



## UNION CYCLISTE INTERNATIONALE

President

### To the riders

Sent by email only

Aigle, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
Ref: President / gr

Dear Rider,

You are aware of the difficulties we have with the forthcoming edition of Paris-Nice and I wanted to write to you personally to express my sympathy for the position you find yourself in and to explain the situation as I see it.

I am writing at the request and with the support of the organisation that looks after your interests as a rider, the CPA.

As a former rider myself I really do feel for the difficult situation that you are in. I can imagine that your reaction to current events may be "why can't I do my job as a rider and let you guys get on with the politics?" I agree completely with this sentiment and I truly want nothing more than for you to be allowed to ride Paris-Nice and for the sport to be free of these political struggles.

As the situation stands at the moment Paris-Nice will be run completely outside of our rules. This is totally unnecessary and the race could have been run as normal if ASO hadn't chosen to use it to make a stand to defy our authority. I believe that ASO wishes to completely do away with the rules for cycling so that they can manipulate the situation for their benefit.

The UCI rules, which I know that as a rider you will sometimes find annoying, are nevertheless crucial to act as a neutral set of regulations that balance the interests of all the people involved in cycle sport. Without the UCI rules the organisers would have the power to ask you and your team to sign contracts in which they dictate the conditions to participate in their races. This is the current situation with Paris-Nice as your team has been asked to sign a one-sided contract which, for example, denies you the protection of the UCI rules against exclusion from the race in case of alleged threat to the image of the race or the appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport in case of an alleged anti-doping violation.

With regard to anti-doping, it should also be noted that UCI rules would not be applied: ASO would be able to apply its own procedures through the AFLD; this could have serious consequences for example on the treatment of TUEs, the use of tests on hair which is currently not part of the UCI policies, and different rules for the disciplinary procedures. AFLD may also be tempted to and implement its own out-of-competition controls in addition to those of the biological passport.

Without the UCI the future is ever more powerful organisers dictating the terms on which you are able to practice your profession.

For the sake of the riders and the sport ASO must not be allowed to break our authority and undermine our rules by using Paris-Nice as a lever. That is why I am asking teams and riders not to participate in the race if it is run outside our rules. If it is run in breach of our rules then sadly we will have to apply sanctions and it is only fair that you are fully briefed on what those sanctions are.

*For riders*

- Six months suspension.
- Fine up to CHF 10,000.
- Elimination of points.
- Exclusion from participation in UCI World Championships and other events.

*For teams*

- Suspension of their UCI registration for a determined period.
- Fine of up to CHF 10,000.
- Withdrawal of UCI ProTour licence / Wild Card label as applicable.

The suspensions and fines listed above are the maximum applicable so depending on the circumstances pertaining to the rider or team the actual suspensions and fines applied could be less.

For French riders the position of the French Federation (FFC) will also be relevant. Proceedings will be opened against the FFC for its collusion in the affair and if the FFC is suspended this may also have ramifications for French rider's participation in events.

I sincerely hope that it won't come to this and please believe me that it gives me no pleasure to be writing to you about sanctions. However, given the attitude of ASO I thought that you should be fully informed of the consequences if you were to participate in Paris-Nice if it is run by ASO outside our rules.

Yours sincerely,



Pat McQuaid  
President