

Dear Athletes,

I hope that your training is going well.

There are some pre-season announcements that I would like to share with you. Please take the time to read this carefully so that you are not surprised at an event.

1. **Uniforms.** Please note that there are some changes to the 2007 Uniform Rules. The major difference is that if you wish to wear a two piece then the space between the two pieces should not be visible. Again, front zippers are not allowed. The 2007 Uniform Rules can be found at <http://www.triathlon.org/docs/downloads-uniform-guidelines-2007.pdf?ts=1172712557>
2. **Athletes Agreement.** All athletes wishing to compete in a World Cup must sign the Athletes Agreement. Please note the obligations for attending the Elite Briefing. Athletes who do not attend the Briefing will not be allowed to race, except under special circumstances. The 2007 Athlete's Agreement can be found at <http://www.triathlon.org/docs/downloads-athletes-agreement2007.pdf>
3. **Free accommodation.** Based on feedback from athletes, event organizers and National Federations, we have changed our policy for free accommodation for World Cups. The top 5 ITU ranked men and women entered for the World Cup at the close of registration, will be offered four free nights. They can share the room whomever they wish to, instead of it being mandated for them.
4. **Entry system.** Athletes must be entered for ITU events through their National Federations. This includes Continental Cups.
5. **World Cup Qualification System.** Please see the qualification system into World Cup Races at http://www.triathlon.org/docs/downloads_Elite_World_Cup_Qualification_Criteria.pdf?ts=1172766422. You can also check out the World Championships Qualification System at http://www.triathlon.org/docs/downloads_Elite_World_Championships_Qualification_Criteria.pdf?ts=1172766422. If you have any questions about entries or rankings, you can contact Enrique Quesada at Enrique.quesada@triathlon.org or entries@triathlon.org.
6. **Athlete Profiles.** Please update your athlete profile regularly. You would be surprised at how many media people phone the office looking for information on the athletes. I just make information about you up (some of it embarrassing if I am in a bad mood) if I don't have it so you may want to keep your profile current. If you have lost or need a username and password, please contact me and I would be happy to help you.
7. **Anti-Doping.** Please make sure that your Athlete Location Forms are up to date. Also, if you need a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) for any medication, please make sure that we have a record at ITU. You can see the TUE application form at the WADA website at <http://www.wada-ama.org/en/>.
8. **Traditions.** We are going to be implementing a new recognition system this year for our Olympic and World Champions. We will be asking our Olympic Champions to sew a gold fabric bar on their uniforms and we will be asking our World Champions to sew a multi-coloured fabric bar on their uniforms. We will be contacting these athletes directly. (They don't actually have to sew the bars on themselves, they can have it professionally done.)
9. **Media.** We would like to thank you for your cooperation attending media events and we hope that this will continue during the 2007 season. We will also be asking you to fill out some media surveys so that we have the most up-to-date information to use in our broadcasts and on the website. Also, if you have any media contacts that you would like us to send our media releases and news items to, please let us know.

10. **Athletes Committee.** I would like to thank the Athlete's Representatives on the ITU Executive Board for their help. Jessica Harrison (FRA), Richard Stannard (GBR), and Kris Gemmell (NZL) are your representatives and you can contact them with any issues that you would like to have discussed.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Take care,
Leslie Buchanan
ITU HDQ