

**Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 1–16**

**Place:** Quality Hotel View, Malmö-Hyllie, Sweden

**Meeting schedule:** Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January – 14:00-21:00 CET  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 13:30-21:30 CET

**Participants:**

Áron Less (AL)	Chairman
Tomáš Dlabaja (TD)	Member
Vincent Frey (VF)	Member
Kilian Imhof (KI)	Member
Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP)	Member
David May (DM)	Member – through Skype
Janne Salmi (JS)	Member
Unni Strand Karlsen (USK)	Member
Blair Trewin (BT)	Member – through Skype

**Invitations:**

Mike Dowling	FOC's IOF Council contact person
Nik Suter	FOC's IOF Council contact person
Tom Hollowell	IOF Secretary General
David Rosen	IOF Rules Commission Chairman
Patrik Söderqvist	IOF Marketing Manager
Jørn Sundby	WOC 2015-2018 SEA
David Wästlund	IOF Sports Administrator

**OPENING**

- 1 Opening** AL
- AL opens the meeting. He especially welcomes new FOC member Tomáš Dlabaja. TD will start out to get an idea of the work and will get special assignments in a few months time.
- 2 Follow up of Minutes FOC 5-15** AL
- All follow-up topics are discussed under the various agenda items below.

**TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 4-15**

### 3 Council & ESB decisions

AL

- SEA nominations: Jozef Pollák and Michal Krajčík approved for WUOC 2016. János Sümegi is now full SEA for JWOC 2016. David Rosen's SEA nomination for WMOC 2018 was not approved.
- World Cup 2017 programme was approved. Council noted that there was still some uncertainty about some of the formats and decided that at least one other long distance competition, in addition to the WOC Long Distance competition, should be included in the World Cup program.
- World Cup 2016 Special Rules and Sprint Relay Special Rules were approved.
- EOC 2018 programme was approved.
- The Competition Rules for 2016 were approved and are available on the IOF website.
- Council approved the proposal that Regional events should be handled in the same manner as other IOF events by Council, Commissions and the IOF Office regarding applications, appointments and protocol.
- Regional Youth Championships may be given IOF event status upon approval of Council. The IOF regional working groups should determine which youth events to organise. Existing youth championships in all disciplines are approved as IOF events.

### GENERAL MATTERS

- 4 FOC's remit remains unchanged from 2015. [FOC discussed the Special tasks for 2016 and AL sent it to Council.](#) AL

[David Wästlund presented a development plan for Eventor. A proposal for a rule change will follow.](#)

### FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### 5 WOC

AL, KI

- **WOC 2016, SWE:** Status report. No new SEA report available. SEA visits are taking place almost every month. The Organising Committee has now contracted with EQ Timing (NOR) for punching / time-keeping.
  - From the FOC Minutes 5-15: FOC asked USK to investigate if it is legally and practically possible to provide access to the base map material of the event areas. [Investigations still in progress.](#)
- **WOC 2017, EST:** Status report. No new SEA report available. No issues foreseen at this moment. Dates are 30 June - 7

July, 2017. Next meeting is at HLES.

- **WOC 2018, LAT:** Status report, new SEA report available. An event director, Janis Lazdans, has been appointed, and started to work on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Next meeting is at HLES. The Latvian Orienteering Federation is creating an event company to be in charge of all the planned events in the country for the next years. The date for WOC was changed because of access difficulties with regards to forest terrains: the new date is 4-11 August 2018.
- **WOC 2019:** One application received.
- **WOC 2020 application process:** The application deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> March.
- **WOC in the future.** Council discussed feedback from Federations and experts and presented three topics for FOC to make suggestions:
  - Middle distance qualification
    - 3 competitors per nation
    - reigning World Champion, World Cup Champion, Regional Champions have additional place in the qualification
    - FOC supports 3 heats
    - Council believes 1 competitor / nation should qualify for the final if one fulfils certain quality criteria.
    - One option under consideration is for 15 automatic qualifiers per heat, plus 1 competitor per nation not otherwise qualified providing they were within 100% of the heat winner. Other options may be considered.
    - a Working Group lead by BT (with TD as one member) investigates this topic and comes back to FOC with a paper by 15<sup>th</sup> March
  - Long distance qualification
    - Nation based qualification quota system supported by Council
    - Favoured solution by Council appears to be using combination of past WOC results and World Ranking List and possibly selected World Cup races (long distance)
    - FOC's quality objective is to exclude competitors who can't finish in a reasonable time
    - a Working Group lead by BT (with AL as one member) investigates this topic and comes back to FOC with a paper by 15<sup>th</sup> March

- Additional Sprint WOC format
  - Council has two possible formats shortlisted: knockout sprint and an urban middle distance
  - Council asks for a deep analysis of the two preferred options to determine best solution for additional format e.g. technical issues, organisational issues, broadcast potential, media attractiveness, spectator attractiveness competitor attractiveness
  - JS asks the Coaches Reference Group to help with the assessment
  - a Working Group lead by DM (with TD, KI and JS as members) investigates this topic and comes back to FOC with a paper by 15<sup>th</sup> March

## 6 World Cup

JS, BT

- **World Cup 2016: status report**
  - Special Rules were approved by Council.
  - New SEA report from EOC 2016.
- **World Cup 2017: status report**
  - Council approved the programme. They would like to see more than one long distance race.
  - Round 1 (WCup 1-4): FIN has agreed to have four competitions between 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May (Ascension Day week).
    - SQ + SF on the same day
    - JS volunteered to investigate the possibility of testing one of the proposed new Sprint formats for WOC in this event. [This is still on the table.](#)
    - Sprint Relay
    - Middle distance
    - Long distance with a chasing start based on both Sprint and Middle results
  - Round 2: WOC 2017 (WCup 5-9) EST – 30 June - 7 July 2017.
  - Round 3 (WCup 10-12): Latvia.
    - Middle distance in Cēsis – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August
    - Forest relay in Cēsis – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August
    - Sprint Q+F in Cēsis – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August
  - Round 4 (WCup 13-15): 29 September – 1 October in Canton Bern. Friday: Middle or Long; Saturday: Middle or Long, Sunday: Sprint Relay.
- [BT informed that the work with Special Rules 2017 will start shortly. BT will collect input from SEAs. FOC will probably suggest to have a relay World Cup instead of a Sprint Relay World Cup for 2017.](#)
- **World Cup 2018: status report. Update.**

## 7 JWOC

HLP

- **JWOC 2016: Switzerland.** The assistant SEA and SEA changed roles in the autumn 2015. The new SEA, János Sümegi, sent a report in December 2015. Areas of concern related to Event Plan, high altitude weather conditions, transportation and arena production handling are expected to be manageable. [A rule deviation request has been discussed and withdrawn by the organisers.](#)
- **JWOC 2017: Finland.** No new SEA report since the summer 2015. [HLP will talk with the SEA and organisers during HLES.](#)
- **JWOC 2018: Hungary.** Venue is Kecskemét, Central Hungary, terrain is pretty flat sand dunes with a lot of small contour and vegetation details. Jari Kymäläinen is the SEA, but he prioritizes WMOC in Tallinn until August. AL supervises JWOC until Jari is available. Preparations are on track. All forest terrains are National Park areas, negotiation with the authorities is well in progress. Mappers are chosen. National controller is János Sümegi, who has sufficient JWOC experience. Organising structure is currently under review. Jari's first visit is scheduled for September 2016.
- **JWOC 2019:** One application received.

## 8 WMOC

DM, BT

- **2016 (Estonia)** [Jari Kymäläinen \(FIN, SEA\) has submitted no full update since that dated September 6th 2015 but has made a visit in November to discuss the Sprint terrain and its mapping.](#)

[The use of Eventor for taking entries is still in development so the organisers are now using their own system. This had problems at first but is now working satisfactorily.](#)

[There are 2529 paid entries so far and a further 112 who have not yet paid. This is a healthy number at this stage and it seems possible that the final entry will exceed 4000.](#)

[Nevertheless, promotion remains an issue. Overall, all seems more or less on track.](#)

- **WMOC (WMG) 2017 NZL:** [Problems regarding the IOF sanction fee and the Auckland WMG organisers \(AWMG\) have now been resolved. Other developments since August include:-](#)
  - [SEA Nick Dent \(AUS\) had a heart attack before Christmas and is still recovering. He plans to continue his SEA role in due course however.](#)
  - [In the meantime, National Controller Gillian Ingham has taken on extra duties and DM has acted as "stand-in SEA".](#)
  - [Much of the organisation has been contracted out to "Lactic Turkey", a commercial adventure sports company. Their](#)

nominated Event Managers are both experienced orienteers.

- The organisers are planning for an entry of 1000.
- Payment is by credit/debit card only. DM has asked if payment by bank transfer can be an extra option. All entries must be done via the AWMG system so *Eventor* is not required.
- AWMG is unable to agree to a fee reduction if only one of the Sprint or Long is entered and this contravenes Rule 7.1. The organisers will thus be applying for a Rule Deviation to allow the single fixed entry fee.
- AWMG also insist that all entries must be made by 31st Jan 2017 which is 11 – 12 weeks before the WMOC starts. This contravenes Rule 9.15. However, later entries should be possible as long as individual sports are prepared to take them.
- **WMOC 2018 DEN:** a new SEA to be proposed by FOC.
- **WMOC 2019 LAT:** this event is still three and a half years away.
- **WMOC programme review:** DM will produce a first draft of a description of alternative models with the purpose of having a questionnaire after WMOC 2016 collecting the points of view of the participants there. FOC will discuss this proposal later.

## 9 Regional Senior Championships (ROCs)

BT

- **European Orienteering Championships**, 21-28 May 2016, Jeseník, Czech Republic. Update. [Preparations are on track.](#)
- **North American Orienteering Championships**, 23-25 September 2016, Hanover, NH, USA. Update. [Preparations are on track.](#)
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2016**, 27 July – 2 August 2016, Chai-Yi & Tai-nan, Chinese Taipei. Update.
  - Rule deviation request to have the relay on a 1:7.500 scale map. FOC recommends to map the area with ISSOM instead of ISOM. If the organiser stays with their request, FOC will probably recommend to reject the request.
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships 2017**, 14-17 April 2017, Auckland region, New Zealand. Update. [An event company will serve as an umbrella for OOC and WMOC. BT will check if they allocate appropriate resources to handle both events. The technical organisations will be separate.](#)
- **European Orienteering Championships**, 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Ticino, Switzerland. Programme now approved by Council. FOC recommends to use qualification methods to reflect WOC qualification methods after 2019. [A rule deviation request to use 1:10.000 scale in the Long Distance event is expected.](#)
- **NAOC 2018:** no applicant yet. [An application from Canada is](#)

expected shortly.

- **ASOC 2018:** the Asian Working Group looks for an organiser in 2016. It is unclear if AWG recognizes the procedure that they no longer appoint the ASOC organiser.
- **OOC 2019:** an application from Australia is expected.
- Council approved the proposal that Regional events should be handled in the same manner as other IOF events by Council, commissions and the IOF Office regarding applications, appointments and protocol.
- **South American Senior and Youth Championships will be organised as IOF events for the first time in Chile in October 2016.** FOC and Rules Commission should outline the rules this spring.

## 10 Regional Youth Championships (RYOC)

AL

This is a new remit from Council.

Regional Youth Championships may be given IOF event status upon approval of Council. The IOF regional working groups should determine which youth events to organise.

- Existing youth championships in all disciplines are approved as IOF events.
- Conceptual guidance for youth championship events should be determined by the RYDC. This guidance should take consideration of social aspects, not just competition aspects.
- Rules for regional youth championships should be determined by RC in cooperation with the respective discipline commissions, based upon the overall guidance.
- Application, appointment and protocol procedures should be streamlined to be the same as for all IOF events

As of today, the European and the Asian Youth Orienteering Championships are the only RYOC that FOC has to supervise. North America, South America and Oceania may also have Youth Championships in the very near future. VF and TD will supervise these events for FOC in the future.

- The first AsYOC was held in Hong Kong last month. It's a biannual event with categories 14, 16, 18 and 20.
- EYOC is an annual event. EYOC 2016 will be in Poland, EYOC 2017 in Slovakia
- Two applications received for EYOC 2018.

## 11 The World Games

AL, KI

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report, no new SEA Report available. Preparations are on track.

## FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – RULES

- 12 Rules** USK,  
DM
- New Competition Rules were approved by Council.
  - David Rosen pointed out that a set of rules reflecting the new WOC regime should be produced. Does not need to be started until after the IOF General Assembly in August. The new rules should be in effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

## FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – EVENT QUALITY AND ADVISING

- 13 Event Advising** USK,  
VF,  
HLP
- Plan for EA Clinics:
- HLES in Riga (6-7 February 2016). IOF (FOC) and LOF are the main organising bodies. The programme published. The presentations are now discussed. [65 participants from 17 nations entered.](#)
  - Clinic in 2016: EA clinic in DEN in conjunction with Danish Spring (18-19 March). Invitation published and sent out by the IOF Office.
  - Clinic in 2016: EA Clinic in BRA, 30 September – 2 October.
  - [Possible Clinic during WMOC 2016 in Estonia.](#)
  - SEA nominations.
  - FOC discussed if there should be more distinction between Event Advisers (like SEA) on the basis of what kind of IOF events they advised for. VF volunteered to make a proposal for FOC Meeting 3-16.
  - FOC discussed the challenge of finding new skilled Event Advisers. Scouting should continue on the national level and all FOC members have to be proactive on this topic.

- 14 Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission (FOAC)** KI

Update. William Lind decided to resign from FOAC. The new FOAC coordinator is Ida Bobach.

One suggestion from Ida: “We have got a small input from some spectators who thought that it could be really nice to have names on the number bibs at big events (maybe together with number, or one thing on the back and another on the front). Then it would be easier for spectators who do not know that much about orienteering to recognize athletes. We understand that the bibs will have to be printed later than now, and that could be a disadvantage for the organizers but maybe it can be something to consider anyway? From myself I know that it is more fun to watch a sport if I can recognize some athletes and cheer for them.” [AL to forward this to the IOF Marketing Managers.](#)



**15 Coaches Reference Group (CRG) – “Entourage reference group” JS**

Update.

JS created a Facebook group for the coaches. Selected topics will be discussed here, one at a time.

**YOUTH PROMOTION**

**16 Youth Promotion VF, BT**

Extended remit. Update. Special tasks for 2016 to be determined:

- in cooperation with RYDC (Regional & Youth Development Commission) start to organise as soon as possible the academies in connection with WOC.
- support RYDC and encourage IOF regions to conduct regional youth/junior competitions.

VF participated in the RYDC meeting on Friday and consulted about these issues.

**EVENT DEVELOPMENT**

**17 Guidelines KI, BT**

Update & discussion:

- **WOC Guidelines:** Updating is needed with the new qualification formats and the introduction of the Sprint Relay. Jørn Sundby is responsible for the update. Clive Allen also offered proofreading.
  - Jørn looks into the former proposal for a new guideline structure. Today it contains good information and a lot of text, but no photos and no illustrations. Jørn intends to change the guideline into a manual with inspiration from the Swiss Orienteering Manual system. We agreed on a deadline by the end of 2016.
- **WCup Guidelines:** It was agreed to postpone this update until after the WOC Guidelines are updated. And then establish a group with recent WCup organisers involved.
- **JWOC Guidelines:** Next update: March 2016. **AL makes the update.**
- **WMOC Guidelines:** Have been updated for 2016 and are tabled for approval at this meeting. The main changes are that a new section on arena design has been added and updates to include the reduced start interval in the Long Q races have been included.

DM will add a section on *Eventor* next year when its development for WMOC is complete.

A few suggestions were made to David. Everyone agreed that DM is

doing a great job with the guidelines. DM to send the Guidelines to the Office for publishing.

- **WRE Guidelines:** Update available from David Rosen. DM has provided comments for the current guidelines and David Rosen also suggested new updates. David Rosen to send the updated Guidelines to the Office for publishing.
- **Sprint Relay Guidelines:** was published in February 2015.
- **Embargoed areas:** The paper was approved at our last meeting with the comment that strict embargo should be applied as much as possible. Each guideline responsible now has the task of entering these embargo guidelines into the relevant guidelines.

#### VISIBILITY OF ORIENTEERING

- 18 Visibility of orienteering** JS
- FOC should have this in mind in every decision.
  - We must keep our ambition to increase the visibility to an audience who are not already orienteers.
- 19 WRE** VF, DM
- Update.
- From our Meeting Minutes 5-15:
- DM proposed to have EA evaluations written from organisers in each WRE and uploaded to Eventor. DM's pilot operation hasn't progressed since our last meeting.

#### OTHER MATTERS

- 20 AOB** AL
- There is a FootO budget available from 2016. This way, FOC can also follow up and approve Event Advising costs. To secure event quality, FOC representation is also available through this budget. FOC representation for 2016 was also decided.
- 21 Next meetings** all
- FOC Meeting 2-16: 21<sup>st</sup> March, 20:00 – 22:00 CET through Skype.

Legend:

- black (normal) letters: original text from the agenda
- blue text: text added during the meeting
- red text: action items