

Dear Presidents; dear Friends

During our last Executive Board meeting that was held in Madrid on the 20th - 21st of September we set out our Vision that, starting from 2015, we should concentrate on building a Strategy on Races and this led us to make some important decisions. The decisions are the result of long discussions, as part of which we asked the opinion of many interested stakeholders.



At the end we have reached an agreement on the following;
Some decisions already affect our Race Calendar in 2015; others will in 2016.

European Sprint Distance Championship

We decided to start to assign, in 2016, the Sprint Distance (SD) European Title for Elite.

We are the only Continent without the SD Title and, in the qualification process, by not having this event, our European athletes have been penalised by not having the chance to win points (300 points for the SD Continental Champs).

This decision was also taken due to the fact that we forecast an increase in popularity of our sport over the next few years and this will also bring an increase in athletes specialising according to distance.

Even if at present there is very little hope to include the SD in the Olympics, there might be interest in the future to justify a dedicated Circuit of SD Races.

In 2016 the European SD Championships will be a standalone event; however from 2017 new packages of races will be offered on the Olympic Distance European Championships and SD European Championships weekends.

We have decided to start from 2016 and not next season because all bids for our European Cups have already been received and it was difficult to find a proper place in the race calendar. Only one of the Sprint European Cup bidders was eligible as the other 2 events conflicted with other races.

For 2016 a formal bid announcement will be made and we will run a proper process.

Youth Festival and European Championships (16-17 years old)

In 2016 we will have our first Youth (16-17) European Championships (individual and mixed relay).

The purpose is to have a race dedicated only for this age without limiting numbers: this will give the maximum number of young athletes a chance to compete and meet up once a year.

The formula will be on Semi-Final / Final format.

The Mixed Relay European Youth Championships will be introduced in that event and will replace the existing formula for Youth (3M+3W). By doing this we intend to help promote female participation.

The NFs who may have difficulties to have 2+2 athletes will have the opportunity to race in "Regional" teams (like in the Youth Olympics) without competing for the title.

The idea behind this is to create a yearly Youth Festival that will give young athletes a chance to race together. Additionally all stakeholders with a special interest in Youth will be able to meet and discuss future plans.

The venue selection will be very important as it should provide low cost accommodation for the young athletes and has to be easy to reach from all over Europe.

The formal bid for 2016 will be made by January 2015 and the closure will be after our Presidents' Conference. We will take that opportunity to meet face to face with the NFs interested in hosting the Festival and to fully explain the concept.

Regional Races.

There is a growing interest in the "Regional" circuits. Currently there are two well established circuits in the Balkan and the Baltic areas with a number of NFs playing a part.

The Final of these Regional Circuits will earn ITU points on the one condition that they are open to all athletes. In 2014 these Finals provided points only for the ETU Ranking.

Races for Clubs

In 2015 the goal is to organise the "Number 0" Race for Clubs.

We want to organise a Test Event to check the race format and to receive important feedback from the NFs and any interested Sponsors.

We are in contact with a potential LOC.

The first Edition will be by "invitation only" in order to evaluate the above. The race format will be the Mixed Relay.

This should also increase female participation in Triathlon and it is in line with our efforts to include the Mixed Relay in the Olympics.

Cross Duathlon

It has been decided, starting in 2015, to assign the European Title to the Cross Duathlon. It is not a strategic decision rather an opportunistic one with the purpose to add incrementally to the number of races offered to all athletes interested in Multisport, Triathlon and Duathlon. We are confident that this choice will help the Multisport Discipline.

Baku

Everything now is running according to plan. A new and good venue (different from the one that Alpar presented to us in Kitzbühel) has been found and the water characteristics are according to our standards. If there are any further updates you will be informed and a full presentation will be made at the President's conference.

European Sport Championships (ESC)

The selected venue for our European Championships in 2018, according to the ESC agreement, will be Glasgow. There are many different aspects being developed at the moment, including a visit to Glasgow in the first week of November to have a complete check and the final decision will be made by the end of 2014.



Sincerely,



Renato Bertrandi