



WORLD PROFESSIONAL MARATHON SWIMMING FEDERATION

INC.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • 3040 SOUTH WABASH • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60616 U.S.A.

#26

DENNIS MATUCH - Secretary
PRESIDENT - Raul Villagomez
Vice President - Marwan Ghazzawi

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Dear Member:

Our President Raul Villagomez and myself have repeatedly tried to set up a personal meeting with the representatives of the Quebec Federation (This Federation is made up of the sponsors of the swims in Quebec). We have been unsuccessful. Our repeated requests for a meeting in Montreal went unheeded. In our dealings (phone, telegram, & letter) with individual members of the Quebec Federation we found that their organization is not as unified as we thought. Each member seems to have a different viewpoint from the other. It thus appears that we are going to have to boycott: Saguenay River, LaTuque, and Laval since they have not agreed to our minimum rules as agreed upon at our meetings last year. Lake St John has generously conformed to our suggestions. The total prize money has been raised to \$25,000 which along with other improvements truly makes Lake St. John the PREMIER professional race in the world today. The Chicago 10 Mile Marathon has raised its total purse to \$15,000. These two races are the only ones that have received a full sanction so far.

To be perfectly honest with the Saguenay, LaTuque, and Laval sponsors we believe we should give them a TENTATIVE SANCTION since they did raise their prizes significantly (LaTuque: \$20,000; Saguenay: \$15,000; Laval: \$12,000). However in order that these swims obtain a full sanction they will have to raise their total purse to meet our standards. Also, they will have to eliminate the 50% only rule for no finishers. The trials and agony due to weather and water temperature means a much harder swim when nobody finishes. This deserves FULL prize award instead of less. We fought hard last year for the elimination of this rule.

The Quebec Federation has practically denied our existence with its rude and uncompromising attitude. We have no choice but to deny these sponsors the privilege and honor of having the world's best professional marathon swimmers in their races. You must remember that these sponsors have always tried to divide us in the past (most recently in Laval & Saguenay). If you receive any contact from any of the three boycotted swims please write to either Villagomez or myself.

We made great strides last year in upgrading our fabulous sport by sticking together. We can only gain by staying together. Our Federation has 24 out of the first 25 world ranked professional swimmers (Yvon Montpetit is ranked but did not join the WPMSE altho his brother Guy did). These world ranked professional swimmers are vital to the success of any sponsor's swim. We are anxious to make our contribution to the success of a pro swim but only if the rewards are meaningful.

We strongly urge our members to give their full co-operation to the Lake St. John and the Chicago Marathon Swims. They have met our standards and deserve our support.

We have left the door open to the Quebec Federation. It is up to them

LA FEDERATION MONDIALE DES MARATHONS DE NAGE PROFESSIONELLE

FEDERACION MUNDIAL DE MARATON DE NATACION PROFESIONAL

now. You will receive any news as to developments. Please let us know if you receive any contact from the Quebec Federation or sponsors.

It appears that marathon swimming is gaining in popularity. Since the publication of Conrad Wennerberg's book WIND, WAVES & SUNBURN (published by A.S. Barnes of Cranbury, New Jersey, 08512; \$10) magazine and newspapers are publishing articles on the sport. Wennerberg's book is a must because of its general coverage. However, we have just received word of another book that will be published this summer and promises to be a great addition to our knowledge of the sport. It is CAPTAIN WEBB & 100 YEARS OF CHANNEL SWIMMING by Margaret Jarvis of England. Miss Jarvis is the daughter of John Arthur Jarvis (a famous English swimmer), a teacher of swimming, and a recognized historian of the sport. She has done much to promote swimming as well as historical accuracy. We have no price, as yet, for her book but will bring you the information when we get it. Miss Jarvis' book will be published by David & Charles (North Pomfret, Vermont 05053) in the United States and by its sister firm in England. We look forward to it.