

International Ultra Triathlon Association Committee Elections

September 3rd, 2018

Current IUTA committee and IUTA athletes/members,

I am writing this letter to show my interest for a position on the IUTA committee.

Firstly, I would like to start this letter thanking the previous members of the IUTA committee for volunteering their time to work on the committee, helping to take care of our sport and facing the criticism that any leadership is bound to face. I know as an international board, tasked to run a world cup of events and athletes, it is not an easy task and so your efforts were not left unrecognized. So, thank you and wish you the best going forward.

As for me and my experience with the IUTA, I have been an active member of the IUTA since 2016. As an athlete, I have competed in: 2 doubles (Florida, USA 2016 and 2017), 1 triple (Virginia, USA, 2016) and 1 deca (Switzerland in 2017). I have also raced at the Oregon double course in the USA in 2016 as part of a team. I would add that along with racing, I have been to ultra triathlon events as support crewing for one athlete who competed in the Mexico deca one a day in October 2017 (Chet Blanton) and for one athlete who competed in the Virginia triple (Carrie O'Bryan) in October 2017 and those types of involvement are to me as valuable and important in being part of our ultra triathlon family. During my regular life, I work as a professor of chemistry at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, where I am the head triathlon coach for the university club (certified USAT level I), and I also work part time as a coach for a club called No Limits Coaching (who's head coach Maria Simone is also an IUTA athlete)

So, what *exactly* is the motivation for me to want to be a part of the IUTA committee? First and foremost, I love the sport. I love swimming running and biking and I absolutely love pushing myself in the ultra distance. I love the people I have met from athletes, crews, race directors and more. It takes special people to be willing to attempt these events, and even more special people willing to dedicate their time to putting on the events and helping athletes around the clock. Through racing and crewing overseas and meeting athletes from all different continents, I have created great friendships with many athletes and it is a big part of my life. Because of all of that, I want to give some of my time to help the sport. I want to take ideas from my fellow athletes and race directors and be able to implement changes that will help grow it in ways that will make it more unified, focused on being fair and honest, and continue to have the special family feel even with more athletes and events.

Besides loving the sports and the people involved, I also think I have ideas that align well with that of other ultra triathletes interested in leadership positions and together I think we will be able to implement some excellent initiatives. These initiatives I would like to push forward are in the following 4 areas: **1) new events to be a part of the world cup, 2) points system including new events, 3) doping and race officiating policy and 4) advertising and public relations.**

In the first area of new events to be a part of the world cup: ultra triathlon is defined as any triathlon that has a distance longer than a 3.8k swim (2.4 mi), 180k bike (112 mi) and 42.2k run (26.2 mi). Because of this definition it fits that there are quite a few events that exist today that are ultra triathlons but yet not a part of the IUTA world cup. Some of these include the Brutal Events and Enduroman in UK, Ultraman, 515, the 24 hrs of triathlon in USA, Epic 5 in Hawaii, Ermak in Russia, Siberman, Ultra Tri Sweden, Florida xtreme triathlon in Clermont, FL, Arch to Arc and more. I think it is time to ***extend invitations to the race directors of ultra triathlon events not currently a part of the IUTA***, with incentives to help advertise their events and grow the number of athletes who will know of these events and the number of athletes in the IUTA world cup.

The Ultraman and 515 events are quite popular yet they attract athletes who prefer staged races over the continuous type ultra triathlons. In order for our sport to grow ***we need to recognize athletes who do both staged/one-a-day events AND those who do continuous events***. I am aware that the idea of staged/continuous is a discussion had by many athletes (especially when we get to quintuple and deca distances) about which is more difficult or more authentic, but that misses the point which is that any athlete who is interested in doing more than the traditional iron distance is performing ultra triathlon as defined by the IUTA. The staged one a day races are very challenging, and often raced a bit faster as evidenced by the world records for quintuple and deca one a day compared to the quintuple and deca continuous. I think for the reasons ***we should consider including staged races as part of the cup and we need to reconsider the scoring to recognize the best continuous athletes (1 category) and separately recognize the best staged athlete (a 2nd category), while also considering a 3rd category of best overall for athletes who compete in both***. These ideas while still in their earliest infancy of ideas should be considered by the IUTA in more detail with the specific hopes of welcoming the ultra athletes who prefer the staged ultra triathlon races.

Another main area of interest of mine is in doping/officiating. For the sake of our athletes, race directors, and the integrity of the sport we need to have a way to support race director's abilities to enforce strict doping testing policies, provide race officials that can be on-call and help assist the race directors, help to assist RDs with timing companies and guidelines and access to better timing systems when capable, and a more attentive emphasis to the area of cheating. The larger the sport grows the higher the probability for cheating and we need to have a strong focus on keeping the sport truthful.

Lastly, I would like to also see a redesign of the IUTA webpages (as well as assisting race directors with ideas for redesigning theirs) so that we can attract new athletes to our sport by having webpages that show we are organized, up to date and accessible. This is not a criticism of previous pages, but more so a business minded focus point in keeping the product fresh and attractive especially to newcomers to our sport who want to know that they are competing for something that may be of real value.

I know the committee would like for those running for the future board to have the support of others. I have been in contact with the following other IUTA athletes who are also interested in the board and we have agreed that it would be excellent to have members from all the major circuits represents. My fellow athletes include Mark Hohe-Dorst (Germany), Norbert Luftenegger (Austria) and Matthieu Hildenbrand (FRA). I am certain that having raced and spent some time with these other athletes, I believe we all will work well together with the best interest of the sport in mind.

Please consider me for the position and if this goes for election and this letter is made public to the IUTA voting members, please give me consideration to be a part of the leading organization to help make our sport a success internationally.

Sincerely,



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