

## **Qualification procedure for allocating start slots for World MTB Orienteering Championships (WMTBOC) Long distance competitions, valid for 2017 only**

The qualification system for WMTBOC Long Distance competition is based on individual qualification and offers six qualification paths for the A-Final. The system will be applied for the 2017 WMTBOC in Lithuania.

The six qualification paths are as follows:

- Pre-event qualification
  - Results of previous WMTBOC (top 30 placed riders and winner of B-Final)
  - World Ranking (top 30 ranked riders)
- On-event qualification
  - Middle results on WMTBOC (1/2 the remaining open places, rounded down)
  - Mass Start results on WMTBOC (1/2 of the open places, rounded up)
- Additional start places
  - Home nation is given a minimum of 3 start slots, if fewer than 3 riders qualify
  - All nations with no qualified riders are given one start slot

The objective is to allocate approximately 60 starting slots for the nations in each gender class. However, for the sake of simplicity, if there are no more than 66 named entries for Long Distance, all riders will have a start.

### **The qualification procedure**

Steps of the qualification process for the A-Final are as follows:

#### **Entries**

- 1) All nations can enter up to 6 riders (+ the reigning World Champion) into the WMTBOC Long Distance competition.
- 2) Upon arrival teams are required to submit name entries of the athletes for the Long Distance competition by noon the day before the first competition day of the World Championships
- 3) If no more than 66 riders are entered in the Long Distance competition for a gender class, all riders get a start slot in the A-Final.  
If more than 66 riders are entered in the Long Distance competition for a gender class, the start slots for the A-Final are determined using the following steps

### **Pre-event qualification**

- 4) All entered athletes who finished in places 1-30 in the previous Long Distance World Championships and the winner of the B-Final get a place in the A-Final
- 5) All entered athletes who stand in places 1-30 in the World Ranking 1 month before the day of the Long Final also get a place in the A-Final

### **On-event qualification**

- 6) The number of remaining A-Final slots is calculated as 60 minus the number of places allocated in steps 4 and 5.
- 7) Half of the remaining A-Final start slots (rounded down, if odd number of places remained) are allocated based on the results of the Middle event to top placed athletes who entered the Long Distance competition and have yet to receive a start slot.
- 8) The remaining half of the A-Final start slots are allocated based on the results of the Mass Start Competition to top placed athletes who entered the Long Distance competition and have yet to receive a start slot.

### **Additional start places**

- 9) If the home nation entered at least 3 riders, but qualified less than 3 riders via steps 4)-8), extra start slots are given to allow 3 home riders in the A-Final.
- 10) Every nation that entered a rider for the Long Distance competition, but does not have any start slots via steps 4)-8) (either through failure to qualify or withdrawal) gets a start slot in the A-Final.

### **General rules**

- Start slots allocated to riders via steps 4)-8) cannot be changed or reallocated.
- Start slots allocated to nations via steps 9)-10) are given to riders named by the Team Official of that nation. The name of these riders must be submitted by noon the day before the Long Distance Final along with the start group preferences for those riders who qualified via steps 4)-8) and are not in the Orange or Red start groups.
- All riders who entered the Long Distance competition but did not get a start slot in the A-Final may participate in the B-Final.
- The A-Final is drawn in 6 start groups (in start order: First, Early, Middle, Late, Orange, Red), while the B-final is drawn in 3 start groups (Early, Middle, Late).
- All riders who receive start slots via Step 10) get a place in the First start group. All other riders are drawn according to MTBO Competition Rules 12.
- The process of qualification and allocation is administered by the organisers with the help of the IOF MTBO Commission, and approved by the Senior Event Adviser.