

E-MAIL MESSAGE

To: General Secretary, IPC Cycling NPCs with Handcyclists

Copy: David Grevemberg, IPC Sports Director

Subject: URGENT - HANDCYCLES FOR ATHENS 2004 CYCLING

27th July 2004

Dear Secretary General,

The following decisions were agreed at an IPC Cycling SAEC Meeting in Bonn on 24th July 2004. Please pass this information to your Cycling Team Officials and Handcycling athletes as soon as possible. The undersigned is available to answer any questions or clarify any uncertainty.

HANDCYCLES

It has been brought to the IPC Cycling Committee's attention that there are a number of athletes using a revised body position for Handcycling. This 'new' position is usually referred to as 'Kneeling'. However, from the variety of photographs that the IPC Cycling Committee has studied, there can be a great deal of variation in the body positions adopted by various athletes using the kneeling method, depending on the handcycle design and specific disability.

The IPC Cycling SAEC is anxious to bring to the attention of all Handcycling athletes that the Athens 2004 Handcycling Events will be governed by the IPC Cycling Rules as agreed at the IPC Cycling 2002 Sports Assembly, plus UCI Regulations for 2004.

It is important to understand that the IPC Cycling SAEC does not have the authority to approve any handcycles, or handcycling methods, unless they conform to the above mentioned Rules and Regulations.

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International Paralympic Committee
Anthony Yorke
IPC Chairperson Cycling
7 Cliff Front, Old Salts Farm Road
Lancing, West Sussex BN15 8JE
England UK

Tel, Ans & Fax. +44 (0)1903 761386
E-mail: TonyYorke@compuserve.com
www.paralympic.org



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IPC Cycling Rule: 18.002 (UCI article: 16.18.002) was introduced in an attempt to control, for safety reasons, the excessive 'lying backwards' position of many athletes in the early days of handcycling under IPC Cycling's governance.

IPC Cycling Rule: 18.002 states:

"The rider shall be seated in a relatively upright position, with bodyweight supported through the seat. A backrest is permitted, but the riding position must not be reclined backwards to the extent that the backrest provides the primary upper body support. A minimum angle of 45 degrees, measured between horizontal and the back of the rider, should meet this requirement and the position must allow for all-round vision. A quick release body harness is permitted."

The specific problems (that the SAEC is aware of), are as follows:

- The above quoted Rule is currently, the only Rule that we have to work with for Athens 2004. Therefore, all handcycling athletes must ensure that their position in, or on the machine, complies with this Rule.
- Fundamental to all activities in Cycling under current IPC Rules and UCI Regulations is that all athletes must SIT ON or SIT IN their machine.
- Bodyweight must be primarily supported through the seat.

Therefore, the repercussions for the 'kneeling' position are:

- Athletes must be seated in a relatively upright position.
- Bodyweight must be supported primarily through a SEAT and a backrest is optional. Therefore, if bodyweight is supported by the KNEES to any significant degree, this would violate the current Rules.
- Although not specifically mentioned in the Rule, leaning forward is considered acceptable, because this conforms to the traditions of Cycling and UCI Regulations and does not present the same safety problems as lying backwards.
- However, a fixed and padded chest, or abdominal support is not allowed, but a body harness is permitted.

IPC Cycling Rule: 18.008 (UCI article: 16.18.008) states:

"Leg and foot rests shall be fitted as necessary, with a secure means of protecting static lower limbs from all moving parts."

This Rule does not specify the position of the legs. Therefore, the legs can be supported in a forward position, or bent backwards from the knees to a position under the seat. However, any devices attached to the handcycle to specifically allow the use of the knees to support bodyweight, are not allowed.



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The IPC Cycling SAEC must be fair to all competitors and it is clear that the use of this revised position may be advantageous to some athletes and disadvantage others, depending on the specific disabilities involved. That is why any revised position, that places bodyweight through the knees and/or involves fixed chest supports cannot be permitted until the results from a thorough research project are known and Rules are revised accordingly, using the correct channels. Note that UCI Regulations carry strict criteria for the introduction of 'Technical Innovations' and that these Regulations apply to this situation, except that the approving body would be the IPC Cycling SAEC (not the UCI Executive Committee). I suggest that you refer to UCI Regulations articles: 1.3.004 and 1.3.005 for details. See www.uci.ch

WHEELS FOR ATHENS 2004

The IPC Cycling SAEC has received questions regarding permissible wheels for handcycles at Athens 2004 Cycling. Again, UCI Regulations on permissible wheels will apply. The full details will be found on the UCI website, but the most important principle is:

ROAD RACES – only traditional style, spoked wheels are allowed, without covers to resemble discs. See UCI article: 1.3.018. Note that there must be a minimum of 16 spokes per wheel, unless the specific wheel chosen with fewer spokes, has UCI rupture test approval.

TIME TRIALS – Any UCI approved disc wheels and bladed spoked wheels are permitted, together with traditional style spoked wheels, as for road races.

On behalf of the IPC Cycling SAEC I trust that the above clarification of the rules will not create problems for your athletes.

Very best wishes for your Paralympic Team in Athens.

Kind regards,

Tony

Tony Yorke
Chairperson, IPC Cycling SAEC
Appointed TD Athens 2004