



UNION CYCLISTE INTERNATIONALE

To National Federations
Sent by email only

Aigle, 14 February 2012
Ref. Sport and Technical Department / JC

Reminder of the conditions for the use of hydration systems in competition

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the use by several riders of a device presented as a hydration system or camelback, we feel it necessary to issue a reminder of the conditions to which the use of a hydration system in competition is subject.

The UCI does not wish to prevent the use of a system intended to provide riders with improved hydration during a physical effort. However, such a system can readily be misused for purposes other than its primary function.

As a result the use of a hydration system during cycle races is subject to the following restrictions:

- The camelback system is authorised for competition solely for the purpose of rehydrating the rider.
- It must not be the case that the system, presented as a way of improving a rider's hydration during an effort, is accompanied by a "aerodynamic clothing" advantage, in this way deflecting the camelback system from its original function.
- The liquid container must not be capable of holding more than 0.5 litres and must not be a rigid shape liable to be considered as a device for improving the rider's aerodynamic qualities.
- The use of the camelback system must not modify the rider's morphology and must thus be directly attached against the body.
- It is recommended that this equipment should be presented to commissaires before the start of the event in order to avoid any risk of illegal use and disqualification.

This device must therefore not be diverted from its primary purpose in order to reduce air resistance. Any addition or change to the system with the aim of altering the profile of the rider for improved aerodynamics is forbidden.

Because of the scope for misinterpretation of the rules and restrictions concerning the use of hydration systems during races, the UCI did not take disciplinary measures over the incidents observed in 2011. However, this position on situations which have arisen in the past may not in any event be invoked as a precedent during any disciplinary proceedings which may arise from now on.

From the present time, in view of the clarifications given in this letter, any use of a hydration system which does not comply with the conditions set out above or any other form of breach of the Regulations, including but not limited to articles 1.3.005 and 1.3.033, will be penalised.

Furthermore, as a result of many incidents observed during the 2011 season involving the non-regulation positioning of camelback systems, the UCI has decided to take additional measures which will come into force from 1 April 2012:

- The use of the camelback system will only be allowed on the back of the rider as agreed in the original approval granted to the company "CamelBak" during the presentation of this technical innovation in 2000.
- Moreover, it will be mandatory for all riders who want to use a camelback system to present it to the commissaires before the start of the race at the risk of being disqualified.

Before this new measure comes into force, we recommend that all devices should be shown to the commissaires before the start of a race to avoid the risk of a non-regulation use of a camelback system.

Thank you for taking note of these new instructions and for your cooperation during the checks during the year 2012. Please do not hesitate to consult the commissaires or to contact me in the event of a problem or questions relating to equipment.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Julien Carron
Technical coordinator