1. **Welcome Address:**

   a) ITU President Les McDonald called the meeting to order. His opening remarks included praise for the 2006 Lausanne ITU Triathlon World Championships and he declared it the “best ever”.

2. **Roll-call of members:** Sheila O’Kelly, Chair ITU Credentials Committee reported that 49 countries were in attendance, including the following delegates:

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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Australia</strong></td>
<td>MARTIN, Mark \ STUBBS, Kerry</td>
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<td><strong>Bermuda</strong></td>
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<td>HOONG, David \ KADIR, Siva Kumar</td>
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<td><strong>Spain</strong></td>
<td>HIDALGO, Jose \ GARCIA, Rafael</td>
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<td><strong>Slovakia</strong></td>
<td>IHRING, Anton</td>
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<td><strong>St. Louis, Alain</strong></td>
<td>StOvickova, Magda</td>
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3. **Appointment of three (3) tellers:** Patty Petty, BER, Kiriyo Suzuki, JPN and Gerardo Zetina, MEX were appointed.

4. **Report of the Audit Committee:** Sylvia Gonzalez, CRC presented the report from the Chair of the ITU Audit Committee, Graeme Kempson, GBR as follows:

   “We give Congress our report which relates to the Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2005.

   We were given sight of all papers which the committee considered essential to perform our role on behalf of Congress. We subsequently asked for more information to allow us further understanding of the figures. This was all forthcoming. It is essential to understand that the committee cannot and does not replicate the work of the appointed external and independent auditors. We do however bring a critical eye to financial documents prepared for management on your behalf.

   KPMG, as part of their task, have made recommendations to management post audit. We endorse and had anticipated the majority of them. ITU has grown (in financial terms and in paid personnel) dramatically over the last two years. The financial side now needs more resource to ensure this area is performed in a timely manner, and we understand that the EB has agreed to this cost.

   We noted that losses could not continue at their present rate for the next three year without making the organisation insolvent. However, not surprisingly, the Treasurer and EB were aware of this; spending had been accelerated on programs which were to be funded in future by the new sponsor of ITU – the BG Group. Revised budgets have been prepared to reflect this income during 2006 and later.

   The audit committee has completed their review of the financial reports; they have no concerns relating to them and recommend that Congress accept a motion to formally approve them.
We take the opportunity to thank the auditors, KPMG, for all their work as well as the cooperation we received from them.

The report of the Audit Committee was accepted unanimously by Congress.


6. **President’s Report:** ITU President, Les McDonald welcomed the delegates to Lausanne, the Olympic City, and emphasized what a privilege it was to be invited there, in cooperation with the IOC, and its President Dr. Jacques Rogge.
   a) The success of the World Championships we have just witnessed and been involved in, owes much to the leaders of the Lausanne Organising Committee led by Claude Thomas, Gerald Hagenlocher, plus other members of the Lausanne City Police Department with assistance from Sabrina Tramparulo and Chantal Boehi.

   According to the Lausanne Police Department, arguably the best in the world, and most truthful – they estimated the spectators at 80,000.

   ITU increased the prize money for the event by $50,000us thanks to the global partnership with “The BG Group”.

   Conclusion: A highly successful World Championships – probably “the best ever!”

   b) The Pre-race Reception at the Olympic Museum, hosted by our new global partner, The BG Group, was a beautiful evening with the entire ITU Family.

   c) It was a privilege to have Gilbert Felli, the Executive Director of the Olympic Games, with us at the ITU Family Reception and at the Elite Medal Presentations. His words of wisdom concerning the Olympic Movement and ITU’s role in it were very special. Gilbert has been our advisor and friend since our creation in Avignon, 1989.

   d) Mr. Ganda Sithole from Zimbabwe, Director of International Cooperation and Development for IOC, also graced us with his presence and he spoke glowingly about ITU and our sport. “Tommy” as he is known affectionately to his friends, played a leading role in the campaign to free his country, the former Rhodesia from colonial rule. He also played a major role in freeing South Africa from apartheid. Tommy is helping to establish our sport in Africa and the developing countries of the world.

   e) Sincere words of thanks to the ITU Team responsible for our highly successful world governing body,

   **Administration:** Loreen Barnett (Executive Director), Adrienne Proseilo (Assistant Executive Director), Leslie Buchanan (Technical Director),
   **World Cup Series:** Sheila O’Kelly (Director), Gergely Markus, Enrique Quesada,
   **Media, Television and Online Services:** Brian Mahony (Director), Fergus Murray, Stephen Bourdeau, Anna Alexander, Morten Toft, Frank and Silke Weschel (Spomedis), Delly Carr, Barrie Shepley, Sean Cable, Andrew McKenzie, Daniel Mezek
Sport Development: Libby Burrell (Director), Kristine Chambers. A special thanks to Libby for organising the first “BG Global Junior Training Camp” in Tiszaujvaros, Hungary, which was highly successful for athletes and coaches alike.

f) We should be looking forward now to the next World Championships, Hamburg 2007. The spectator count will be the highest of any sport within the Olympic movement. The “Hamburgers” are “triathlon passionate” – look for high performance by the German Triathletes. They are also some of the most intelligent, cultured and correct of all of our athletes.

g) The fight against drugs and the strength of the anti-doping programmes that ITU works through collaboratively with WADA. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) produced a document which showed ITU athletes are 4th in positive doping tests. This was a grievous error on their part, for which they have apologized – we thank them.

h) Our New Global Sponsor: ITU’s partnership with the “The BG Group” was announced. The unique thing about this partnership is that The BG Group found ITU as a potential global partner – we did not find them.

The BG Group has a very high safety record and they care about the environment, as does ITU. The total sponsorship is in excess of 20 million US dollars, which we will spend wisely and in careful collaboration with The BG Group. The vast majority of the sponsorship money will go to elite athlete programmes and sport development. Libby Burrell, Director of ITU Sport Development, is currently working closely with The BG Group to develop the sport within the developing world.

i) All athletes and officials were welcomed to the Olympic Museum during their stay in Lausanne with artifacts dating back 2,500 years to the original, ancient Olympics in Greece to the most recent Turin Olympic Games. The most significant exhibit at the museum was the “Triathlon” exhibit which was a wonderful story of the birth of Triathlon in the early 70’s in southern California to its emergence as an Olympic sport.

j) The Age Group and AWAD competitions at the Lausanne World Championships were very well done – with over 2500 participating.

The “Best Ever” World Championships…and for certain the “best ever” unity of our International Federation, for which I thank all of you, “Nous, nous somme pas comme les autre!”

a) Hamburg, 2007: planning on 10,000 athletes with the addition of the First Sprint Triathlon World Championships. Dr. Mueller-Ott stated that Germany will pick up where the FIFA World Cup left off and welcome “new friends” to Germany.

b) Vancouver 2008: ITU is working to expand the organising committee and to establish a World Cup for 2007, which will be a test event for the World Championships.

c) Gold Coast 2009: The event will be part of the 150th Anniversary of the city.

8. Resolutions from the Executive Board
Resolution 1:
Whereas ITU has always adhered to the IOC recommendations, and in particular those concerning the promotion of athletes in the decision making process and the equality of women.

And whereas we currently have one male athlete on the ITU Executive Board.

Therefore, we henceforth include on the Executive Board one (1) man, and one (1) woman athlete to be elected at the athletes meeting, to be conducted by ITU. Furthermore, they will have one (1) vote each at the Executive Board and the ITU annual congress.

Discussion:
Vera Carvalho, POR asked for clarification as to whether this would be a change to the ITU Constitution. Les McDonald responded that it would.
Carried Unanimously

Resolution 2:
Whereas the ITU Competition Rules do not clearly define the distances for the ITU Long Distance Triathlon;

And whereas all disciplines of an International Federation must be clearly defined;

Therefore be it resolved, that the ITU Long Distance Championships will henceforth be double the ITU Olympic Distance event i.e., 3 km swim x 80 km cycle x 20 km run.

Discussion:
a) Bill Walker, AUS, outlined the health and safety concerns associated with Long Distance racing, as published in a paper by Dr. Diane Robinson, AUS
b) Loreen Barnett, CAN, added that we needed to be technically clear about the type of event that falls within the jurisdiction of ITU. She also stated that we need a distinct marketing strategy to distinguish ITU Long Distance events from those of other world governing bodies and private companies.
c) Rob Barel, NED, expressed concern that we may be giving away a large group of athletes who only want to race ultra-long events. He also stated that the existing double and triple Olympic distances is a good mix.
d) Bill Walker, AUS, stated that we need to ensure that our athletes are not risking injuries and related health problems in events which are too long.
e) Les McDonald, CAN, stated that Long Distance is too long for television and spectators and the time needs to be reduced.
f) Rob Barel, NED asked that the 2008 World Championship in Almere be allowed to stay at the Triple Olympic distance.
Resolution carried: 29-10

Resolution 3:
Whereas the ITU Athletes with a Disability (AWAD) are an important member of the ITU family.

And whereas they have asked that we define an age-group category for the various
categories we have.

And whereas we wish to have our AWAD athletes included in the Paralympic Games.

Therefore be it resolved that the ITU “AWAD” age groups be 10 years starting with 20 to 29 years.
Carried Unanimously

Resolution 4:
Whereas the “World Masters Games” has included Triathlon in their European Version 2006 Sweden and a Triathlon in the World Masters Games Australia 2007

And whereas this has been done against the wishes or agreement of ITU

And whereas the inclusion of age group athletes in ITU World Championships and National Championships has taken place since our founding in Avignon 1989.

And whereas ITU has directly requested that the World Masters Games Federation President Kai Holm (DEN) remove Triathlon from their programme, on 3 occasions and has received no response;

Therefore be it resolved that this Congress condemn the attempt by the “World Masters Games” to include Triathlon in their games without our permission.

And further be it resolved that

a) Our National Federation in Sweden cease and desist any and all agreements with the European Masters Games; and

b) That our National Federation in Australia do likewise

Discussion: Les McDonald explained that the World Masters Games Association has agreed to withdraw the triathlon from their programme upon receiving the above resolution.

Resolution Withdrawn:

Resolution 5:
Whereas some athletes at the ITU competitions have not dived into the water at the swim start, but have waited until everyone else has, then ran down the pontoon, or beach, and dived in behind the best swimmer and took advantage of their expertise by drafting behind them in the water.

Therefore be it resolved, in future that they will be disqualified and their bicycle removed from the transition area so they may not continue in the competition.
Carried Unanimously

Resolution 6:
Whereas the ITU Competition rules stipulate that for the Sprint Distance competition the age requirement for juniors is 16 to 19 years of age and for Under 23 - Olympic Distance event,
the age requirement is 19 to 23 years of age.

And whereas, this year 2006, athletes as young as 14 years old were allowed to compete in ITU Sprint Distance and ITU Olympic Distance events, which is a violation of the ITU Competition Rules and deemed detrimental to the health and well being of the athletes.

Therefore be it resolved that this congress condemns this violation of the Competition Rules, and proposes, in future, a $1,000 (US) penalty against the National Federation that enters underage athletes and a $1,000 (US) penalty against the Local Organising Committee for accepting them in the competition.

Amendment: Vera Carvalho, POR, moved, Garry Boon, NZL seconded the following amendment, add…”if existing differences between chronological and biological ages is dully certified by a medical doctor it will be possible for the athletes to compete under a proposal from the national federation and in agreement with ITU.”

Discussion:

a) Philip Schadler, LIE stated that the penalty should be removed.
b) Several spoke on the need to protect the minimum age
c) It was agreed to table the motion and to have the Executive Board reword the resolution for clarity.

Motion Withdrawn:

Resolution 7:
Whereas the World-Anti Doping Agency (WADA) produced doping control tests which indicated that our ITU Triathletes were the 4th highest in the World and have now acknowledged that is not the case, quite the contrary in fact.

Therefore we thank WADA for resolving this problem
Carried Unanimously

Resolution 8:
Whereas the entry fee for Age-group triathletes has increased in recent years

And whereas it has brought serious criticism of ITU by athletes and others

And whereas in the world of sport competitions, it is the responsibility of the Local Organising Committees to raise the necessary funding to organise the events through intelligent marketing and sponsors, plus National and Regional Governments and City councils.

Therefore be it resolved, commencing in 2007 that a limit of $200 US/ competitor be charged to all categories in the Triathlon World Championships.
Carried Unanimously

Resolution 9:
Whereas the concept of age-group competitors in the sport of Triathlon has been with us since the creation of the sport.
And whereas this wonderful invention has introduced physical exercise to millions worldwide, and created the phenomenon of men and women discovering the joy of exercise, fitness, and a new lifestyle, and the discovery of new friends and competitors up to the age of 50-60-70-80 years setting an example and enjoying life.

Therefore be it resolved, commencing in 2007 that there be no limit on the number of competitors allowed to compete in each of the 5 year age-group categories, provided the Local Organising Committees are able to close the venue to traffic, as is the case with the popular marathons around the world which attract masses of eager entrants.

And further be it resolved that the LOC must adhere to the wave start size as outlined in the Competition Rules, but may create more than one wave for the same age group.

Amended by the EBoard: Quota limit would be 20 for national federations and 25 for the host country. 

Carried Unanimously

Resolution 10:
Whereas The International Triathlon Union (ITU) groups together all those who agree to be guided by the ITU constitution and who recognize the authority of the ITU namely: the National Federations, the five Continental Regions of Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania, the athletes, officials, associations and clubs, as well as all the organisations and institutions recognized by ITU”

(Adapted from the IOC Charter)

Therefore be it resolved that National Federations and Continental Confederations confirm that their constitutions are in conformity with those of the International Federation (ITU)

And furthermore, that they will follow the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) rules and regulations.

And furthermore that they will support in principle and practice the “ITU-Olympic Solidarity” training camps scheduled for the five continental regions of ITU.

Carried Unanimously

Resolution 11:
Whereas the United States National Federation proposed the following Resolution No 1 to the 2005 ITU Congress in Gamagori, Japan: "Be it resolved that ITU members not sanction any event attached to the World Triathlon Corporation (Ironman)"

Whereas Congress adopted the Resolution No 1 unanimously, as is reflected in the minutes of the Congress;

Whereas the World Triathlon Corporation (Ironman) launched legal action against USA Triathlon, the International Triathlon Union (ITU) and its President in 2005, before the Court of Arbitration for Sport, following the adoption of the Resolution No 1;
Whereas WTC, ITU and its president agreed to settle the arbitration proceedings without prejudice, nor admission of responsibility before the scheduled hearing;

Whereas it was the ITU Executive board’s opinion that a negotiated settlement agreement was in the better interest of the sport, rather than the exposure to the unpredictable nature of a decision before a three-member panel;

Whereas both parties agreed to discontinue the arbitral proceedings in an agreement dated 21st April 2006;

Whereas the signature of the settlement agreement by ITU should not be interpreted by ITU members as a new partnership with WTC;

Whereas the ITU Executive board strongly cautions its members about the safety of events which are longer than those recognized by the ITU, and which do not have clear anti-doping policies in conformity with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);

Whereas the agreement specifically states that "The ITU Executive Board shall, at the next Congress meeting scheduled for September 2006, propose and support a formal resolution providing for the rescission of the Gamagori Resolution No 1";

Therefore be it resolved that this Congress recognize that the Gamagori Resolution No1 is hereby rescinded.

Discussion:

a) Patrice Brunet, CAN who was the lawyer for ITU in the CAS case WTC vs ITU and Les McDonald, reviewed the chain of events leading up to the WTC initiating the CAS action against ITU, USAT and Les McDonald and the subsequent out-of-court settlement. He stated that the USAT made a private deal with WTC without the knowledge of ITU which left ITU with very few options but to agree to an out-of-court settlement. The settlement means our relationships with WTC is now back to where it was prior to the USAT’s request to help them.

b) Brad Davison, USA stated that he wanted to clarify that the USA was 100% behind the resolution. However, he disagreed with the opening statement, “Whereas the United States National Federation proposed the following Resolution No 1 to the 2005 ITU Congress in Gamagori, Japan: "Be it resolved that ITU members not sanction any event attached to the World Triathlon Corporation (Ironman)";

He said that the USA did not “propose” the resolution but that it was proposed by the ITU Executive Board and this phrase should be removed.

Brad Davison further requested that the reference to health in the resolution be removed.

d) Loreen Barnett, CAN, stated that it was very clear to everyone that the only reason the resolution was presented to the Gamagori Congress was because of the 2 speeches that Skip Gilbert, CEO of USAT made to the ETU and ITU Congresses in 2005. She and several other witnessed Skip Gilbert and Patrice Brunet working on the wording of the resolution and the press release after the Congress.
She likened the situation to two ships sailing on a parallel course across the ocean, each on a journey that had no relationship with the other. The speeches by Skip Gilbert convinced ITU that the WTC ship had drastically changed course and was headed straight for the ITU ship and would surely destroy it.

She further stated that everyone took the situation seriously and believed Skip Gilbert when he stated that WTC was setting up a competing International Federation and would be using “mob” tactics to take over our events.

Loreen Barnett also recounted an incident that occurred after Skip Gilbert’s “State of the Union” address at the USAT annual Event Organiser’s Conference in which he said, “USAT will continue to forge a partnerships between WTC and ITU.” As this was during the time when all parties were preparing court documents, this seemed very strange. When Loreen Barnett asked Skip Gilbert what he meant, he said, “I didn’t mean it - you have to read your audience and tell them what they want to hear.”

Loreen Barnett also stated that in her opinion Skip Gilbert lied to the lawyers about calling and inviting ITU to the meeting with the WTC. The truth is that he phoned the day after the meeting.

In her opinion the relationship with WTC would have stayed in the neutral state that it was prior to the intervention by Skip Gilbert.

e) Patrice Brunet, CAN, stated that the reference to safety in the resolution was non-binding, so did not require amendment.

f) Brad Davison continued to insist that the “proposed by” be removed.

g) To resolve the matter Les McDonald requested that the audio tape of Skip Gilbert’s address to the ETU Congress was played. (Note: a script of Skip Gilbert address is attached and the audio file is available at: URL: http://www2.triathlon.org/gilbert-etu.mp3)

h) Garry Boon, NZL seconded the motion to amend the resolution as per Brad Davison’s motion.

Motion to Amend the Resolution Defeated (with USA only voting for the amendment.) Resolution Carried

Resolution 12:
Whereas many National Federations organize triathlon events using mountain bikes on trails instead of roads;

And whereas the Sport Development leadership of ITU require a “cross country” form of Triathlon in Developing Countries;

And whereas there is an interest on the part of several National Federations to organize Triathlon in ecologically sensitive areas;

Therefore be it resolved that a “cross country” discipline of Triathlon be added to the Competition Rules.
Discussion:

a) Garry Boon, NZL, asked if the intent is to have a World Championships.
b) Marisol Casado, ESP responded that Europe will have a European Championships in 2007.
c) Garry Boon, NZL wondered if this was setting us up for a conflict with the X-Terra.
d) Marisol Casado, ESP stated that there are many federations in Europe that host cross country triathlon and it is the next natural step.

Carried Unanimously

Resolution 13:

Whereas the ITU is an International Federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee,

Whereas the ITU is required to adopt anti-doping rules in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code,

Whereas the World Anti-Doping Agency has identified a shortcoming in ITU’s Anti-Doping Rules and has asked ITU to amend its rules accordingly,

Whereas this shortcoming is due to the absence of the definition of certain out of competition violations,

Whereas the absence of such definitions could render the sanctions for out of competition testing violations inapplicable,

Whereas sanctions for out of competition testing violations are mandatory under the World Anti-Doping Code.

Therefore be it resolved that: The ITU’s Anti-Doping Rules be modified as follows:

ADD: 5.4.4. Any Athlete in the ITU Registered Testing Pool who fails to submit a mandatory whereabouts report after three (3) formal written warnings from the ITU to do so in the preceding eighteen (18) months shall be considered to have committed an anti-doping rule violation pursuant to article 2.4 (Whereabouts violations).

5.4.5 Any Athlete in the ITU Registered Testing Pool who is unavailable for Testing on three (3) attempts during any period of eighteen (18) consecutive months shall be considered to have committed an anti-doping rule violation pursuant to Article 2.4 (Whereabouts violations). Notification shall be sent to the Athlete in respect of each attempt.

DELETE: 2.4

ADD: 2.4 Violation of the requirements regarding Athlete availability for Out-of-Competition Testing including failure to provide required whereabouts information set forth in article 5.4 (Athlete whereabouts requirements) and missed tests which are declared based on reasonable rules.

DELETE: 5.4 Out of Competition testing

ADD: 5.4 Athlete Whereabouts Requirements
Amendment by Norman Brook: adopt the ITU Doping Rules in its entirety instead of just the amendment.
Carried Unanimously

9. Reports from the Standing Committees:
   a) Technical Committee (See attached)
   b) Medical Committee (See attached)
   c) Women’s Committee: Kiryo Suzuki, JPN and Rachel Ribo, PHI gave an impressive speech about the work they are doing in Asia and their attendance at the Women’s Conference in Japan (See attached)
   d) Duathlon Committee (See attached)
   e) Constitution Committee (See attached)
   f) Credentials Committee (See attached)
   g) Athletes Committee (See attached)

10. Reports from Commissions: Long Distance, Winter Triathlon, Coaches, AWAD, Duathlon: (see attached)

11. Elections: Women’s Committee (1 to elect): Rachel Ribo, PHI was elected unanimously.

12. World Championships 2010: There were two bid cities; Budapest (HUN) and Salford (GBR). The delegates heard the reports from the two cities, followed by questions. The Executive Board made no recommendation to the Congress. A secret ballot was conducted, the results were: Budapest 31, Salford 19.

13. Michel Gignoux: Gabor Markus, Tiszaujvaros, HUN, organizer of the ITU World Cup there, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, was awarded the Michel Gignoux award for his exceptional contribution to our sport.

14. Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Triathlon: Mr. Qi Jun, CHN made a presentation outlining the plans for the World Cup event and 2008 Olympic Games.

15. 2006 Asian Games: Thanos Nikopoulos, Competition Manager outlined preparation for Triathlon’s debut onto the programme, December 2006.
16. **Chris Hewitt**: ITU President, Les McDonald expressed deep sorrow on the sudden death of Chris Hewitt, former President of Triathlon Australia. Congress stood for a minute silence.

17. **Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned with a farewell message from ITU President Les McDonald wishing the delegates and a safe trip home and a wish for us all to gather in 12 months time in Hamburg, Germany.
Transcript from recording of Skip Gilbert’s Address to the European Triathlon Union Congress, August, 2005, Lausanne, Switzerland

Good afternoon. As Les said I am Skip Gilbert the new CEO of USA Triathlon. Thank you for the invitation to be here, to speak today. We’re honoured to be here on behalf of the USA Triathlon and we look forward to working with everybody here to help strengthen and grow our sport.

If you know the history of USA Triathlon and the World Triathlon Corporation since both organizations’ inception have always enjoyed a very strong and mutually beneficial relationship.

So when I took office this past April, I took with me a team of senior officials down to Florida to meet with their senior management team.

Basically the premise of our meeting was to look at ideas, look at initiatives to be able to make our relationships stronger.

As we went through the meeting it became quite clear that their agenda was vastly different than what we were looking to achieve.

Several weeks after that meeting we were asked by the World Triathlon Corporation for their race in Hawaii for 16 rule dispensations. We gave them 15 approvals and the one rule that we would not agree to was the stand down penalty for the age-group competition. And our reasoning behind that was because we sanctioned 1700 events during the course of the year to offer those kind of rule dispensations would set us up for all sorts of chaos within the sport.

So we said, ”No”.

They then came back and said, as they had told us in April, that they wanted to create their own organization. They want to be able have their own rule book, their own officials, their own insurance and to be able to govern themselves globally not just within United States, but across all sport.

So they ask us to no longer sanction them. They wanted to go off on their own. And so after much deliberation we had no choice, but to say, ”Fine, you are no longer part of the USA Triathlon Family.”

So they immediately launched what is now called the Global Triathlon Group. And if you go on their website you will see their rule book which is really our rulebook.

So since that time we have through our attorneys come out and will sanction them for corporate violations on our rule book. The only change is that we said and what they are doing is the stand down penalty and as they put it the crawling penalty.
From that perspective we’ve also going after them on trademark violations using our logos in what they are doing.

But the bottom line is that in the essence they are creating their own International Federation and if you read the rulebook that they posted they are actually stating that they look forward to becoming your federation, and the federation is going to be Ironman Athletes.

They have about 50 000 athletes that compete globally each year and they are looking to be able to unify that force and to be able to move forward.

Throughout our history our relationship with Ironman has always been that they would focus on the Ironman distance events, we will take care of just about everything else. Well this past May they launched the 70.2 the Half Ironman distance, the Half Ironman series that will be global and will have a World Championship in Septembers in Clearwater, Florida.

So what we’ve been faced as the Federation is Ironman going to some of our best race directors and saying, not so much that we would like for you to join us but if you do not join us we will put a race right on top of your race.

I’ll use one example in our race that we have each year in New Hampshire, the TimberMan race. It is probably one of the best run races in New England if not entire east coast perhaps even the country. They talked to the race director, Keith Jordan, and said if you do not join us, and if you do not pay us $20,000 USD for joining us if you do not give us royalty payments and if you do not increase your fee to the athletes from $125US to $230 USD we will come in and basically take your business away from you.

So as he put it to me in a long conversation, “It was as if being married to the mob, he had to pay that and he is going to do so.” – he had not choice - he had to pay that and he is going to do so. And we are seeing that around the country and I am assuming that’s going to happen globally as well.

So our concern quite frankly is that they are coming down to the Half Ironman level. They are going to introduce a women’s sprint race series in United States and at some point they are going to come after us at the Olympic Level. And we have already heard rumours to that distance or format.

So from our perspective we are no longer offering them any of our help on officials, we are not sanctioning them, we are not providing the insurance, we are going about our own business.

And looking forward we know we can’t compete with them. Dr. Gils who is the chairman of the board has more money than all of the triathlete federation purse strings put together.
So we go into a war with them they would be able to open up the bank book and do what we certainly can’t do.

So what we are gonna try to do is basically elevate the level of our competitions and for each of the format distances: youth, sprint, olympic or long distance.

We have ten regions in the USA. We are gonna put a race in each one of those regions and call it the Grand Prix Series. Hopefully, we will be able to bring sponsors much like the Budlight Series of decades ago.

So that’s our plan. If we can’t beat them financially we are going to do the best that we can to elevate our brand and to be able to allow our members and competitors to have a choice, And that choice is quite simple. Do they want to go with Ironman which is clearly in the market place to earn money for their bottom line versus the national governing body. And we are here to raise Olympians.

That’s the bottom line, that’s why I am here. It just kind of gives you a sense of where they are going, what we are going to try to do and any important help that we can get from all of you, we’re certainly all open to your suggestions.