



JAPAN CYCLING FEDERATION

SECRETARIAT: c/o JITENSHA-SOGO Bldg, 3-3-1, KAMI-OSAKI, SHINAGAWA-KU, TOKYO
141-0021, JAPAN
TEL; +81-3-6277-2690 FAX; +81-3-6277-2691 e-mail: cycling@japan-sports.or.jp

Mr David Lappartient,
President,
Union Cycliste Internationale

August 8, 2022

Dear David,

I haven't had a chance to see you since the Tokyo 2022 Olympics, but I hope you are doing very well. I still can't believe Vincent has left us and again, I present you my deepest condolences for his loss.

I am currently planning to attend the UCI Congress. I look forward to meeting you there.

Today, I am writing to you regarding the rearrangement of the Women's National Road Championship, which was originally scheduled for June.

This event should have been held on a special course in Hiroshima Forest Park, on a circuit with many narrow sections and many corners.

JCF, as the organiser, announced a special rule for this competition, according to which team vehicles (men/women) could not be used due to the circumstances.

Also considering in that there are few competitions where team vehicles enter the race due to the course conditions, especially in women's races. Indeed, few people have sufficient experience to drive a vehicle in road races in Japan.

After our announcement, one of the athletes, who was due to compete, filed a complaint with the Japanese Sports Arbitration, alleging a breach of the UCI Regulations, should the organiser not allow team vehicles in the race.

Following this complaint, the Japanese Sports Arbitration ruled that the specific regulations of the competition violated Article 2.3.017 of the UCI Regulations: *"Only one vehicle per team shall be allowed to circulate at race level"*.

As a result, the organiser, JCF, decided to cancel (postpone) the women's competition, judging that it would not be possible to guarantee the safety of the athletes during the race by authorizing team vehicles on that circuit.



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After that, we looked for another place to hold this race (Women's National Road Championship), but we concluded that it would be difficult to do it on another course than the one initially planned due to the current problems caused by the spread of Covid 19 in Japan. This is because of the need to get permission from the police to use public roads, and also the budgetary issues it would represent.

However, if we choose the original route to hold the race again, we risk being taken to sports arbitration again.

I would therefore like to ask you for an answer to the question below. Is the organiser, if he does not allow team vehicles to ride on the circuit, because of a special regulation to ensure the safety of the athletes, violating article 2.3.017 of the UCI Regulations ?

It goes without saying that we will prepare neutral vehicles with all the necessary equipment to follow the competition, as well as an area on the course where it will be possible to repair and change equipment.

If our special regulation is violating Article 2.3.017 of the UCI Regulations, please tell me how we can then organise this women's race in Japan, one of the few on the calendar.

I am very sorry to ask you about this, but I would be very grateful if you could reply in writing or using the attached questionnaire before 22 August, as this may become a case of sporting arbitration.

We feel that it is the responsibility of our federation to make this request to you as it is not possible to communicate with the athlete in question and we would like to avoid this conflict in the future.

Kind regards,

M. Matsumura

Masayuki Matsumura
PRESIDENT
JAPAN CYCLING FEDERATION

