



THE UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE

AN EXPERT SERVING CYCLING



Union Cycliste Internationale

SUMMARY

Introduction	4
What is a UCI International Commissaire?	6
Who are the UCI International Commissaires?	8
Is the UCI International Commissaire a professional?	10
The various disciplines	12
What are the functions of UCI International Commissaires?	14
How does one become a UCI International Commissaire?	18
Why become a UCI International Commissaire?	20
What are the necessary assets to be a UCI International Commissaire?	22
What is the relationship between UCI International Commissaires and other parties involved in the world of cycling?	26
What are the career prospects for a UCI International Commissaire?	28
Conclusion	31

Although it is above all the riders that create the action and entertain the public, nothing would be possible without the UCI International Commissaires. Thanks to their constant commitment, discipline and enthusiasm, they make a great contribution to the fair running of the various races.

Great enthusiasts of the cycling world, International Commissaires serve its interests. They are therefore ready to get down to the job before, during and after races, ensuring the safety of riders and that ethical and sporting rules are respected.

Their status as volunteers in a more often than not professional environment does not prevent them from working as proper experts thanks to their love of the bike and their sense of duty. International Commissaires are indeed judges, but they are much more than that. They support organisers, contribute to the improvement of the quality of races and are fully involved in the development of the rules of cycle sport.

This document highlights the various aspects of a function which is too often unknown, and answers the following questions that are rarely asked: Who are the International Commissaires and what is their contribution to cycling's success?

WHAT IS A UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE ?

A UCI International Commissaire ensures that international cycling races are held in the best possible conditions. He fulfils the role of UCI ambassador for races being held under its auspices.

A UCI International Commissaire ensures the smooth running of cycling races in ethical and sporting terms by ensuring that UCI rules are uniformly applied before, during and after the race.

Since some of the aspects of his function go beyond the framework of the rules, the International Commissaire must be able to command respect in any situation. He must also be capable of playing the role of mediator between all those involved in cycling.

An International Commissaire's skills extend further than the simple technical tasks of his function.

An International Commissaire is therefore an expert in the area in which he officiates:

- He has extensive knowledge of the rules of cycling.
- He perfectly knows the realities of the field.



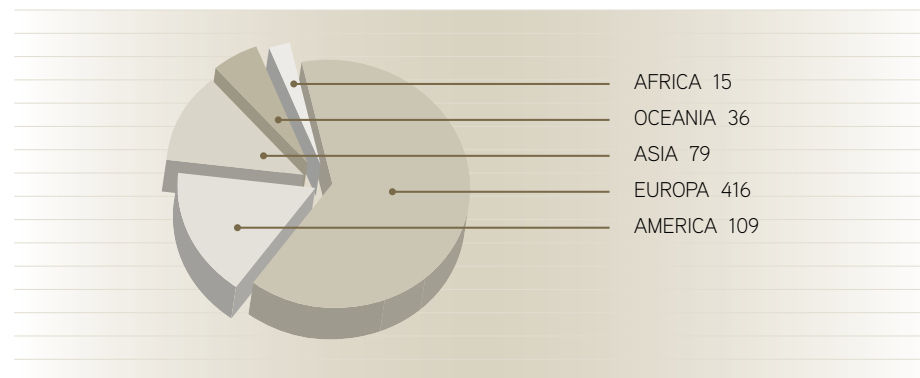
WHO ARE THE UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRES ?

International Commissaires are above all cycling enthusiasts who not only want to devote time to their passion, but also contribute to its success.

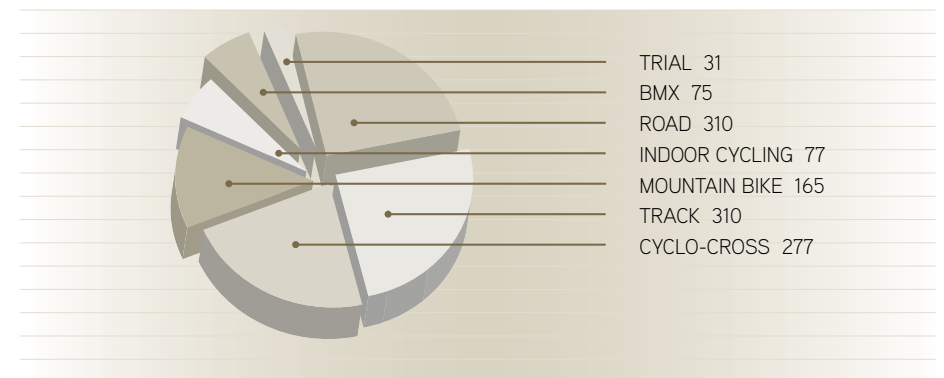
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SOME FIGURES



69 women and 586 men from 66 countries from the five continents officiate as UCI International Commissaires. Their average age is 48,9 years old.



Some International Commissaires have had specific training in various disciplines and can officiate at various types of cycling races.

IS THE UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE A PROFESSIONAL ?



Even though they act as such, there are no professional UCI International Commissaires. However, all of them are naturally paid. The majority of Commissaires carry out their task at the same time as their main job. Others who are retired are able to be more actively involved.

Time given to his function by the Commissaire therefore varies a great deal from one person to another and depends on various factors:

- the availability that his occupation allows
- function carried out (President of the Commissaires' Panel, Secretary, Starter...)
- the race in which he officiates (discipline, class of race...)

UCI International Commissaires are licenced with their National Federation, but their appointment at international events is decided by the UCI. However at most of the events entered on the calendar, the UCI only appoints an International Commissaire who will chair the Commissaires' Panel and not all those who are on the panel. These members are chosen by the National Federation of the host country. It is only for major events like UCI World Championships and World Cups, the UCI ProTour and the Olympic Games that several members of the Commissaires' Panel are appointed by the UCI.

THE VARIOUS DISCIPLINES

- 1 | ROAD
- 2 | TRACK
- 3 | MOUNTAIN BIKE
- 4 | CYCLO-CROSS
- 5 | BMX
- 6 | TRIAL
- 7 | INDOOR CYCLING (Cycle-Ball and Artistic Cycling)

The various functions that UCI International Commissaires are expected to carry out in these disciplines are presented in a separate document.



WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRES ?

UCI International Commissaires are involved in all aspects of the running of a cycling event:

BEFORE THE RACE They get in touch with the organiser to study the race file, in which they check whether the schedule and certain technical details are in compliance. If necessary, they inform the organiser of any changes to be made. They can also benefit organisers who need their sound advice.

They also organise a briefing for organisers and teams, and another one for the Commissaires' Panel. These two meetings have the same objectives, namely to study matters specific to the race and set the tasks for each person in order to have the best possible cooperation.

DURING THE RACE They ensure the smooth running of the race and the application of UCI rules. Their ability to quickly assess a race situation enables them to take the best decision in each case. All of the Commissaires are part of a real team, each member of which works and cooperates with the others in harmony.



AFTER THE RACE

They meet as the Commissaires' Panel and study the reports written by each one for the application of any sanctions.

The Commissaires' Panel then organises two debriefings. The first debriefing, with the members of the Commissaires' Panel, evaluates the operation of the entire Panel as regards the judging of the race.

The second debriefing is held with the organiser. The President of the Commissaires' Panel presents to it the positive and negative aspects of the organisation of the race, with the aim of improving certain areas.

A final race report is then written by the President of the Commissaires' Panel to the UCI. This document is very important for UCI sports coordinators, since it is the only form of reference that gives an objective opinion on both the quality of the organisation of the race and the application of the rules.

The International Commissaires' role is therefore primordial, since his judgement is determining in order to raise the quality of a cycling event and improve UCI rules.



HOW DOES ONE BECOME A UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE ?

Three basic conditions are necessary in order to become a UCI International Commissaire:

- To be aged between 25 and 50, the retirement age is fixed at 65.
- To have officiated at least two years as a National Commissaire, provided that the National Federation putting forward the applicant for the post of International Commissaire provides training that is homologated and approved by the UCI.
- To attend training courses given by the UCI and to obtain a diploma by taking a practical and theory exam.

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UCI International Commissaires are constantly perfecting their skills in order to be competent in their domain:

- Their training is provided by qualified coaches, who themselves regularly attend courses on the new teaching methods being currently used.
- Teaching materials are regularly published and ongoing training is given at proficiency courses. Other, more specialised seminars exist for particular positions such as secretary or judge referee, or for officiating at events for riders with disabilities.
- The teaching methods used are based on a dynamic approach, where International Commissaires are actively involved in their training.



WHY BECOME A UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE ?

The reasons for becoming an International Commissaire are numerous:

- As a cycling enthusiast, he has a unique opportunity to experience this sport from the inside and make an active contribution to its success.
- By travelling throughout the world officiating at races, he often has the chance of meeting new people and discovering other cultures.
- Thanks to his experience, he has the opportunity to contribute to the development of cycling, in particular as regards collaboration with the organisers of rapidly expanding events.
- At Junior races, his role as a tutor to young riders is very important.
- He enjoys international recognition by belonging to the big world cycling family.



WHAT ARE THE NECESSARY ASSETS TO BE A UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE ?

A UCI International Commissaire must also have and develop essential qualities in order to carry out his task:

COMPETENCY He ensures the application and interpretation of the rules with strictness and good sense.

DIPLOMACY He is a mediator between the various parties involved in world cycling and knows how to behave with tact and firmness.

TEAM PLAYER He is aware that decisions should be taken mutually as often as possible, and that he cannot fulfill his task single-handedly.

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«The Track Commissaires' Panel which I was a member of in 1984 in Los Angeles was made up of three people. We didn't know each other before the Olympic Games and we were naturally a bit apprehensive about the idea of working together for two whole weeks. However straightaway there was a good feeling between us. This motivating atmosphere resulted in quality work for the entire duration of the event. And more than 20 years after the Games in Los Angeles, our friendship is still strong...»

Marco Bognetti, International Commissaire at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP

BETWEEN UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRES AND OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE WORLD OF CYCLING ?

International Commissaires are flexible and often live out their passion by carrying out tasks other than those as a Commissaire. For example many of them officiate as the members of an organising committee at a race, or are involved with their federation.

This flexibility helps improve understanding and mutual respect between International Commissaires and the various parties in the cycling world whether organisers, riders, teams and National Federations.

Furthermore, their thorough knowledge of the cycling world is a significant advantage in ensuring their decisions are complied with. The success of cycling events also depends on the fine balance of relations between the various people involved. Commissaires are well aware of their place and role in this context.



WHAT ARE THE CAREER PROSPECTS FOR A UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRE ?



The development of a Commissaire's career does not stop once he acquires the status of UCI International Commissaire. In fact, other opportunities arise for him:

- To officiate at Olympic Games, the UCI ProTour, UCI Championships and World Cups.
- To use his experience at smaller races, by allowing organisers as well as young Commissaires to benefit from his expertise, and therefore contribute to the development of cycling.
- To become a trainer with the UCI.
- To take part in working groups given the task of developing cycling.
- To integrate bodies governing the sport of cycling on the level that he is interested in.



UCI International Commissaires play an active part in the development of cycling, whether involved in the organisation of events or in the drafting of rules. They are the best people to guarantee the link between the UCI and on the field.

With the aim of constantly improving the quality of their work, the UCI is currently concentrating its efforts on improving the training of International Commissaires and on standardising the application of rules even further.

The total trust that the UCI has in its International Commissaires as well as their high degree of competence are key elements in meeting the ever-growing needs of other parties involved in cycle sport, and ensuring the fair running of various races throughout the world.

ENCLOSURE

FUNCTIONS OCCUPIED BY UCI INTERNATIONAL COMMISSAIRES

Commissaires' Panel

It is made up of all Commissaires appointed by the UCI and the National Federation of the country in which the race is taking place.

ROAD

President of the Commissaires' Panel

He is the main person representing National Federations and UCI vis-à-vis the various groups involved in cycling: organisers, sports directors, riders and the media. He is in charge of the sports management side of the race and his role is as a leader to the panel and a coordinator with the organisers.

Appointed Commissaires

They carry out tasks such as the checking of riders' licences and equipment and assist the President in the sports management of the race on the field and in making decisions regarding sanctions.

Finish Judge

His role is to process and validate intermediary and final results. He is in charge of all the rankings and must be able to issue them quickly at the end of the race.

Commissaires on motorcycles

They are of great help in ensuring the sports management and supervision of races.

Timekeepers

During the race they give the average speed achieved at each hour and the overall average. At the finish, they give the effective time of each group and the average achieved. They check the times for all rankings (stages, general, individual and team).

Deputy and Extra Commissaires

They are positioned at various places and report on race incidents to the President of the Panel.

TRACK

President of the Commissaires' Panel

He divides up the tasks within the Panel and ensures the coordination of the Commissaires team. He ensures that everything is ready before each start.

Secretary

He has the responsibility of producing and/or checking all the starting and results lists as well as any other official communiqués from the Commissaires' Panel.

Starter

He checks riders' clothing, starts off races and sometimes is in charge of stopping the race in a dangerous situation or if any irregularities are noted. He also decides on false starts.

Judge Referee

He exclusively judges the behaviour of riders and whether race rules are respected, and is the only one that immediately takes decisions or decides on sanctions to be imposed.

Finish Judge

He judges all race finishes and the various rankings with, if necessary, the help of the photofinish.

Commissaires on the bends and opposite lines

They check the compliance of races on bends and straight lines. If a rider stops unexpectedly, they intervene immediately to determine the problem.

Timekeepers

Timekeeping is electric and often carried out by a specialised firm or by timekeepers from the National Federation. However, the latter must at all times be backed up by manual timekeepers.

Commissaires operating bells and counting laps

They keep track of the remaining laps to be covered and ring the bell for each group of riders one lap before each finish or ranking.

Deputy Commissaires in riders' quarter

They make sure that the riders concerned are ready at the necessary time.

Commissaires in charge of clothing and equipment

They check the compliance of the clothing and equipment of riders.

Commissaires for won and lost laps

Two Commissaires are chosen especially for this task, which involves very quickly noting the numbers of riders making up groups at the front and the back.

Secretaries in charge of the calculation of the points table

A Commissaire updates the ranking tables together with the computer operator.

Positioning

Two Commissaires per pursuit line check the positioning of riders. One asks the rider to get ready and gives a signal to the starter using a flag.

MOUNTAIN BIKE

President of the Commissaires' Panel	He is in charge of the entire competition, and ensures that the UCI rules are well applied and respected at all times.
Deputy to the President of the Panel	He assists the President of the Panel in his tasks and replaces him if the latter is unavailable.
Secretary	He is in charge of entry formalities and drawing up and sending the list of starters.
Start Commissaire	He is responsible for the start procedure by checking whether riders are present and giving the necessary instructions at the start.
Finish Commissaire	Assisted by a minimum of three other Commissaires who are positioned at each side of the finish line, he determines the finishing order of riders.
Deputy Commissaires	They are positioned at strategic places on the circuit in order to ensure whether the race is in compliance with the rules and report any incidents or infringements of UCI rules.

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CYCLO-CROSS

President of the Commissaires' Panel	He supervises and coordinates the sports management of the race, which notably involves inspecting the circuit and installations. He also writes the race report.
Starter – Finish Judge	He organises the starting procedure (starting order, call, checking of race numbers...) and starts off the race. He also notes each passing of riders and the drawing up of the complete final ranking is his responsibility.
Timekeeper	He decides on the number of laps to be carried out and calculates the time differences per lap and at the finish.
Equipment pit Commissaires	These two Commissaires check the comings and goings in the equipment pit and inform mechanics when a rider is coming into the changing corridor. They also take note of any riders abandoning the race.
Last bend Commissaire	He notes all passing of riders during the race and stops riders who are overtaken on the last lap so as to avoid them approaching the finish line at the same time as the winner.

BMX

President of the Commissaires' Panel	He supervises and coordinates the sports management of the race, which notably involves inspecting the circuit and the installations. He also makes the list of results official and rules on any disputes or complaints made.
Deputy to the President of the Panel	He assists the President of the Panel in his tasks and replaces him if the latter is unavailable.
Chief administration Commissaire	He is in charge of the entry and ranking of all riders and processing of results.
Starter	He ensures that the start of each race is carried out fairly and in total security.
Finish line Commissaires	They are a minimum of five, in charge of noting the order in which riders cross the finish line.
Staging Officials	They lead riders to their staging lines and announce race numbers, age categories and the name of each rider.
Race Officials	They supervise the behaviour of riders on the track and warn other officials of any incident which happened on the circuit. They are positioned throughout the circuit on each of the bends and near to obstacles and jumps.

TRIAL

President of the Commissaires' Panel	He supervises and coordinates the sports management of the race, which notably involves inspecting the different sections. He also makes the list of results official and rules on any disputes or complaints made.
Section Commissaires	At least two Commissaires are appointed per section. They observe the performances of competitors and their duration and give penalty points for each error made. At the end of the competition, the total of points is given to the President of the Panel.

INDOOR CYCLING - CYCLE-BALL

**President of the
Commissaires' Panel**

He is in charge of ensuring that rules are respected during all of the matches in a competition.

**Commissaire in charge
of a match**

He is responsible for applying the rules by officiating on the field.

Observation Judge

His job is to follow the competition on the field by being positioned at goal line height.

Timekeeper

He checks the length of the game and announces half-time and the end of the match.

Secretary

He takes note of goals scored and the final result of the match.

INDOOR CYCLING - ARTISTIC CYCLING

**President of the
Commissaires' Panel**

At the end of each programme, he compares the evaluation cards of the various groups of judges, comprising of a reader-marker and an announcer. He then checks the calculations of each final result, and ensures they are published.

**Readers – markers
(maximum of three)**

They read out to their announcer the programme exercises as they are entered on the evaluation card. They then enter the announcers judgement.

**Announcers
(maximum of three)**

They observe how the exercise is done in terms of its difficulty and how it is carried out, and once the exercise is finished they say whether it is correct or not and if necessary give any penalties.

Timekeeper

He announces how many minutes are left and the end of the allotted time.

Anti-Doping Inspector

This function applies to all disciplines and is not reserved only for Commissaires, since specialists chosen by the UCI also perform this task. The Anti-Doping Inspector ensures that the UCI Anti-Doping rules are applied and works in cooperation with the doctor appointed for the anti-doping controls.

