

Para triathlon Committee Minutes

Meeting: 20 September 2023

Duration: 14:30 in Pontevedra – in person and remote Meeting

Present

- Grant Darby (GD), CAN (C)
- Beryl Campbell (BC), RSA
- Christine Palmquist (CP), USA
- Martin Breedijk (MB), NED
- Masamitsu Tomikawa (MT), JPN
- Neil MacLeod (NM), ITA (VC)
- Jonathan Goerlach (JG), - Athlete Representative
- Allysa Seely (AS), USA Athlete representative
- Debbie Alexander (DA), RSA – EB Liaison
- Ian Howard (IH), GBR – EB Liaison
- Gergely Markus (GM) – HUN – World Triathlon Sport Director
- Katerina Magkou (KM) – GRE – Head of Classification
- Eric Angstadt (EA), ESP – World Triathlon Staff Liaison
- Rebeka Torma (RT) HUN - World Triathlon Classification Coordinator

Absent

- Lotfi Labaied (LL), TUN

*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

Item	Discussion Items	Discussion	Actions
1	Welcome		

2	Approval of minutes and agenda proposed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes status 2. Events update 3. Classification <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Opportunities b. IPC Classification Code Review c. Potential changes Post Paris 2024 d. Strategy 4. IPC updates 5. Rules Review discussion 6. Coaches Working Group 7. Development updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continental Confederation Matters 8. AOB 9. Next Meeting 	Minutes from May, July and August were circulated and will be posted 48h after this meeting
3	Events Update	<p>EA provided update on events since AUG 22nd. GM also provided the insight on the current calendar and 2024 plans to be announced at congress. Main events since last call were continental cups in America and Africa with some development activities happening around classification. Recent announcements for a WPC in Malaga and possibility of another one in Italy. Alhandra WPC coming up with development camp in Europe and classification course and PI Classification</p> <p>JG: Regarding the two recently announced World Cups, athletes are questioning the fairness of the timing of these announcements for athletes that do not reside in Europe and how it may impact on some Oceania, Asia and Africa based athletes trying to qualify for the Paralympics. For example, many athletes have already booked flights and budgeted for the preexisting events and now cannot change their plans to compete in these events.</p> <p>GM provided some of the rationale behind the decision to include these events, back-to-back to provide a better opportunity for athletes coming overseas as well as a balanced calendar in the qualification period. Also</p>	

		<p>the impact other events have had going into duathlons and how this may have affected the qualification process</p> <p>Mixed Relay discussion on numbers and teams and this topic to be addressed at the NFs meeting as well but the main discussion is about the balance of the different impairments to ensure there is balanced representation. The main goal is to ensure it is an official WCH in 2024. This will encourage teams to take part and plan accordingly in the budgets. The sooner info can go out for the event in Malaga the better response we will get.</p> <p>CP Mentioned how teams are planning with budgets and having late announcements really puts a constraint on planning ability for the teams</p> <p>Discussion led to where is the perfect balance for number of events considering not all are full, should quotas be extended, should criteria be revised to allow for a better participation balance?</p> <p>EA provided the insight on participation by continent and by sport class to show the progress achieved in 2023 for international participations.</p> <p>The Para committee discussed on the fact the sport is becoming very elite for the top 3-4 athletes and then there is a gap in most categories. Apart from development of new countries there needs to be mentoring and best-practice sharing amongst federations.</p> <p>For top para athletes, it seems not worth going to World Cups. The point distribution in the different level of events may need revision.</p> <p>Do we make it more flexible to achieve points, change the point distribution, cap the max number of participations?</p> <p>The top level is discouraging new athletes. Could there be two parallel circuits or one of them have a max age to compete?</p>	
4	Classification	<p>Opportunities: EA provided an update on upcoming opportunities, one in Europe and one in Africa in Egypt for the Cont. Champs and discussions for an optional in Asia depending on the development activities agreed with the cont. confederation.</p>	

		<p>Out of competition options for VI, in discussions with IPC for Santiago close to the Para Pan American Games and in Egypt in a swimming competition. EA in touch with IPC for any other opportunities that could arise</p> <p>IPC Classification Code Review KM provided insight on the Classification Code Review process since 2021 and the deadline to provide final feedback by October 31st. KM will call a meeting with senior classifiers to review final consultation review before the IPC Meetings for Heads of Classification and VISTA in Egypt. KM also provided an insight on where we are with the development of classifiers and ongoing courses to bring in more classifiers, as well as maintaining the engagement of those existing ones.</p> <p>Potential changes Post Paris 2024: EA explained the CAG will now review the priority points of potential changes post Paris to address what is done during the winter to trial certain protocols or collect specific data that may allow for changes post Paris. There is a slide in the presentation for the NFs that will be available on the TRI website</p> <p>MB asked if an extra sport class is required, which seems would make things less easy to understand</p> <p>VI research is being discussed with a University and it will now come down to defining next steps, budget, etc.</p> <p>DA said it is very important for our membership to understand the impact of splitting classes or reducing them, this may have a direct impact on medal events, also depending if we use the interval start system, etc.</p> <p>GD added how the impact on the female side can also be very important to consider. Consideration about comparisons made in the last years for PTS2 and PTS3. It will be very challenging to get more medal events. We can look back and analyse how the interval start system</p>	
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		<p>brought athletes into the sport, that before felt they could not fit in to the sport.</p> <p>EA added that decisions will need to be taken carefully to ensure there is a sustainable balance</p> <p>Strategy: EA and RT working on the Classification strategy to better plan athlete classification for the coming season, analysis on figures and events calendar to announce classification opportunities as soon as possible.</p> <p>EA displayed the slide on strategy with key points to be addressed as well as the current challenges TRI is facing</p> <p>KM reviewed the way active classifiers have been acting and interacting especially since covid and all the restrictions, but the impact this has had on variety, ability to classify and stay active, etc</p> <p>Also, how this can be done in the most sustainable manner, reducing costs and keeping at the same time all classifiers engaged with presence to classify and or engagement through online sessions during the season.</p> <p>Increasing days of classification and evaluation duration is one of the first measures that will be taken to ensure smooth classification process as the health conditions are becoming more and more complex.</p> <p>DA proposed to engage with IPC so they can deliver a first approach webinar in one or two sessions for TRI. Also to ensure all continents are pushing to send individuals for classifier training</p> <p>EA reviewed the cost slide that contains data that can help model the strategy properly</p> <p>EA and DA exposed how as of now we need to continue relying on IBSA for VI classification but to consider IPC grants for project that allows to develop own classifiers</p> <p>JG wrote on the chat that VI classification at continental championships could be challenging due to the facilities required but we will need to decide this on a case by case scenario</p> <p>EA the Out of Competition Opportunities are proving to be very cost efficient and sustainable</p>	
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5	IPC Updates	<p>IPC matter about discussion on the interval start system in the Code Review 3rd round. DA mentioned we need to do in-depth internal analysis on the direction we think we should go towards. We can expect that IPC will come back to us after the joint letter that was sent to IPC by us and all other IFs using factor mechanisms</p> <p>EA and Secretary General Antonio Arimany to attend the coming week the IPC General Assembly in Bahrain. DA to attend the APSO GA. More discussions will take place there to follow.</p> <p>Anti Doping: compliance with ITA's guidelines, it is now important to ensure those</p>	
6	Rules Review	<p>EA brought up the discussion on some CR or Classification Rules and how the review should start as early as possible and in early 2024 at latest to have finalised all discussions prior to the fall of 2024 when the process is concluded.</p> <p>There are already many topics that are being tabled that can already be properly discussed. Important to engage with the Coaches Working Group</p> <p>JG made a proposal for WTPC win should be worth more than the last quota spot in each category. Point noted for the rules review group. The approach may require a different approach than what is used on the able body side</p>	GD agreed with EA this action item should start before Christmas
7	Coaches Working Group	<p>CP: The sooner teams know about event calendar the better, at least 3 months' notice for events to be announced. Request for the Interval start system to be implemented for aquathlon. Number of credentials (accreditations) for teams, some very big teams fall short under the formula that is also used for able body, but the required support personnel is very different due to the range of classes and impairments. More cards are required for some teams.</p>	<p>PC to make modified rule proposal.</p> <p>Accreditation numbers and points table for different level of events</p>

		<p>Suggestion for EA to notify the working group about new flags and athletes attending events so they can be contacted.</p> <p>AS suggested that some of the elite athletes could also mentor newcomers.</p> <p>DA agreed this is a great approach and would be very important</p>	
8	Development	<p>EA updates on the Camp in Rio Maior by Europe Triathlon and TRI providing facilitator and classification course in parallel. A lot of coordination by Zita and Continental coordinators. Attendance and financial support for athletes from new flags and also strong flags like GBR.</p> <p>There were more activities planned for Colombia, TRI arranged for classification and a coaches certification course for America's region that was only attended by Colombians.</p> <p>In Africa, only classification offered together with the continental championships.</p> <p>The direction is for Confederations to be proactive and engage the member NFs to profit from the offered activities.</p> <p>Discussion on the amount of budget that Continental Confederations must allocate for Para and what has been done for each continent in 2023</p>	<p>GD requested for different PC members to ensure they attend all Continent meetings on the following day</p>
9	AOB	<p>GD provided insight on the presentation to be done at congress.</p>	
10	Next Meeting	<p>Tentative 25th October 9pm CET</p>	