

Boston Athletic Association

131 CLARENDON STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116
(617) 236-1652 Fax (617) 236-4505

September 5, 1991

Don Kardong
1203 W. 13th Avenue
Spokane, WA 33204-3911

Dear Don:

The debate over valid criteria for recognition of world records in road races has continued for some time now. The debate continues to this day, even as a compromise rule change has emerged from the select committee born of the 1990 TAC annual convention.

I applaud the efforts of that committee, especially in their judgment that the loop factor (i.e., wind aid) assumption is arbitrary and in need of change. We are discouraged, however, that the net downhill aspect of the rule remains and, to compensate, "world best" listings will join TAC "record" pages.

This compromise, by its very nature, explicitly implies that the "net downhill-aid" assumption is, by itself, valid and the criteria outlined is legitimate. As many have previously stated, this assumption is simply too simplistic and erroneous.

In support of our contention, I have enclosed, for your review, results from two studies that provide further evidence in support of our long-standing contentions on this issue.

Analysis (A) (by L. Luchner) relates energy expenditure to slope and describes the overly simplistic application of "net downhill" assumption. It goes on to present the issue of ups and downs and race distance factors, implicitly noting an interaction between terrain and distance, which heretofore has been ignored.

The preliminary research by Dr. John Buoncristiani of Wheaton College and Mark Glickman of Harvard University, Analysis (B), in a statistical approach, uses data from 5K splits at various races to assess, empirically, uphill and downhill effects and shows, likewise, a noticeable distance effect on split times.

Don Kardong/page 2

These two studies create more doubt than ever before that current assumptions creating Rule 185.5 are simplistic, at best, and wholly incorrect, at worst.

The obvious back pedaling and compromising evidenced to date on this issue is testimony to the vast differences of opinion and complexity of this matter. We stand by our original opinion that the marathon should not be standardized beyond the accepted criteria of measured distance, and the BAA, therefore, recommends the wholesale repeal of TAC Rule 185.5.

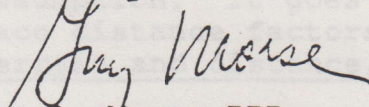
Of special note, at the recent International Amateur Athletic Federation Congress in Tokyo, the IAAF decided that "there should not be official IAAF world records for road racing".

At the very least, given this new evidence and the anticipation of additional data to follow, we urge the committee to realistically view this matter as a combination of statistical, physiological, biomechanical, and aerobic analysis/research.

I remain convinced that a set of equality-rendering criteria is unlikely (and unnecessary), given the very nature of the marathon distance. However, if it is TAC's decision to pursue further, I recommend that TAC identify and work with the many individuals and friends of the sport who have expressed an interest in furthering appropriate studies in this matter.

I encourage all those involved with the debate to put aside their prejudices and personal agendas, step back, take a fresh, honest look at the situation, and given the new evidence, endorse the idea of a methodical, practical and scientifically complete study. This approach is strongly advised, not for the good of Boston, but for the good of the sport, which as you will no doubt agree, is in desperate need of more rational, global thinking, and positive publicity.

Sincerely,



Guy L. Morse III
Race Director

cc: Julia Emmons

Enclosures
eel04