

Hi all,

The HPP Committee has now completed the Athlete Handbook and Athlete Agreement for the 2010 season. They can be downloaded from the COF website. Note that because of the late publishing of the Handbook, that the deadline for HPP membership has been moved forward to Dec 31, 2009.

Also be aware that some sections of the Handbook are "alive". The training camp opportunities and priority races are not final at this point. *I am specifically looking for a priority race in eastern Canada in the April to May time frame.* Please inform me if you know of a suitable race in this area that can be added to the list.

Thank you everyone for your feedback. As expected there is a wide range of opinion, ranging from voices that speak for more control and much harder requirements to make the teams, to those who feel that the program is already asking for too much for little support in return. As I'm sure everyone is aware, having virtually no money to support the program makes some potentially interesting ideas impossible or awkward to implement. But also consider that a key reason to developing these documents is that they are a *requirement* to get back into federal funding and most needed to attract any form of serious COF sponsorship. The documents are updated yearly and I'm sure that the program will evolve based on experiences, more feedback and hopefully an increasing budget.

For me, there are some very positive aspects of this program. The work I did with the junior group last year was successful in creating a team spirit over the winter and spring, despite the geographic spread. I think this HPP program builds on this, but also includes those who are too old for JWOC but not yet at the WOC level. For the established WOC athletes I hope that this more discretionary approach with priority races will have a similar effect for training inspiration and team spirit. A stronger dialogue between the coach and the athletes, maybe a stronger dialogue between the athletes themselves, inspiration from other's training logs and so on.

If you have any questions regarding the documents or the program, send me an email.

Thanks,
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