

Multisport Committee Minutes – public

Meeting: 20 September 2023

Approved 16 November 2023

Duration: Hybride meeting face to face/via Zoom 01.28.00

Present

Brian Hinton (BH), AUS – Chair
 Alicia Garcia (AG), ESP
 Melody Tan (MT), MAS
 Tim Yount (TY), USA
 Diane Henderson (DH), TTO

Stefane Mauris (SM), SUI, World Triathlon Staff Liaison
 Bernard Saint Jean (BSJ), FRA, World Triathlon Board representative
 Antonio Álvarez (AA), MEX, World Triathlon Board representative
 Renato Bertrandi (RB), ITA Europe Triathlon President
 Hans Ernst (HE), USA, Guest
 John Raadschelders (JR), NED, IPA CEO

*For ease of minute taking only first names or initials of the members will be referred to in the minutes. You can see full names above.

Absent

Jianqiu Qin (JQ), CHN
 Ahmed Allouch (AM), TUN

Discussion Items	Discussion	Who
1. Welcome and introduction	BH Thanks to all, great to have face to face meeting with guests and special thanks to all those who attended the extraordinary meeting on 27 August 2023 BH thanked SM for the work he is doing with documents and assistance to the MTS Committee BH also thanked MT as the time difference is huge.	
2. Apologies/absence	No apologies received	

3. Approval of the minutes	<p>Minutes – July– internal version approved with some corrections.</p> <p>Minutes – July - public version approved with some corrections.</p>	
4. Collaboration with Women’s Committee	<p>No updates. BH will attend the face-to-face meeting on 21 September and will take part in the paratriathlon committee meeting as well.</p>	
5. Discussion around the elite duathlon format	<p>The change to sprint distance for Elite duathlon was approved in the Pontevedra Ex Bd meeting.</p> <p>For World Games in Chengdu the distance is 5-30-5 and Townsville LOC will be contacted to check on the possibilities of them adopting this distance.</p>	
6. Discussion around the work done by the Committee	<p>After three years of work together as a committee, we need to see how we have been tracking towards our goals -</p> <p>According to the Constitution, the role of the Multisport Committee is to:</p> <p><i>(1) set international standards of excellence for World Triathlon as the world leaders in Multisport and successfully grow Multisport globally via strong relationships with all strategic partners.</i></p> <p><i>(2) develop Multisport and strengthen its importance as part of the wider triathlon family, including the development of alliances to encourage National Federations and Regions to provide Championships in all Multisport Events;</i></p> <p><i>(3) provide input into the World Triathlon evaluation process for all bids submitted for Multisport World Championship events;</i></p> <p><i>(4) ensure all multisport events incorporating the disciplines listed above are governed by the World Triathlon;</i></p> <p><i>(5) make recommendations to the Executive Board on all and any aspects relating to Multisport.</i></p> <p>We worked to set standards for World Triathlon as one of our responsibilities. This is done, and we need to continue working towards other needs around multisport.</p> <p>Recommendations from TRI Executive Board Members -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We need to make further inroads around marketing and strategy 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MTS needs must be built with sustainability as a key focus. - Be prepared for the inclusion of different disciplines in the future. <p>To accomplish this,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it was agreed to allocate one of our regular meetings only to strategy. - We need to collect more data on Multisport activities across the globe. <p>Winter triathlon</p> <p>The last European champs were in Andorra, which included the French/Spanish national championships and no more than 105 athletes attended. Note: the LOC did a very good job of producing the events. The impact of not having Russian and Belarusian athletes did impact participation. For this reason, Europe is thinking of not organizing the European Champs in 2024.</p> <p>One key takeaway - it is important to host events in each continental federation.</p> <p>We are making progress, but we need to be realistic. Still no bid for World champs in 2024, same case as in Europe. We still have some work today to also build higher quality fields at the elite level.</p> <p>One other hurdle we need to consider – producing these events is expensive so we need to support ways for LOCs can host other events alongside winter triathlon which should support the concerns of sustainability. For example, run-ski-run events.</p> <p>In Italy, they had the experience of a roller ski race organized in August, inviting country skiing athletes. The format was running, skiing and cycling in the sand with great TV coverage, and it was good. Action item will be to look at that as a tested model.</p> <p>In the past it was on the table a circuit of races, with TV coverage in an attempt to increase the exposure and image, but only few were done and production ceased.</p> <p>We need to assess – is Olympic Winter Triathlon sport worth the investment of time, money and energy?</p> <p>We have the discipline for it to be a success; “key” continues to be attracting the volume of athletes at the age group and elite levels.</p>	
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	<p>As example, US created a winter festival, with triathlon, duathlon, and off-road racing, as LOC had production expertise but numbers were still not at the desired levels.</p> <p>And last year, when the world champs were allocated to Norway, the feeling was more athletes would be interested in racing, as Norway is the “mecca” of winter triathlon. But it was not the case and participation didn’t meet critical mass.</p> <p>New and different strategies have been described - to try to work with other organizations (World Loppet, Birkebeiner organizations for example). We might also need to consider creating strategic prongs around elite and another for age groupers. This could be building a quality elite field and a larger age group contingency from around the globe on the age group side.</p> <p>It will also behoove us to have a person leading the project, somebody who takes on winter triathlon as his/her project.</p> <p>After much discussion it was agreed to allocate one of our regular meetings to discuss Winter Triathlon. This will be scheduled after the Winter Working group that both DM and SM set up for October.</p> <p>We will also check in with those who produced the Asia Winter Triathlon in Harbin, China.</p> <p>Aqua walking</p> <p>After video review and additional assessment, we feel it is good for training purposes but to understand it more we need to have more demographic data and obtain more about its origins and impact it could have on the multisport movement.</p>	
<p>7. World Triathlon World Multisport World Championships and other Multisport events update</p>	<p>Townsville Multisport World Championships 2024</p> <p>They are making some slight changes to the mountain bike course. LOC will be posting the final course maps soon.</p> <p>Pontevedra Multisport World Championships 2025</p> <p>Specific work will start after Pontevedra 2024 event; team already focused on 2024 event.</p> <p>The World Games 2025 – Chengdu</p>	

	There will be a meeting in Chengdu for the World Games strategy in October. SM will be there as he will be the team leader for the Chengdu World Cup. The meeting is one week later.	
8. Congress Report and Presentation	Already prepared. The guidelines were only 5 slides and all it is done.	
9. Varia	<p>John Raadschelders presented a quick overview about IPA. He is happy to see Duathlon again in the World Games. About the distance, 5-30-5 is well accepted and does support increased athlete participation, so it is good.</p> <p>With Covid 19 situation, a lot of organizers had difficulties producing events. We are coming out of that now.</p> <p>Regarding Europe triathlon, they organized the European champs before covid, and the increase of participation was from 750 to 1200; unfortunately, after covid, the participation decreased.</p> <p>A new MOU was signed with World Triathlon/IPA through 2024.</p> <p>One important thing is to protect the dates, they are working towards the 5th of May for the European champs' middle-distance duathlon in Alsdorf.</p> <p>He is confident it will come back to Asia; he is in conversations with the Malaysia triathlon federation president. The idea is to organize two days of events; same consideration in Japan.</p> <p>He thinks duathlon is a development tool for Multisports and sport in general, they are having development projects for kids in schools in Malaysia.</p> <p>He thinks also marketing is very important, with the idea to raise the profile of Duathlon.</p> <p>They are working towards a Powerman race in Colombia; supporting a slightly different around women which is all part of how they will market the event.</p> <p>Gergely presented and update on races, 3 potential venues for 2026 Multisport Champs. The decision will be made during the last executive board meeting in December.</p>	
10. Next meeting	Next meeting on Thursday, 19 October 2023 22:30- 23:30 CET	