

Audit of cycling to combat doping more effectively

On the initiative of its president, Pat McQuaid, the UCI has decided to appoint a group of internationally respected experts – coaches, doctors, anti-doping experts and sports sociologists – to conduct a comprehensive audit of professional cycling. This group of experts will examine minutely every aspect of cycling, including the international calendar, distance of races, number of rest days and team structures. According to Pat McQuaid, who addressed the issue at a press conference during the Deutschland Tour, depending on the conclusions of the audit, the UCI rules could be changed from as early as the 2008 season. According to Mr McQuaid, we cannot rule out the possibility of major upheavals in professional cycling.

UCI Cup of Nations for riders under 23 beginning 2006-2007

The UCI Management Committee has decided to create a Cup of Nations for (male) riders under the age of 23. The new event will be inaugurated in the 2006-2007 season.

The Cup of Nations will include around seven one-day and stage races which are known for the quality of their organisation and the high standard of competition. Organisers of Cup of Nations events will be obliged to invite the best National Federations from each continent, who will be entitled to enter a team of six riders. To this end, on 15 October each year the UCI will publish national rankings for riders under 23.

The UCI Cup of Nations for riders under 23 will be presented in detail at a press conference to be held during the UCI Road World Championships in Salzburg, Austria. The exact date will be published in due course.

Mountain Bike and Trials: first ever UCI World Championships in New Zealand

Following on from the UCI Juniors Road and Track World Championships, the road events of which took place last weekend in Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium, and the UCI Mountain Bike Marathon World Championships, which took place on Sunday in Oisans, France, the second fortnight of August will feature the UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships, which begin next Tuesday.

For the first time in the history of cycling, an event on the UCI world calendar will be held in New Zealand. The competitions will take place in Rotorua, where the top practitioners of all mountain bike and trials disciplines from around forty countries will battle it out.

Some 250 journalists will be covering the 2006 UCI Mountain Bike and Trials World Championships.

Preparations for IPC Cycling World Championships: Paralympic delegations at the WCC

Several national teams of Paralympic athletes have decided to prepare for the 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships at the World Cycling Centre (WCC), in Aigle, where the event will take place from 9 to 18 September. The Italian Federation sent a five-strong delegation from 8 to 10 August; the New Zealand Federation will be sending eight representatives from 29 August until the beginning of the event; and the Spanish Federation is sending 22 riders between 2 and 8 September. Switzerland has scheduled a series of five short sessions (22-23 April, 10-11 June, 5-6 August, 12-13 August and 26-28 August). Official website: www.2006ipc-cycling.com.

Death of the President of the Estonian Cycling Union

Mr Mati Jostov, President of the Estonian Cycling Union, died suddenly on 25 July. The International Cycling Union offers its sincere sympathy to the Federation and to Mr Jostov's family and friends.

New publication day for UCI News

From now on the UCI News will be published on Tuesdays rather than Fridays. Publication will continue to be bimonthly.

The following rider has been sanctioned for a doping offence:

Jenaro RAMOS LOZANO (ESP) tested positive for Stanazolol during the Cinturon Ciclista Internacional a Mallorca (ESP) on 8 April 2005. He was sanctioned by the COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT (CAS) on 19 July 2006 with a 2-year suspension, from 14 October 2005 to 14 October 2007, and disqualified from the race.