

Athlete Committee meeting 11/3/2021

Attending: Tamas Toth, Gergely Markus, Ai Ueda, Lisa Norden, Jonathan Goerlach, Rachel Klamer, Tony Dodds, Sally Pilbeam, Kris Gemmel.

Discussion:

- Tamas: Welcomes everyone and would like to review the survey data. First asks Gergely for any updates?
- Gergely: Montreal moved to the week before Edmonton due to request from LOC and TriCanada to be able to get both together. For the other events we are going ahead in the planning. Situation in Milan is getting worse, so it's very fragile situation for paratri race. Despite the Japanese events, the other events will go ahead even if qualification does not restart. A second NF survey has been sent so we will be able to compare and see if things will change. We had a meeting with paratri working group and they gave their recommendations by next Monday morning, which will be the last meeting before the Eboard on 18th.
 - Jono: This paratri working group did submit their recommendations to us paratriathletes.
- Tamas: Reviews the questions for Able body:
 - Q1 about confidence of selection: 58% are confident or very confident
 - Q2 about training: essentially 98% have access
 - Q3: about training camps: 75% can travel
 - Q4: about ability to travel in may: 88% optimistic
 - Q5: about conditions to return to home country: only 2% cannot return
 - Q6: about racing if no points: 70% would like to race, 30% prefer not to take the risk
 - Q7: about latest deadline: 34% prefer not to restart, 27% 4 weeks before, 20% 8 weeks before, 18% 6 weeks before
 - Q8: about vaccination for athletes: only 17% vaccinated or vaccinated just before the games
- Tamas: Reviews questions for Paratri:
 - Q1 about confidence of selection: 60% are confident or very confident
 - Q2 about training: essentially 97% have access
 - Q3: about training camps: 77% can travel
 - Q4: about ability to travel in may: 91% optimistic
 - Q5: about conditions to return to home country: no athlete said they cannot return
 - Q6: about racing if no points: 68% would like to race, 32% prefer not to take the risk
 - Q7: about latest deadline: 34% prefer not to restart, 27% 4 weeks before, 20% 8 weeks before, 18% 6 weeks before
 - Q8: about vaccination for athletes: only 7% vaccinated or vaccinated just before the games
- Jono: Suggests we add region to the survey next time as this may help better understand the data.
- Rachel: We could make this an open question where it's not required

- Jono: I think we are in a similar place from where we are before, but at least this confirms our gut instinct from before and we had a long
- Claire: What stuck out for me from the survey was three things:
 - Vast majority can train and even a good portion can go on training camp. This is good and fulfills our initial criteria for restart races.
 - Q6 about racing without points: the 70% wanting to race stuck out more than the 30% who didn't want to take the risk, but I do agree that 30% is high.
 - Q7 also expresses the mixed desires between having as many races as possible vs certainty of racing. I do think that many athletes know that *not* restarting the qualification means potentially more races falling off the calendar.
- Gergely: NF Survey sent yesterday already has 25 responses (this will probably double):
 - NF survey so far also agrees with 98% saying yes or limited access; 78% can get on training camps. 1% say they cannot return from training camp/races.
- Lisa: From the comments, it seems like the bottom 5-10 are the ones that really need those points to fight until the end. These do tend to be from smaller nations with little funding and we need to be able to support these athletes.
- Gergely: yes, the last 5-10 spots are fighting for points, but also those trying to secure a third spot in top 30 is competitive, those trying to secure 2 men-2 women is also a big fight from some NFs, and New Flag. These are all aspects to consider as well.
- Tamas: The tricky part here also is that if we open for some, then we have to open for all.
- Lisa: The easiest would be to just offer 2-3 races where everyone can travel and those are the only ones.
- Kris: The thing is that the ones chasing the last places will not be able to get into Yokohama for example, because the top athletes (who likely already have a quota spot secured) want to race as well. The ones fighting for the last places are hoping for more races to have multiple options to score points.
- Gergely: what we do have on our side compared to other sports, is that we have completed the majority of our races. We don't depend on a one-day event or even events in every region.
- Claire: If qualification doesn't restart, would races that do happen still be worth World Triathlon points? Thereby impacting about New Flag?
- Gergely: No, if we reopen one ranking we reopen both. Otherwise it would be too complicated.
- Tamas: What about the current events in Europe?
- Gergely: Melilla is still on, but there is a rule if it is a championship a 10-week period before and for other races 6 weeks before to decide if cancelled or not. The qualification restart or not will have more impact on World Triathlon Calendar will still happen.
- Claire: What is our recommendation?
- Jono: messaging with Sally, Yannick from the para side we recommend freezing the ranking points with the exception of continental champs that could go towards the regions that didn't have 3 champs. If that's not able to happen then include previous continental champs. We should not take away points from athletes in any case.
- Jono: @ Kris, is there still the possibility to add more quota to Games with IOC?
- Kris: I don't have an answer specifically for you, but I know it is in discussion and there were meetings this week with IOC. These surveys are useful to have some data and documentation to support these arguments for more spots.

- Tamas: @ Claire what is your opinion?
- Claire: torn as well, but for me the survey showed there is a clear desire to race and so I'm in favor of a short qualification window: from Osaka to Leeds (8 weeks before the game).
- Sally: from para-tri you just have so much fewer race opportunities and fewer total races that have happened, so it is difficult to decide, but I still prefer closing the ranking so that WT and NFs have time adapt the criteria.
- Tamas: I wonder if asking the top 170 was too many athletes and our data may be a little skewed...
- Kris: No I think you did this right. When we do the NF survey it also goes to all NFs, even those who do not have a slot for the Games. Don't need to look too closely for the granular data, it's best to ask a larger group so everyone still has a voice.
- Claire: @ Tamas, what's your conclusion from the survey?
- Tamas: I don't think it makes sense to open the qualification period. It just seems too risky and to open too many doors.
- Kris: Remember that you don't have to make the decision and it's okay to defend both sides to Eboard.