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No.66

Pro Gate expert visit to Valmiera

On July 15, 2022, Latvian Cycling federation (hereinafter – LCF) received an official application from several Latvian BMX clubs allegedly on actions that happened before the UEC BMX European Cup rounds 11-12 that took place from June 24 to June 26, 2022, in Valmiera, Latvia. The submitted application was accompanied with video and audio evidence that proves that the coach and the rider were on the track (on 8m start hill) on Friday evening, June 24, 2022, approximately at 22:00 local time after the end of all training sessions. In said application it is stated that the coach and the rider are changing speed of 8m start hill gate drop.

On July 19, 2022, Supervisory board of LCF held a meeting and made a decision:

1. Declare that being on the track during the UEC BMX European Cup round 11-12 after the official training sessions and when the track is closed to other athletes and coaches is not justifiable and, regardless of the actual consequences of such behavior, does not comply with the principles of fair play in sport.
2. To receive the conclusion of a competent independent technical expert on alleged changes (manipulations) of the speed of the starting gate of 8m hill, instruct Artis Ozols to contact UCI with an invitation to appoint an expert for the examination of received evidence and review on the place in Valmiera the speed of gate drop and draft the conclusion on certain questions that will be drafted and sent to the expert in separate letter.
3. Postpone the decision taking to sanction the coach and the rider until the end of the investigation.

LCF would like to invite you to Valmiera, Latvia, to carry out technical ProGate made gate review with SpeedMeter Timing Systems and draft the conclusion by answering certain questions submitted by LCF:

1. Do the initial settings of the console comply with the UCI regulations, gate drop speed?
2. What are the settings of the console before the customer receives the start gate?
3. Whether the new user of the ProGate supplied gate is introduced by ProGate or gate supplier to the settings of the console, receives training and detection, and is testing of the gate operation (gate drop rate) carried out?
4. For what purposes should you (user) use the remote settings?
5. What are the current console settings for the Valmiera gate?
6. Are there any changes if any observed between the original and the current state of the gate settings? What kind of changes?
7. Does the current gate drop speed of the Valmiera gate comply with the UCI regulations? What is the UCI defined gate drop speed and what is actual Valmiera gate drop speed?
8. Is it necessary to evaluate and mark (record) the condition of the starting gate, speed, safety, sound quality, remote control settings before the official international BMX competition according to UCI rules?
9. Can the Valmiera gate in the current state of settings drop faster and slower?
10. What is the range of the Valmiera gate settings for gate drop speed? Fastest speed, slowest speed?
11. What is the range of gate settings to meet UCI regulations for gate drop speed?
12. What is the volume of the change in the settings of the console so that the speed of the gate drop affects the performance of the athlete?
13. What is the volume of the changes in the settings of the Valmiera gate so that the speed of the gate drop affects the athlete's performance?
14. Does the speed of the gate drop is affected if there is a change of permanent remote-control settings and a return to the previous settings?



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15. Can the drop of the gate in the frame change over time and require maintenance and restoration/adjustment of settings?
16. Can a third party obtain information and change remote control settings in communication apps?
17. Are the remote-control settings/use described in the user manual?
18. Is it necessary to know the signals (readings) of the active remote control settings in order to prepare/equalize the backup remote control and the starting mechanism for successful racing in the event of unforeseen events with the gate?

I would appreciate Your prompt reply and if You have any further questions or You need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best regards,

Artis Ozols
Executive director
Latvian Cycling federation