



INTERNATIONAL CYCLING UNION

President

To the National Federations

Sent by email

Aigle, 19 March 2010

Ref: Presidency

Dear President,

The UCI is aware that a small number of National Federations are using equipment, in particular track bicycles, that is developed at their exclusive request by research centres or institutes of technology, in order to realise high tech products that will be available to their (national) teams and riders only.

This is a trend that any sports organisation concerned with fair competition should reject.

The sport of cycling and the competition between cyclists are based upon the athletic qualities of the riders and not upon the technicalities of the equipment.

We refer to the basic clauses in our rules:

"Bicycles shall comply with the spirit and principle of cycling as a sport. The spirit presupposes that cyclists will compete in competitions on an equal footing. The principle asserts the primacy of man over machine." (Preamble preceding article 1.3.006)

“Bicycles and their accessories shall be of a type that is or could be sold for use by anyone practicing cycling as a sport. The use of equipment designed especially for the attainment of a particular performance (record or other) shall be not authorized.” (Article 1.3.007)

These clauses are the basis of fair play in our sport in relation with the equipment.

In principle, the best way to achieve fair play is that all riders use exactly the same bicycles except for the size.

This was not the option that was taken in the Lugano charter on equipment. The UCI took into account that a variety of equipment was available on the market. Hence the articles quoted imply that each rider has a free choice of equipment that is available on the market and that complies with the technical specifications of the UCI Rules.

This free choice of equipment implies that such equipment must be available to all riders that compete against each other: each rider must have the possibility to use equipment that is also available to any other of his competitors.

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