REPORT

FINA APPOINTED TASK FORCE

PART 4 – CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1. INTRODUCTION

This part examines the climatic conditions experienced during the Fujairah Event.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE AIR TEMPERATURE

2.1. Air Temperature: Official Statements

Meteorological Information: In accordance to the World Meteorological Organisation (a subsidiary organisation of the United Nations), the air temperature in Fujairah on Saturday 23 October 2010 was in average 31.0 degrees Celsius (87.8 °F) with high temperatures of 36,0 °C (96.8 °F) and low temperatures of 23,9 °C (75 °F).

2.2. Air Temperature: Organising Committee Statements

The FINA Technical Delegate reported an air temperature of 35 °C (95.0 °F).

3. ANALYSIS OF THE WATER TEMPERATURE

3.1. Water Temperature by the FINA Technical Delegate and by the UAE Swimming Federation

The FINA Technical Delegate arrived at the race venue some hours before the race. Together with one official of the Organising Committee, they noted a water temperature of 29 degrees Celsius (°C), which is 84.2 °F.

At the hearings, the question was asked why there was not a coach together with them (this is a requirement of the rules). The FINA Technical Delegate answered that such was not needed because the temperature regulations in the FINA rules is only for low temperatures and it was obvious that the temperature in Fujairah was higher than the minimum required in the FINA rules.

3.2. Water Temperature stated by competitors and reported by coaches

- Tom Vangeneugden, a Belgian competitor in Fujairah stated: I am used to train in a pool where the water temperature is 27 °C (80.6 °F) and even 28 °C (82.4 °F). When I entered the water in Fujairah, I had the impression I entered in a warm bath and I am absolutely convinced that the water temperature was not 29 °C (84.2 °F) but more like 32-33°C (89.6-91.4 °F).

- Thomas Lurz, a German competitor in Fujairah stated: I had concerns with the water temperature in the race. The water was like 32 °C (89.6 °F)(see Appendix 33).

- Elena Nembrini, coach of the Swiss team reported that the USA Coach, Mr. Jack Fabian measured the water temperature at the shore and he showed her the thermometer with 90 °F (32.5 °F)(see Appendix 34). She further writes that near the last buoy there were currents even warmer than the rest of the course.

- Christine Jennings, a USA competitor stated that the water and air was hot (see Appendix 31).

- Alex Meyer, a USA competitor who did compete in the 10 km in Fujairah (withdrew prior to the event), reported that the water was 33 °C (89.6 °F)(see Appendix 32) while such was not measured.

3.3. Water Temperature: Conclusion

The Task Force is of the opinion that all above seems to indicate that the water temperature was not 29 °C (84.2 °F) as stated by the UAE Swimming Federation and the FINA Technical Delegate but likely was higher.

4. ANALYSIS OF THE AIR HUMIDITY

No air humidity measurement was reported.

From statistics obtained from the World Meteorological Organisation, humidity on 23/10/2010 varied from 46 to 74 %.

5. ANALYSIS OF THE WAVE SIZE

The sea was reported by the Organising Committee to be calm with no waves.

No wave size measurement was reported.

6. ANALYSIS OF THE TIDAL CURRENTS

The Technical Delegate wrote in his report that there was a tide period but because it was in a lagoon, there was no strong current.

The Task Force analysed the tidal movements in the bay in collaboration with the Hydraulics Department of the Leuven University, Belgium. It was concluded that there was a tidal movement from high tide to low tide during the race, which brought in waters from the South of the Bay where it is shallower and where water is presumably warmer than at the entrance of the Bay. It was reported by competitors that at some locations the water was warmer than at other locations.

7. ANALYSIS OF THE WIND SPEED

The Technical Delegate wrote in his report that there was no wind.

No wind speed measurement was reported.

8. ANALYSIS OF THE VISIBILITY

The Technical Delegate wrote in his report that the visibility was good.

No visibility measurement was reported.

9. CONCLUSION

The race took place in the Banana Lagoon in Fujairah which is a protected and secluded lagoon. The visibility was good, the humidity was normal, there was no wind nor waves. The air and water temperatures were high.

Intensive and prolonged exercise in such a warm environment may increase the cardio-vascular demands due to greater challenge of thermoregulation.

In light of the information provided and as outlined above, the Task Force is of the opinion that the water temperature at the Fujairah event was not recorded in accordance with the FINA regulations.

Circumstantial evidence suggests that the water temperature was likely higher than reported.

The Task Force is of the opinion that these conditions, specifically the high water and air temperatures, may be related to the progressive incapacitation of Francis Crippen.