

Record participation for the 2004 UCI BMX World Championships

The UCI has received more than 2400 entries from 33 countries for the 2004 UCI BMX World Championships, which will take place from July 23rd to 25th in Valkenswaard, the Netherlands. This figure smashes the previous participation record, established in 1999 in Vallet (France), of 500 competitors. This passion is doubtless linked to the presence of BMX biking in the programme for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing (China) and confirms the constant increase in BMX biking throughout the world these last few years.

UCI ProTour: reopening of the application procedure for teams

On June 30th, the UCI Licence Commission, responsible for allocation of UCI ProTour licences to teams and organisers, studied the cases of 24 teams having submitted their applications. Following this assessment, it selected 11 teams (list available on www.uci.ch) that are likely to become UCI ProTeams. The UCI Professional Cycling Council decided to grant an extended period for submission of applications until August 15th 2004, in order to offer all candidates the option of submitting an application complying with the conditions imposed to obtain a UCI ProTour licence. All information relative to the road cycling reform is available on www.uci.ch.

Road cycling reform: new rankings for UCI Continental Circuits

As part of the road cycling reform, on July 2nd the UCI published all information relative to the new rankings of the UCI Continental Circuits. From January 1st 2005, each continent will have its own circuit, which will give rise to different continental rankings (individual, by team

and by nation) for the categories Men Elite and Men Under 23. The 5 UCI Continental Circuits, AFRICA TOUR, AMERICA TOUR, ASIA TOUR, EUROPE TOUR and OCEANIA TOUR, will therefore each have their own rankings and a specific leader jersey.

All information relative to the road cycling reform is available on www.uci.ch.

The Chairman of Shimano is welcomed at the World Cycling Centre

On June 29th the President of UCI, Hein Verbruggen, welcomed Mr. Yoshizo Shimano, Chairman of the Japanese company Shimano Inc., and Mr. Yuasa Satoshi, Director General of Shimano Europe Holding. Shimano, an international Japanese company, is active in the manufacture of the latest equipment, notably for fishing, golf and cycling. Shimano has been a partner of the International Cycling Union since 1999.

The following riders have been sanctioned for doping offences:

Piotr FORMICKI, sanctioned by the **Union Cycliste de Pologne**, warning (Art. 132 AER) and fine of CHF 200.-

José TALERO BARRERO, sanctioned by the **Federacion Colombiana de Ciclismo**, disqualification of the race Vuelta a Colombia 2003 (COL), suspension of 6 months from 20 December 2003 to 20 June 2004.