



Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 1–17

Place: Airport Hotel Okęcie, Warsaw, Poland

Meeting schedule: Friday, 20th January 2017 – 15:00-22:00 CET
Saturday 21st January 2017 – 13:00-20:00 CET

Participants:	Áron Less (AL)	Chairman
	Tomáš Dlabaja (TD)	Member
	Kilian Imhof (KI)	Member
	Maria Krafft Helgesson (MKH)	Member
	Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP)	Member
	Janos Manarin (JM)	Member
	David May (DM)	Member – through Skype
	Unni Strand Karlsen (USK)	Member
	Blair Trewin (BT)	Member – through Skype
Invitations:	Mike Dowling (MD)	FOC's IOF Council contact person
	Vincent Frey (VF)	FOC's IOF Council contact person
	David Rosen (DR)	IOF Rules Commission Chairman
	Einar Tommelstad (ET)	IOF Environment Commission Chairman

OPENING

- 1 Opening** AL
AL opened the meeting and welcomed especially new members Janos Manarin and Petteri Muukkonen. [Petteri will join the Commission from FOC meeting 2-17.](#)
- 2 Follow up of Minutes FOC 5-16** AL
All follow-up topics are discussed under the various agenda items below.

TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 5-16

- 3 Council & ESB decisions** AL

- 12 December 2016: The ESB unanimously approved the rules deviation request from the organisers of JWOC 2017 to use the olive green areas on ISOM maps as forbidden areas.

All other topics are discussed under the various agenda items below.

FOC WORKING PROCEDURES 2017-2018

4 FOC Remits and Special Tasks

AL

New Remits and Special Tasks for 2017 were discussed and approved.

5 FOC members – Areas of responsibility

AL, BT,
HLP

Based on the Remits FOC discuss about responsibilities and decide that the following are the responsibilities for the next two years (the member in charge is marked with an asterisk*; a name in brackets means a deputy, only to be called in in case the responsible person is unavailable or has a conflict of interest):

- Focus on Key Outcomes – Strategic Planning & Event Quality:
 - Strategic planning: MKH*, HLP, AL
 - The World Games: AL*, (KI)
 - WOC & EOC: TD*, AL, PM
 - WCup: BT*, MKH, PM
 - JWOC: HLP*, (JM)
 - WMOC: DM*, BT, JM
 - Senior & Youth ROC (outside Europe): BT*, JM
- Focus on Key Outcomes – Rules:
 - Liaison to Rules Commission: USK*, DM
 - Liaison to FootO Athletes' Commission: TD*, KI, PM
 - Liaison to Coaches Reference Group: KI*, TD
 - Liaison to Environment Commission: BT*, PM
 - Liaison to IT Commission: JM*, USK
 - Liaison to Map Commission: JM*, KI
- Focus on Key Outcomes – Event Advising: USK*, HLP
- Increase the attractiveness of orienteering to young people:
 - Youth Promotion (liaison to RYDC): BT*, KI
 - EYOC: AL*, (HLP)
- Strengthen the IOF position on the World Sporting Stage – Event Development:
 - Event Guidelines: HLP*, MKH, USK
 - Development of new race formats: KI*, JM, TD
- Increase the visibility of orienteering:
 - Visibility of orienteering: MKH*, BT
 - WRE: DM*, BT

- Strong Management and Funding – Teamwork:
 - Secretary (vice-chairman) of the Commission: BT*, (HLP)
 - Minutes: HLP, (JM)

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING & EVENT QUALITY

6 Strategic planning

AL

From our last Meeting Minutes: FOC proposes to structure EOC and World Cup around the split WOC given the assumption that WOCs will from 2020 onwards be organised in July – probably 1st or 2nd week of July, with JWOC being organised in the 3rd week and O-Ringen (World Cup) in the 4th week of July. The idea is to have a 12-month sprint season with EOC and World Cup ending in the sprint WOC and to have a 12-month year forest season with EOC and World Cup ending in the forest WOC. This will mean that EOC is organised in late summer/autumn. It is assumed that the programme for EOC will be the same as for the corresponding WOC. If a programme like this is established, it would make sense to start thinking around these ideas from autumn 2019 – even though it is not planned to have an EOC in 2019. Instead it could be an idea to let the World Cup Final in 2019 be a last test of the WOC 2020 programme – or at least a final test of the new WOC format if it is felt that there should also be forest races in the World Cup Final. It was agreed that AL will develop a paper based on these ideas and consult with TH if a process should be established to discuss these ideas with the stakeholders, primarily the future World Cup organisers, Federations, athletes and coaches.

The paper was agreed upon with a few proposed changes. AL will send out the document to the major stakeholders with cooperation from the IOF Office as stated in the document. MKH will support.

7 The World Games

AL

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report. A change of the SEA team has been carried out, David Aleš (CZE) is the new SEA with Daniel Wolf (CZE) as Assistant. Former SEA Daniel Leibundgut continues as head of IT and timekeeping.
The qualification period has now ended and with active FOC involvement, the qualifiers were announced. Most nations have confirmed their qualification places, only 2 men and 2 women qualified as a wild card. A reserve list is also in place.
The deadline for final entries was postponed from 31 March to 31 May. This was welcomed by the national teams.
- **TWG 2021, Birmingham, Georgia, USA:** approx. 15th to 25th July. The decision about which sports will be on the 2021 programme will be made after an evaluation following TWG 2017. Tom Hollowell has visited the area in 2016 and identified suitable terrain.

8 World Orienteering Championships (WOC)

AL, KI

- **WOC 2017, Estonia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Everything seems to be on track, the previous SEA report was very positive. WOC 2017 will use EMIT as part of an IT package deal. Dates are 30 June - 7 July, 2017. Bulletin 2 was published in July 2016. The next SEA report should have more focus on out of forest issues.
- **WOC 2018, Latvia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. No SEA visit has taken place in 2016, that's why Bulletin 1 was delayed and issued only in December 2016. Dates are 4-11 August 2018. An SEA meeting should be carried out asap.
- **WOC 2019, Norway:** Sarpsborg, Østfold was appointed as organiser by Council. Dates are 13-18 August. Preparation is already well underway. Lars Forsberg was appointed as Assistant SEA.
- **WOC 2020, Denmark:** The Triangle Region (Vejle, Kolding, Fredericia) was appointed by the General Assembly. The dates are 7-11 July, still awaiting Council approval.
- **WOC 2021:** Two applications received from Brazil and the Czech Republic. Council has decided that both applications should be evaluated. AL will do the assessment with assistance from Tom Hollowell. Evaluation reports are due for FOC meeting 3-17.
- **WOC SEA.** New working methods are introduced from the IOF Office regarding the WOC SEA team. The work will be led by the WOC Project Manager/SEA, assisted by a Competition ASEA (proposed by FOC), an IT ASEA, a TV/Arena ASEA (Jørn Sundby) and several assistants from the Office.

The first task will be to discuss the work distribution in the SEA team related to WOC 2017, where Jørn Sundby is currently the SEA. The team is expected to be fully operational towards WOC 2018. From 2018 onwards FOC will appoint the Competition ASEA and IT Commission will appoint the IT ASEA. For 2018 Urs Hofer (SUI) is appointed as the Competition ASEA and for WOC 2019 Lars Forsberg (SWE) is appointed as the Competition ASEA. Negotiations are ongoing in order to identify a Competition ASEA for WOC 2020.

- Leho Haldna presented an idea to restructure the WOC entry fees to allow more countries to participate in future WOCs, as this is an IOF key goal. The initiative was started by SkiO Commission. This subject will be on the FOC agenda in the next FOC meeting.

9 European Orienteering Championships (EOC)

BT, AL

- **EOC 2018,** 5-13 May 2018, Ticino, Switzerland. Programme now approved by Council. JM to give a brief update. FOC recommends abolishing the B-finals. This will require a rule change in Appendix 7. Council approved the proposal.

In October, FOC discussed BT's model for long qualification. The discussion was centred around how to balance the possibility for many nations to participate with the desire to have all the best runners present without having too big a start field. The target is to have 70-80 runners at most, with all the best athletes starting and a maximum of 6 participants per Federation. BT updated the paper accordingly. [BT's paper was approved by FOC. The start order proposal to use the WOC system was also supported. The home country should be allowed to have at least 4 athletes in each class. The World Ranking as of 1st of January should be used to identify the number of qualifiers for each country. Council approved the proposal.](#)

- **EOC in the future.** EOC should be split from 2020, on opposite cycles from WOC. EOC 2020 should be forest only. The application is very near to publication, FOC should give guidance for the expected dates through the Strategic planning document. [FOC proposes to the IOF Office that EOC 2020 should be organised later than 15th August. AL to communicate.](#)

10 World Cup (WCup)

BT

- **World Cup 2017: status report**
 - Round 1 (WCup 1-4): Finland. No new SEA report available. Bulletin 1 has been published. Dates are 24-28 May 2017.
 - Sprint Relay in Turku
 - SQ + SF on the same day in Lohja
 - Middle distance near Lohja
 - Long distance with a chasing start based on both Sprint and Middle results near Lohja
 - Round 2: WOC 2017 (WCup 5-9) EST – 30 June - 7 July 2017.
 - Round 3 (WCup 10-12): Latvia. No new SEA report available. Bulletin 1 has recently been published.
 - Middle distance in Cēsis – Friday 25th August
 - Forest relay in Cēsis – Saturday 26th August
 - Sprint Q+F in Cēsis – Sunday 27th August
 - Round 4 (WCup 13-15): 29 September – 1 October in Grindelwald, Switzerland. Bulletin 1 has not yet been published. Friday: Long distance; Saturday: Middle distance; Sunday: Sprint Relay.
 - Special Rules were approved by Council.
- **World Cup 2018: status report**
 - Round 1: Switzerland, as part of EOC.
 - O-Ringen is cancelled from the World Cup 2018 programme due to negative competitor feedback. WOC 2018 should be considered to be part of the World Cup (as round 2) since O-Ringen is not an option any longer. FOC proposes to have the

three individual WOC races as part of the World Cup and to include the sprint relay and forest relay in the relay World Cup. **Council approved the proposal.**

- Round 3: Pre-WOC in Norway will be held from 31 August until 2. September 2018. SEA proposed by USK. **FOC would like to have a Middle Distance, a Long Distance and a Relay event. AL and USK will talk with the Norwegian Federation about this during HLES 2017.**
- Round 4: There is an application from the Czech Republic to host round 4 in conjunction with the IOF General Assembly (which is not confirmed either). Dates would be 5-7 October, with a Middle Distance on Friday, sprint relay on Saturday and a Sprint on Sunday. USK also proposes an SEA. Discussion. **FOC recommends to accept the proposal. Council approved the proposal. FOC proposes to ask the CZE organisers to test the 3rd WOC sprint discipline – replacing one of the sprint competitions. BT will ask the organisers.**
- **World Cup 2019: status report.** Round 1 would be ideal in Finland (8-12 June – no answer yet), round 2 during O-Ringen and round 3 in Switzerland in early October. **BT will ask PM to investigate this – as one of his first FOC tasks.**
- **World Cup in the future:** From 2019 and onwards the intention is that the World Cup will be held with 3 fixed rounds, one of them being O-Ringen. From 2019 IOF Swiss Cup is fully on-board. Both O-Ringen and Swiss Cup are supportive about IOF's ideas.

11 Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC)

HLP

- **JWOC 2017: Finland.** Status report. New SEA report available.
- **JWOC 2018: Hungary.** Status report. No new SEA report available.
- **JWOC 2019: Denmark.** Status report. No new SEA report available. Silkeborg was awarded JWOC 2019. Hannu Pyy is SEA. **The dates proposed by the organiser are 6-12 July, with sprint and long distance followed by a rest day, the two middle distance competitions and the relay. Council approved the proposal.**
- **JWOC 2020:** One application from Turkey. **The application will be evaluated on a regular basis.**
- **HLES 2017** will have JWOC as one of the main themes.

12 World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC)

DM, BT

- **WMOC (WMOG) 2017: New Zealand.** Status report. No new SEA report available. A complaint from CZE about no spectator races during WMOC 2017 despite otherwise promised by WMOG 2017. **This will be answered by the IOF Office. Some 1600 entries are now expected.**

- **WMOC 2018 Denmark:** Status report. No new SEA report received. Due to the situation about the Middle Distance, it was agreed to postpone the issue of Bulletin 1 until 1st April 2017 at latest.
- **WMOC 2019 Latvia:** Proposed dates are 4-11 August 2018, which overlaps with Swiss O Week. **Council did not accept the date proposal at their concurrent meeting. DM & BT to investigate further with LAT.**
- **WMOC 2020:** Three applications received from GBR (Swansea, Wales), ITA (Gargano) and SVK (Košice). **It was decided to shortlist all three candidates. Reports are expected at the FOC meeting during WOC. AL will do the evaluation visits as DM has a conflict of interests.**
- **WMOC 2021:** assuming the WMG/WMOC connection is continued, WMOC 2021 will be combined with WMG and will go to Kansai in Japan during May. **Council has decided to disconnect WMG from WMOC from 2021.**
- **WMOC middle distance:** The WMOC working party have now made an additional paper for Council. This was sent out to FOC members for comments in December. AL will present the materials for Council during their meeting. **Council approved the proposed model with one forest qualification, a middle final and a long final. Council did not approve FOC's favoured model for qualification to the long final, stating this would be an introduction of a whole new method (results based on min/km speeds) into the sport. Council approved qualification based upon the alternative with a fixed number of qualification spots per middle final based upon historical performance data and number of competitors (alternative 2 in the FOC report). DM is tasked to now finalize the implementation at WMOC in accordance with these principle decisions.**

13 Senior & Youth Regional Orienteering Championships (outside Europe) BT

- **Oceania Orienteering Championships (Senior & Youth?) 2017, 14th – 17th April 2017, Auckland, New Zealand.**
- **Asian Junior & Youth Orienteering Championships 2017, December 2017, China. BT will investigate about this event.**
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2018, Hong Kong. Preliminary plans are for holding this event in December.**
- **North American Orienteering Championships 2018 (Senior & Junior?), 18th-23rd August 2018, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. SEA was proposed.**
- **South American Orienteering Championships 2018 (Senior & Youth), October (?) 2018, Uruguay. BT will investigate further.**
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships (Senior & Youth) 2019, one application from Australia. The Event Centre would be Wagga Wagga in**

New South Wales, the proposed dates are 28th September – 6th October 2019. [FOC supports the application](#), [Council approved the proposal](#).

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – RULES

- | | | |
|-------------|---|------------|
| 14 | Rules | USK,
DM |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has approved the IOF Competition Rules for 2017 in their last meeting in 2016. Major changes to the Rules: • In the rules sections regarding the use of GPS equipment, less restrictive rules are introduced for the use of GPS equipment for data logging and tracking (rule 21.4.). Organisers are still allowed to restrict the use. • DR informed FOC that the final proposal for Control Descriptions is currently being produced. | |
| 15.a | Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission (FOAC) | TD, KI |
| | <p>Update. KI informed about a number of changes of members in FOAC.</p> <p>The World Cup leader jerseys were discussed with FOAC. The use of these yellow jerseys is discontinued.</p> <p>FOAC coordinator Ida Bobach will be joining us for our next meeting in Denmark.</p> | |
| 15.b | Coaches Reference Group (CRG) – “Entourage reference group” | KI |
| | <p>Update.</p> <p>From our previous meeting’s Minutes: Swiss coach Patrik Thoma started an initiative about an action plan steered by the coaches to make IOF high level events better. FOC looked through the document and agreed to most of the points and will bring them further into the guideline work.</p> | |
| 16.a | Environment Commission | AL |
| | <p>Newly appointed Environment Commission Chairman Einar Tommelstad joined us. FOC gave feedback.</p> | |
| 16.b | IT Commission | USK |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Commission recently raised a question about transponders and whether they are covered by rule 23.5. The use of transponders for time keeping was discussed with Rules Commission. An additional sentence about use of transponders is expected to be in the 2018 Rules. • Rules Commission recommended the SFR punching system be given Final Approval in IOF FootO events, since the requirements are satisfied. | |

- The Learnjoy punching system has been submitted for provisional approval for FootO IOF events. JM will look through the documents and send possible comments to Rules Commission. **Action JM.**

16.c Map Commission

TD

ISOM 201x is very close to be finalized. There will be a meeting on Friday evening regarding impassable features. From our last Meeting Minutes:

- The majority of FOC is not in favour of defining the dangerous features to be out of bounds by definition. We would like the out of bounds definition to stay the way it is. In FOC's opinion, it's the course planner's rather than the mapmaker's responsibility to define out-of-bounds areas. We see the characteristics of ISSOM and ISOM areas to be very different – hence it is in FOC's opinion acceptable and desirable to have different map standards for sprint and forest maps

The subject was discussed and FOC took a vote. The majority of FOC members stays with the previous recommendation. The subject was covered in a meeting with MC, FOC, Council and Office. The ISOM 201X will not define the above mentioned dangerous features as out-of-bounds. This responsibility will remain with the course setter.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – EVENT ADVISING

17 Event Advising

USK,
HLP

- **EA Clinics:**
 - **High Level Event Seminar 2017.** Dates are 4-5 February 2017, venue is Warsaw. AL informs about the work about planning the HLES. Entry deadline is 22nd January. Preparations are on track.
 - **Clinic in 2017:** EA Clinic in New Zealand during the World Masters Orienteering Championships (one of the rest days). David Rosen to organise. **Preparations are on track, DM to assist.**
 - **A possible Clinic in China,** financed by Orienteering Association of China. **USK coordinates this with Jaroslav Kačmarčík. Nothing is yet decided.**
- **SEA nominations**

INCREASE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF ORIENTEERING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

18 Youth promotion

BT

Extended remit. Special tasks for 2017 (all with partial responsibility):

- Seek inclusion in the Youth Olympic Games

- Support the RYDC to introduce orienteering in new countries and territories, and encourage IOF regions to conduct regional youth/junior competitions
- [An interim report is expected for FOC Meeting 3-17.](#)

19 European Youth Orienteering Championships (EYOC) AL

- EYOC 2017: Banská Bystrica, Slovakia. Dates are 29th June – 2nd July 2017 (overlapping with WOC). Preparations are on track. AL to have a meeting with the Event Director on 28th January.
- EYOC 2018: Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. Preliminary dates are 28th June – 1st July 2018. No information thus far.
- EYOC 2019: six applications received from Belarus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia and Turkey. **HLP will do a preliminary evaluation of the bids. USK will support. The result will be discussed at FOC-meeting 2-17 in March.** HLP
- AL proposes that an EYOC Organisers' Guidelines / Manual is produced. AL to be responsible. Deadline: January 2018.

STRENGTHEN IOF POSITION ON THE WORLD SPORTING STAGE – EVENT DEVELOPMENT

20 Organisers' Guidelines (Manuals) HLP, MKH, USK

- **WOC Manual:** 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. Deadline was end of 2016.

Jørn just recently reported that he is still waiting from the Organiser's Final Report from WOC 2016 to make the WOC Manual as updates as possible. Jørn thinks that a new deadline of the end of January seems realistic for the first draft.

- **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:** Updated March 2016.
- **WMOC Guidelines:** [DM made some minor updates. Changes were approved. The new 2017 version will be available on the IOF website shortly.](#)
- **WRE Guidelines:** Updated January 2016. [DM updates the WRE Guidelines according to the agreed changes relating to start draws.](#)
- **Sprint Relay Guidelines:** was published in February 2015.
- FOC agreed that it is desirable to change the term "Guidelines" into "Manuals" [since "guidelines" signals "giving advice", whereas "Manual"](#)

more clearly signals that a lot of things are mandatory. The process of doing this will start now but should be coordinated with an update of the Rules since they refer to the “Guidelines”. The wording of contracts with Organisers should be updated accordingly. DR mentioned that the 1st January 2018 could be a suitable date to change the word consistently.

- HLP mentioned an initiative with the joint intention to raise the profile for SEAs and combine the Event Guidelines and SEA Guidelines in a way that will eventually provide the SEAs with better checklists of how to monitor the events and report progress back to FOC. The concept will be discussed further. Part of the concept will be introduced at HLES in February and will be presented to FOC at a later stage.

21 Knockout-sprint format development KI

A test plan was presented for Council, who asked FOC to ensure that the WOC 2020 organisers in Denmark are involved in the testing of the new format.

Jørn Sundby (JS) was appointed as project manager. NS clarified the role distribution: FOC will define the remits for JS and monitor the progress. KI volunteered to be the responsible person on FOC’s side. AL & KI presented the remit to JS.

It will be important to get organiser feedback to ensure the event will not be excessively difficult to organise.

VISIBILITY OF ORIENTEERING

22 Visibility of orienteering AL

- 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.

23 WRE DM

Update.

- Latvia intends to organise 4 forest WRE competitions, since they will be hosting WOC 2018. FOC can allocate this extra WRE to Latvia. FOC agreed to allocate this extra WRE to Latvia in 2017. DM will inform the Latvian federation about this.
- South Africa has informed the IOF, that they will be reducing the number of WRE applied for, because these events didn’t provide them with the expected international turnout and didn’t help substantially their competitors’ ranking.

DM proposed to make a survey to get to know the view of the Federations towards the WRE concept in general. As DW was tasked with

proposing a new structure for WRE service fees, the surveys could be merged. DM should contact DW about this issue.

STRONG MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING – TEAMWORK

- 24 AOB** AL
- FOC budget was discussed.
- FOC representation at major events. The list was updated.
- 25 Next meetings** all
- FOC Meeting 2-17: 25th March in Fredensborg, Denmark. Arrival on Friday, meeting on Saturday and departure on Sunday. HLP to provide further information. Action HLP to organise the meeting. It will be possible to participate in Danish Spring on Friday (Sprint) and Sunday (Long Distance) close to Hillerød.
 - FOC Meeting 3-17: will be held during the first weekend of WOC in Tartu, Estonia. Provisional meeting times: Friday (30/06): 14:00-22:00, Saturday (01/07): whole day, Sunday (02/07): 08:00-14:00. AL to organise the meeting.
 - FOC Meeting 4-17: 23rd of September was fixed as a date with the venue to be decided later. CZE and ITA are mentioned as possible options. AL to investigate.

Legend:

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

AL 12/01/2017, HLP 21/01/2017, AL 24/01/2017