

Inside the World Cycling Centre: Models of Talent Identification and Development & Coaches Formation

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The UCI World Cycling Centre (WCC), which houses the headquarters of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), is an elite coaching and training centre. Opened in 2002, every year it welcomes a large number of athletes from around the world, each of them devoting all their energies to their sporting careers. The WCC offers training and development for around 100 athletes every year in the four Olympic disciplines (road, track, MTB and BMX).

The main goal of the WCC is in relationship with the Olympic and UCI goals:

- *“Mission and role of the International Federations within the Olympic Movement are to ensure the development of their sports throughout the world” (Olympic Charter, art. 27.1.2).*
- *“The purpose of the UCI is to promote cycling in all countries of the world and at all levels” (Constitution of the UCI, art. 2b).*
- *The World Cycling Centre is responsible for development of athletes and support personnel.*

Sport talent identification and development (TID)

Our main goal is to develop the riders to their full potential enabling them to achieve good results in International Competitions (Olympic Games, YOG, World Championships, World Cups and Continental Championships) or to continue their career in professional teams (Road /MTB) depending on their age and previous development.

We usually work with them in the critical periods of development. Following the LTAD model developed by Canadian Sports our general role is based in the following stages (always depending on the discipline):

- Learn to compete: NF's and Continental Satellite Centres.
- Train to compete: Satellite Centres and WCC.
- Learn to win: WCC.
- Train to win: WCC / Federations /Professional teams.

We are aware that there is not a lot of information about TID. Findings from one of the latest review highlight how little is known about TID in elite sport and emphasize the need for greater diversity in TID research (Johnston et al. 2018).

WCC has some Satellite Centre around the world (Japan, Korea, India, South Africa, Argentina) where we try to do the first Talent Identification in order to be able to know more riders and then bring them to the WCC to develop their training career as well as the education of the

future coaches. Sometimes this is not possible due to the economical aspects and the coaches need to recruit their riders based on the results and the advice of the coaches of the National Federations.

Examples Training camps + Coaches formation

Talent ID Camp: Mar del Plata ARG – Nov 2017

Training camp (track and road) and Coach Education Level 1 and 2.

Objective: Talent Identification (2 weeks training camp - Cadets and Juniors) and coaches formation.

Results: 3 of the riders who attended to the training camp were selected to take part of the WCC training programs in 2018 (Road and Track) / Argentinian group to be developed in the WCC for 2 months (preparing the YOG Buenos Aires 2018).

Development: TID + coaching + Juniors world

Training camp in Korea Satellite Centre 2015.

Results: Each year some of their riders come to the WCC. One example of rider's development is: 2016 training in the WCC + Juniors Track Cycling World Championship (Gold Medal: Men Junior – Scratch) – Development in WCC Track and Road (2017-2018).

Conclusion

WCC is trying to create new models of TID based in all the aspects of the cyclists. We have different models as the two examples cited above. Once we find one rider who shows the potential to have a successful cycling career we put in place a program of support and opportunity to help them achieve their goals.

References:

- Johnston, K., Wattie, N., Schorer, J. et al. Sports Med (2018) 48: 97. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40279-017-0803-2>
- UCI constitution (art. 2b).
- Olympic Charter (art. 27.1.2).