



Oceania Technical Official Newsletter

September 2014



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2013-14 Season Wrap Up

Hi Everyone,

It's been a while since our last Oceania newsletter and by now most of us are taking a well-earned break after a busy summer season. That said, I'm aware that as I sit writing this a number of our Australian friends will be hard at work at Ironman Cairns. We also have a number of our officials who have been, or soon will be heading off to officiate at upcoming events – more on this further on in the newsletter.

First of all a big thank you to everyone who stepped up to officiate at OTU events over the previous season. In most cases these events comprise both an age group and an elite component with the technical team working both of these. This can make for a long and challenging day – we officials are generally the first people to arrive and often among the last to leave. I know it's been said before but we simply couldn't deliver the events we do without all of you giving of your time, passion and talents to do what you do so well across numerous weekends every season. So I'll say it again. Thank you all very much.

Special mention must go out to our Technical Delegates whose work with the LOC's prior to each race to ensure that things will be rolled out in accordance with the ITU rules and protocols. In particular I'd like to mention Gaye Webster and David Plew who both stepped up to the TD role at an OTU event for the first time

this season. Following the ITU Level Two course that we held in Penrith back in January we expect that we will have a number of you who will become eligible for appointments to TD roles next season.

Speaking of next season, planning is already in progress to put together the Oceania calendar of events. Expressions of Interest from Event Promoters have already been called for and a tentative programme was discussed at the recent Oceania Congress meeting. Specific dates are still being confirmed but it is hoped that we will have an expanded calendar with up to eight races including up to two to be hosted by National Federations other than Australia and New Zealand. Look out for more news on this as the calendar is finalised.

Coming up in October we have the Australian Duathlon Championships in Adelaide on Sunday 19 October will double as the Oceania Championships. This will serve as the test event for the World Duathlon Champs to be held at the same venue in 2015. We also have the Pacific Games in PNG to be held in July next year.

So there are lots of opportunities coming up to be part of some great events. Look out for more information on these as the details are firmed up. In the meantime stay safe and warm through the winter months and best wishes to everyone who is heading off to events overseas.

Kind regards

Ross Capill
Chairperson – Oceania Technical Advisory Group

Recent International Appointments

Congratulations to the following Oceania Officials who have had recently completed International Appointments or have them shortly upcoming

World Cup - Mooloolaba

Technical Delegate: Juliet Fahey (NZL)

Assistant Technical Delegate: Sarah Reed (AUS)

Race Referee: Frank Stapleton (AUS)

World Cup - New Plymouth

Technical Delegate: Jacqui Kenny (AUS)

Assistant Technical Delegate: Claire Hannan (NZL)

Race Referee: Ross Capill (NZL)

World Triathlon Series – Auckland

Technical Delegate: Murray Hilder (AUS)

Race Referee: Juliet Fahey (NZL)

World Triathlon Series – Cape Town

Race Referee: Juliet Fahey (NZL)

World Triathlon Series – Yokohama

Technical Delegate: Peter Weaver (NZL)

World Triathlon Series – Chicago

Race Referee: Ross Capill (NZL)

Commonwealth Games – Glasgow

Stephen Damien (PNG), Jacqui Kenny, Frank Stapleton, Gaye Webster, (all AUS) Shanelle Barrett, Ross Capill, Juliet Fahey, Peter Weaver, (all NZL). (Murray Hilder was also selected but was not able to attend)

Youth Olympic Games – Nanjing, China

Technical Delegate: Shanelle Barrett (NZL), Penny Skaife (NZL), Dr James Marangou (AUS – Medical Delegate)

WTS Chicago



At the end of June I had the opportunity to travel to Chicago for the WTS race. Lyndell Murray from Brisbane also self-funded to this event and we joined a team of close to 40 ITU officials, mostly from the USA and Canada.

It is unusual for an event to go straight to WTS status without previously having a trial event of a lower status to test the course and as with any new race there were a few issues with some of the infrastructure. The LOC were also a bit short on volunteers but as we always do the technical team stepped up and the races went ahead smoothly. Many of the TO's also helped out as volunteers for the age group race to fill gaps in the volunteer force. Overall, I'm sure that both the LOC and ITU will have learned a lot of valuable lessons for next year.

It was extremely hot to the extent that we made a call to have a no wetsuit swim, even though the water temperature was below 20C. ITU is now using a Heat Stress index which takes into account both air temperature and humidity – we were at "Extreme" and accordingly the call was made to vary the normal threshold for wetsuit use, as allowed under rule 4.3 (b). This led to a protest and a competition jury hearing before the race had even started but other than this, I had a pretty smooth ride as Race Referee – no penalties at all!

Chicago is a really cool city, the venue is stunning, and I reckon the World Champs next year will be a cracker. We will need a team of nearly twice the number of TO's that we had this year. If you are considering self-funding to big event next year, this will be a beaut.

Ross Capill

Appointment of Rio 2016 Olympic Games Technical Delegate

I suspect that by now most of you will know that Juliet Fahey has been appointed as Technical Delegate for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating Juliet on this appointment – they really don't get any bigger than that one. It is also the first time that ITU have appointed an Olympic TD from outside the ranks of their permanent staff.

Juliet is recently travelled to Rio for the first of what I'm sure will be a number of site visits between now and the Games in two years' time. Here are a few of her initial impressions:

"Rio is an amazing city and of course with the soccer World Cup about to kick off the police and army were on each major street corner including armoured vehicles

While there, we reviewed triathlon competition days on Olympic programme schedule as well as setting the bike/run course. The Rio 2016 team organised meetings with all areas of planning personal coming to tell us of their division's progress. We visited training sites, the Olympic Park and the Athletes Village. City infrastructure and transport will be issues to address in the future.

The swim will be in the waters off Copacabana beach and the beach foreshore will have transition, grandstands all set up. We established strong working relations with the Rio 2016 Sports department and the Triathlon Competition Manager."



In action - Here are some of the bikes donated to Fiji Triathlon as part of an initiative by Oceania to improve the stock of bikes in some of the Pacific Islands.



Oceania Congress Meeting

The Oceania Triathlon Union congress meeting was held in Auckland on Saturday 24 May. In addition to Oceania board members Terry Sheldrake (President – NZL), Peter Hedge (AUS) and Andrew Pene (FIJ) there were delegates from Australia, Guam, New Zealand Palau, Samoa and Solomon Islands. Also in attendance were ITU President Marisol Casada (ESP) and Vice President Bill Walker (AUS).

Of particular interest to Technical Officials was a discussion facilitated by Ross Capill around the technical requirements for Oceania events. Because of the relatively small scale of our events (relative to other Continents) there are some significant challenges in stepping up to meet the costs that are associated with hosting these events. There was a clear recognition that these events are very important for our sport in that they provide a development path for our athletes and, especially during the Olympic qualification

period, the opportunity to score ranking points in order to gain entry into World Cup and WTS events.

It will come as no surprise that our key technical requirements are those that allow us to ensure that races are safe and fair. We also want to make sure that we follow the various ITU protocols as closely as possible (for example athlete briefings, registration processes, race starts etc) so that our developing athletes become familiar with these. Likewise, it is an important part of our development as technical officials that we become familiar with these processes so we can deliver them more effectively at the bigger World Cup and WTS races.

There was some interesting discussion about what can be done to address some of the budgetary challenges. Areas such as prize money and the cost of drug testing were discussed and there is further work to do in some of these areas.



2014 Australian Duathlon Championships
Sunday 19 October, Adelaide City

Australian/Oceania Duathlon Champs October 2014 and World Duathlon Champs 2015 – Adelaide

Given our size relative to some of the other confederations our athletes, both elite and age group, punch well above their weight on the world stage. Part of this is that our athletes have regular opportunities to race at home at World Championship level. In the last five years the Triathlon World Championship grand finale has twice been hosted within the Oceania confederation (Gold Coast 2009, Auckland 2012). The Long Distance Championships were in Perth in 2009 and in October next year the World Duathlon Championships will be Adelaide.

I visited Adelaide earlier this year to take a look at the proposed venue at Elder Park right beside the River Torrens with run courses that utilise the riverbank trails and bike

courses that go past the Adelaide Oval and onto parts of the Tour Down Under circuit.

The Australian Duathlon Champs this year will also serve as the Oceania Champs and will be the trial event for the World Champs next year. For those who are thinking of officiating at the World

DWC 2015: It's going to be BIG!

The ITU Duathlon World Championships will be in Adelaide from 14 to 18 October, 2015.

This will include elite, under 23, junior elite, age group standard and age group sprint duathlons, paratriathlon duathlon, novice and kids duathlons, and Community participation events. Check-out

www.adelaide2015.org.au

Champs next year it would be great to have as many of you as possible available for the trial event so that we can all familiarise yourselves with the venue and the courses. If you are interested please signal your intentions to your Technical Programme to make sure we include you on the list.

Ross Capill

Technical Delegate, 2015 World Duathlon Champs



Pacific Games – Site Visit and All of Sport Meeting – March 2014 and Pacific Games Port Moresby PNG July 2015

The Pacific Games Organising Committee (GOC) brought the technical delegates and competition managers together in March for a workshop and site visit in preparation for the 2015 Pacific Games.

Stephen Damien,

Annette Coppola and I seized the opportunity to fine tune our course layout for the triathlon and to work on our equipment list and budget.

Stephen has been working closely with the PNG Technical Team with monthly training sessions and practical

sessions. PNG officials allocated in a Chief Role for the 2015 Games recently delivered a presentation on their area to further embed the excellent training from Stephen.

The course has now been confirmed as a multi-lap sprint course enabling greater participation from the islands and a fast and exciting course in the heart of Port Moresby.

Jacqui Kenny, Technical Delegate, 2015 Pacific Games

If you have any news or photos to share, please email to:

admin@otu.triathlon.org

We'd love to hear from you.