz – USAT High Performance Manager
Steve Sexton – Athlete Representative
Jarrod Shoemaker – Athlete Representative, ITU Athlete’s Committee
Rob Urbach – USAT CEO

Submissions provided by:
Melissa Merson and Bob Wending

