

Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 4–15

Place: Craigmonie Hotel, Inverness, United Kingdom

Meeting schedule: Sunday, 2nd August – Friday, 7th August

Participants:

Áron Less (AL)	Chairman
Göran Andersson (GA)	Member
Kilian Imhof (KI)	Member
Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP)	Member
David May (DM)	Member
Janne Salmi (JS)	Member
Unni Strand Karlsen (USK)	Member
Blair Trewin (BT)	Member
Vincent Frey (VF)	Member

Invitations:

Mike Dowling (MD)	IOF Vice President / FOC's IOF Council contact person
Tom Hollowell (TH)	IOF CEO
Hans Jörgen Kvåle (HJK)	IOF Marketing Manager
David Rosen (DR)	IOF Rules Commission Chairman – Agenda item 12
Nik Suter (NS)	FOC's IOF Council contact person
Håvard Tveite (HT)	IOF Map Commission Chairman – Agenda item 12
David Wästlund (DW)	IOF Sports Administrator

OPENING

1 Opening AL

AL opens the meeting. He especially welcomed the new IOF Sports Administrator, David Wästlund and the new IOF Marketing Manager, Hans Jörgen Kvåle.

2 Follow up of Minutes FOC 3-15 AL

- #5: The new proposal for the Special Rules for WOC Qualification was sent to Council. The proposal was approved by Council.
- #7: FOC recommended Hungary for organising JWOC 2018. The recommendation was sent to Council. A decision will be made during the WOC week.
- #10: TWG Qualification Rules were sent to Council for approval. Council sent back the proposal and AL rewrote it, which was then approved by Council. The approved material is attached.

TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 3-15

3 Council decisions AL

- The World Games Qualification Rules were approved.
- Council approved to continue with the World Cup from 2017 onwards. FOC should come up with a programme proposal for 2017.

4 ESB decisions AL

- 4 August 2015: The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Greg Hawthorne (AUS) to be Assistant SEA for WMOC 2017 in New Zealand.
- 4 August 2015: The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Adam Zitka (CZE) to be Assistant SEA for WCup 2016 and TWG 2017 in Poland.
- 4 August 2015: The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Száva Zsigmond (HUN) to be Assistant SEA for JWOC 2017 in Finland.
- 4 August 2015: The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Janos Manarin (ITA) to be SEA for EOC 2018 in Switzerland.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

5 WOC AL, KI

- **WOC 2015, GBR:** Status report. Nothing to report at this point.
- **WOC 2016, SWE:** Status report. No new SEA Report available. Pre-WOC in June had serious problems concerning IT. [An IT-quality meeting addressed some of these issues this week.](#)
- **WOC 2017, EST:** Status report. No new SEA report available, although a visit was made in June. No issues are foreseen at this moment. Dates are 1-7 July, 2017.
- **WOC 2018, LAT:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Dates are 27 July – 5 August.
- **WOC 2019 application process.** No application received until June 30th. **Office / FOC to progress with a new application.**
- **WOC in the future.** The IOF Extraordinary General Assembly in Inverness decided that from 2019 onwards, WOC will be split. to a “forest WOC” and a “Sprint/Urban WOC”. **FOC decided to form a subgroup chaired by KI** – including members from outside FOC – to work with subjects related to the organisation of the split WOC. [BT and DM volunteered to join the group.](#) Special tasks will be to define
 - a single qualification format for the forest WOC
 - a third discipline for the Sprint WOC

The subgroup should come back to FOC with an interim report by our October meeting and concrete proposals for our January meeting.

6 World Cup JS, BT

- **World Cup 2015: status report.**
 - Final SEA Report available from NOR & SWE.
 - Regarding the incidents made in SWE, an IT-quality meeting will address these issues this week. AL had a discussion with SEA Kjell Blomseth about these problems.
 - [The Norwegian and Swedish World Cups suffered from few spectators. DM/GA pointed out that it is the Federation's responsibility to monitor the](#)

organisers in order for them to design events with adequate spectator attendance. In the future FOC, the responsible Federation and the IOF Office should work closer together to monitor this.

- **World Cup 2016: status report**

- EOC Sprint Relay World Cup 2016 – CZE proposes to EWG that Sprint Relay becomes an official medal event at EOC 2016. If EWG supports the proposal, FOC can progress with recommending to Council that this event will also be a part of the Sprint Relay World Cup 2016. [PMN: FOC's recommendation has been successful and EOC is now part of the Sprint Relay World Cup 2016.]
- Special Rules to be discussed. From our Minutes 3-15: "If there will only be three Sprint Relay WCup rounds in 2016, the present rules can be reused. If EOC is added at a later stage, the rules might be changed. The pair start for the Swiss Long Distance event is considered a good idea. The starting sequence change of Round 2 in 2015 is not going to be copied in 2016. The red groups will start last again in 2016. BT will prepare a new proposal for meeting 4-15."
- The proposed Special Rules were discussed. Only small changes compared to 2015. We agreed to stay with two minute start interval unless TV production is guaranteed.
- After a short discussion, we agreed to stay with having all events but one counting, since we want the best overall orienteer to win.
- Special invitations and prizes sections are subject to change in accordance with the final contract to be entered into by the organisers and IOF Office.
- We agreed to discontinue the rule of doubling the points for the last round
- The Sprint Relay Special Rules were approved. There will be one team per nation in the Sprint Relay. BT to send these to AL to progress towards ESB.

- **World Cup 2017: status report**

- Applications received from FIN and SUI. TH informed that Council wants to make an effort to preserve the World Cup. An open tender to find a commercial partner will be held – but World Cup 2017 is currently not part of the tender. From 2018 the result of an open tender should be used. JS presented the program for 2017.
- Round 1 (WCup 1-3): FIN has in principle agreed to have 4 competitions in the end of May 2017. 25th (24) to 28th May (Ascension Day week). Close to Turku and Helsinki (Accommodation in sports centre between the two cities) Delta and Hiidekiertäjät are possible organisers :
 - SQ + SF on the same day
 - Sprint Relay (With the option of having a forest relay) – could be organised as the last competition
 - Middle distance
 - Long with chasing start based on both Sprint and Middle
 - YLE is keen on broadcasting if TV broadcast of the entire World Cup series is guaranteed
- Round 2: WOC 2017 (WCup 4-6) EST – 1-7 July 2017.
- Round 3 (WCup 7-9): JS has liased with Viesturs Tamuzs, President of the Latvian Orienteering Federation. The response is positive – both to organise – in the beginning or 25-27 August – and have TV broadcast. The official WOC 2018 training camp will follow immediately after the WCup events. Probably the best for the athletes would be late August, whereas the overseas teams would prefer early August. Final decision about dates is expected in the FOC meeting in October.

- Round 4 (WCup 10-11) : 29 September – 1 October in Central Switzerland. Friday: Middle or Long distance, Saturday: Relay or Sprint Relay, Sunday: Sprint.

TH informed, that IOF Council have approved the plan for World Cup 2017

AL asked TH to come up with contracts for the organisers. Especially what sanction fees they should expect. In parallel, FOC will propose SEAs.

- **World Cup 2018: status report**
 - WCup 2018 is currently not the business of FOC as the programme will depend on an open tender
 - The European Working Group appointed Switzerland (Ticino) as the organiser of EOC 2018. The date for the event is the second week of May.
 - Tender documents sent for comment to two groups of possible World Cup "owners". Later a formal tender will be held.

7 JWOC

HLP

- The brief report sent by HLP was discussed. No further action at this point.
- **JWOC 2015, NOR:** status report, no new SEA Report available. AL was the official IOF FOC representative, his report is also available. Overall, this was an excellent event with a great organisation.
- **JWOC 2016, SUI:** status report, new SEA Report available. The first SEA visit took place in the middle of May.
- **JWOC 2017, FIN:** status report, new SEA Report available. SEA visited Tampere in June. Assistant SEA is proposed.
- **JWOC 2018:** FOC supports Hungary's application and Council approved it.

8 WMOC

DM, BT

- **WMOC 2015 SWE:** 3101 competitors from 39 Federations took part. The Sprint terrain was judged to be too simple by many and courses were equally straightforward. There was scope to plan harder courses however and this should have happened. The Long courses were well-planned and in technical terrain. The Long Q2 races were spoiled by one course (W65-3) having incorrect loose descriptions whereas those on the map were correct. Consequently the results of this course were voided

One common complaint was that competitors travelling together often had start times up to 5 hours apart. This was obviously unpopular especially as it rained frequently during the competition and no large shelter was available either.

Two innovations were tried: maps were not collected after runners finished (apart from for A Finals) and the M/W60+ runners were given 1:7500 scale maps in the Long races.

DM will conduct an online survey to assess competitor feedback on both these issues.

DM also represented Council at the WMOC

- **WMOC 2016 EST:** Jari Kymäläinen (FIN, SEA) has circulated his recent update (dated July 2015). Bulletin 1 printed in large quantity and was be distributed in Gothenburg at WMOC2015 and in Inverness from a joint booth with WOC2017.

Some concern that the IT "chief" is still not appointed. Otherwise things seems on track.

- **WMOC (WMG) 2017 NZL:** A potential event director has now been approached. DM, TH and BP met SEA Nick Dent and newly appointed National Controller Gillian Ingham during the week to discuss progress further. BP and TH explained that difficulties with the AWMG organisers regarding the IOF Sanction fee were putting the connection between AWMG and the WMOC in doubt.
- **WMOC 2018 applications received.** DEN & SVK were shortlisted. [Both applications were excellent, FOC made a recommendation to Council and Council appointed DEN as organisers for WMOC 2018.](#)
- **WMOC 2019 application process.** Latvia was asked to apply formally by 30 April. The application was received. DM made an assessment visit in July, circulated his report and FOC recommended Latvia to be appointed as WMOC 2019 organisers. [Latvia was appointed by Council as WMOC 2019 organisers.](#)

9 ROCs

BT

- **European Orienteering Championships, 21-28 May 2016, Czech Republic.**
 - [The European Presidents have now approved a Sprint Relay in the EOC 2016 programme.](#)
- **North American Orienteering Championships, 23-25 September 2016, Hanover, NH, USA.**
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2016, 27 July – 2 August 2016, Chai-Yi & Tainan, Chinese Taipei.** Issues with map scales for the Middle distance and Relay races.
 - [The organiser wants to use 1:7.500 for the forest events. A rule deviation is required, but it will most probably not be supported by Map Commission.](#)
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships 2017, New Zealand.** Oceania 2017 will take place in NZL over the Easter weekend (one week before WMOC).
- The new IOF Commission on Regional and Youth Development should also work in this area. In this phase of development, official Regional Championships can not be held in Africa or in South America, as the sport is not practised on a high level in enough countries.
- **EOC 2018 – Switzerland 5th to 13th May**

From our Minutes 3-15: “KI presented the proposed programme by SUI, which was supported by FOC. The details about how to handle qualification can be decided later on when we know more about the qualification rules for future WOCs. The OFE meeting will decide about this proposal during WOC.”

 - [The current time schedule for EOC 2018 clashes with 10Mila. GA has asked Christer Nordström \(10Mila CEO\) to discuss if 10Mila can be organised a week earlier \(late April\). PMN: 10Mila can be organised in late April, so there is no clash in the dates.](#)
 - [The OFE handed over all responsibility concerning EOC to the IOF / FOC. Thus FOC can make a proposal for the programme. The EOC 2018 programme will be discussed in our October meeting.](#)

10 The World Games

AL, KI

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report, no new SEA Report available.

It is planned that the Sprint will be held in the town centre, with the Middle being primarily a forest race with an in-town finish. SEA is Daniel Leibundgut, and FOC proposed an Assistant EA. Jerzy Antonowicz is the event director for TWG 2017 in

orienteering. The event dates are 20–30 July 2017 with orienteering being in the middle of the programme.

- **Qualification Rules for The World Games** – Revised rules were approved by Council.
- **TWG 2021:** will be held in Birmingham, AL, USA. The whole sports programme will be evaluated after TWG 2017. An enthusiastic orienteering club and good terrain is available near Birmingham.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – RULES

11 Rules

USK, DM

- **Schedule for Rule Changes.** Any major rule changes involving matters of principle should be presented to the IOF Council in time for their August meeting with an accompanying justification. That will leave time for such changes to be discussed with the relevant Commission before the October meeting.
- Proposal for entry fee refunding if a competition is cancelled – should it be in the rules?
 - David Rosen pointed out that too many different circumstances may occur, which means it will be difficult to write a rule
- Proposal for **NEW Rule 17.4:** Out-of-bounds or dangerous areas, forbidden routes, line features that shall not be crossed, etc. shall also be marked clearly on the ground **with a different colour** from that used for marking for compulsory routes, crossing points and passages
 - After some discussion it was agreed to bring this proposal into the guidelines – and not propose to change the rule.
- Proposal for new rule 19.4. by David Rosen:

“Controls shall not be sited within 30 metres of each other (15 metres for map scales 1:5000 or 1:4000). The distance between the controls is measured in a straight line. (See also Appendix 2, #3.5.5). The control card's electronic feedback from a previous control (punched deliberately or accidentally) must have ceased by the next control; therefore if (for example) the feedback from the control cards persists for 10 seconds, controls shall not be sited within 50 metres of each other (assume a running speed of 3.5 minutes per kilometre).”

 - We agreed that the problem is there, but we want to solve it by having new Emitags with shorter feedback times. In the meantime, we will explain about the issue in the various guidelines.
 - Our conclusion was that the feedback time must be so short that it is not possible to run more than 15 meters before the flash disappears. Then we can stay with the current Rule saying controls should be at least 15 meters apart. Practically this would mean a maximum feedback time of 3 seconds. **AL to discuss with IT Commission.**
- GA asked Rules Commission to update the control descriptions.
- DM suggests to change the minimum start interval in the WMOC Long Qualification races to one minute. The proposal is carried. DM will also adjust the WMOC Guidelines to say that the maximum total start time in long qualification should be 3 hours.
- **Items concerning map scales:**
 - The MC Chairman participated at the meeting to discuss map scale issues and ISSOM revision issues.

- Letter from GA to revise ISSOM. The standard is now in place for 8 years and during this period of time there have been a lot of developments in Sprint orienteering. FOC acknowledged the frustration in still having to use an 8 year old standard when it is clear that interpretation of some symbols by many orienteers is a source of problems. For example, there is a lack of consistency between ISSOM and ISOM symbols, and there is guidance about how to map various features which some people know but which is not officially published. FOC suggests much more regular review of e.g. ISSOM – probably every 5 years.
 - GA elaborated on the subject: Today it is sometimes too difficult to see where you are allowed to pass
 - GA suggests olive green to be out of bounds in both ISOM and ISSOM. HT confirmed that certain symbols in the new ISOM will be out of bounds (olive green, dangerous marshes, lakes, impassable cliffs, high fences).
 - HT gave a status of ISOM revision. The symbol part is quite close to be ready. The colours are more difficult to handle.
 - ISSOM only needs small changes, but this is not urgent. Passable cliffs should be handled, though.
 - In Sprint maps, more features can be removed in out of bounds areas. Only houses visible from the outside should stay on the maps.
 - The ISOM draft is expected to be ready in autumn 2015.
 - Control descriptions is the responsibility of the Rules Commission. They are working on a revision.
 - It was discussed who is responsible for the course print on the map. It was agreed that FOC is responsible, but the information should be published in ISOM/ISSOM and probably in the control description specifications.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – EVENT QUALITY AND ADVISING

12 Event Advising

USK, VF,
HLP

Plan for EA Clinics:

- Preliminary FOC extra meeting programme during WOC 2015:
 - Open FOC-meeting on Monday 3rd August 17:00-19:00. Focus on Commission work. Target group: organisers, event advisers, coaches, other interested parties. **Good meeting with good attendance.**
 - Seminar on Middle and Long Distance competitions (course setting). Target group: course setters, event advisers, other interested parties. Good seminar with excellent attendance. **AL thanked HLP for the organisation.**
- HLES in Riga (6-7 February 2016). FOC and LOF are the main organising bodies. **AL to liaise with the Latvian organisers during the FOC meeting in Riga.** Preliminary information to be published in September. **AL volunteered to be overall responsible for the HLES. The planning process started.**
- Clinic in 2016: EA clinic in DEN in conjunction with Danish Spring.
 - **The invitation is approved by DR. HLP sends the invitation for publishing to the IOF Office.**

- SEAs are still not indicated on the EA list (with an asterisk) on the IOF website. USK to liaise with Henrik Skoglund about this. USK to ask the IOF Office for an updated list. If it is not available, USK/DM will create a new list.
- Quality control for IOF events. Discussion based on David May's email (13/07).
 - Who is responsible for reassuring that the controlling works. SEA approves everything overall. DM volunteers to write a proposal for the guidelines about course quality assurance – to be an appendix for the guidelines.
 - JS points out, that team of controllers (SEA, AEA, National Controllers, Day (course) controllers, etc.) should be created in such a way that all aspects of controlling is covered.
 - The supervisor role was discussed. We agreed to start informally to work as supervisors and that the primary role of the supervisor is to make sure that the controlling team is working properly – and to be of assistance in solving issues:
 - DM will act as supervisor for WMOOC
 - HLP will act as supervisor for JWOC
 - JS will act as supervisor for World Cup
- TH informed about the Council discussions related to the Event Quality Project: Owe Fredholm is asked by Council to get back in Council's October meeting. Some discipline commissions expressed concerns, whereas FOC is positive.

13 Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission

KI

From our Minutes 3-15:

“The athletes feel that some organisers do not know the rules. Embargo rules are new every time. HLES could have a presentation about what is allowed and what is not allowed. Could be relevant information to give to the athletes as well. A checklist for event quality will be proposed.

JS proposes to make a questionnaire for coaches and runners about the event programme in the future (World Cup and World Championships).”

E-mail from William Lind about WC round 2.

- The athletes do not like the 1,5 minute start interval in the WOC Middle Distance.
- If Long Distance – with good visibility conditions – will have 2 min start interval, then a splitting system (e.g. butterflies) or long legs with decisive route choices should be applied.

14 Coaches Reference Group (CRG) – “Entourage reference group” (IOC term)

JS

To ensure higher event quality (especially athlete representation) AL proposed to create a Coaches Working Group as an Advisory Group to FOC. JS formed a group of 4 coaches whom he should liaise with about World Cup event dates, World Cup and WOC Special Rules and any other business. The group is JS, Radek Novotný (CZE), Patrik Thoma (SUI), Lars Lindstrøm (DEN) and Tom Quayle (AUS). JS plans to meet with the coaches during WOC. Maybe in connection with the open FOC meeting. Update.

- Approx. 20 nations attended
- FOC role was presented
- CRG was presented
- Facebook page will be introduced
- Web survey will be conducted with the coaches
 - Questions will only be related to the past events
 - Forward looking questions should be formally asked through the Federations
- TH proposes to also take medical people into the group

YOUTH PROMOTION

15 Youth Promotion

VF, GA,
BT

Extended remit. Special tasks for 2015 are:

- to identify international youth games where orienteering may be included
- 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 will liaise with the new Regional Development and Youth Commission.

OFE decided to transfer the responsibility for the EOC and EYOC to the IOF discipline commissions. Technical aspects (rules, etc.) will be handled by FOC. Overall principles to be agreed with RYDC. Council decides in their October meeting, whether EYOC should be an official IOF event or not.

EVENT DEVELOPMENT

16 Prior Knowledge and Embargoes

BT

BT's discussion paper on prior knowledge and embargoes in the era of modern technology was published on the IOF website. FOC agreed to get back to the paper at this next meeting.

- BT has concluded that no rule changes are required
- Some guideline adjustments should be applied:
 - Sprint area embargo – two scenarios:
 - Strict embargo – publish a basic map with Bulletin 3 (which competitors should be able to make through public material)
 - No embargo until the event
 - Quarantines should stay as today – preferably with indoor quarantines
- BT to draft a proposal for the Guideline changes

17 Guidelines

GA, KI,
BT

Update & discussion:

- **WOC Guidelines:** Updating is needed with the new qualification formats and the introduction of the Sprint Relay. FOC currently has no capacity to make the updates and seeks help from the IOF Office. Jørn Sundby to do the job?
- **WCup Guidelines:** David Rosen has reviewed the current WCup guidelines and stated that they are not ready for publishing.
 - FOC decided that WOC and WCup Guidelines should be separate documents.
 - BT and JS is asked to establish a plan for updating the World Cup Guidelines. Discussion during FOC meeting 5-15.
- **JWOC Guidelines:** New update was published in May 2015.
- **WMOC Guidelines:** New update was published in January 2015.
- **WRE Guidelines:** New update was published in May 2015.
- **Sprint Relay Guidelines:** was published in February 2015.

- The currently used guidelines are sometimes too long and hard to read. They should have more figures, pictures. GA proposed a web book structure with “Rules – Guidelines – Illustration”. GA to provide examples for the FOC meeting 4-15.
 - FOC agreed to the contents of GAs proposal and will proceed in the October meeting to refine the guideline structure for some of the Guidelines.

VISIBILITY OF ORIENTEERING

18 Visibility of orienteering GA, JS

This is a new remit from Council. GA to present an agenda for FOC meeting 4-15. GA to liaise with IOF Office about ideas.

- GA liaised with IOF President Brian Porteous about this. The advice from Brian is to have this in mind in every decision FOC makes.
- We must stay with our ambition to increase the visibility to an audience who are not already orienteers.
- GA informed about the World Orienteering Day to be introduced under the remits of the Regional Development and Youth Commission.

19 WRE VF, DM

VF gave a short update.

VF to remind the IOF office to make a new call for WRE events.

DM to talk to IOF Office about the lack of information in Eventor about who is the EA.

DM proposes to have EA evaluations written from each WRE and uploaded to Eventor. DM is responsible to bring this proposal further.

TH informed about a Council discussion about WRE – where different classes run the same courses:

- FOC will get a request from Council to provide guidance as how to have more classes on the same courses – having all M/W 18-, 20-, 21 classes being able to get WRE points. M/W 35+ can only get WRE points running classes M/W 21.

OTHER MATTERS

20 Communication platform for FOC discussions HLP

In the short run e-mail will be used. The member in charge of the discussion indicates a deadline for comments and after that, the member in charge writes a conclusion to conclude the hearing. If not indicated, AL communicates the results to the discussion.

Since TH has informed that a discussion forum facility will be part of the Office 365 suite to be introduced by the IOF office. FOC will not continue with the introduction of another system.

21 Next meetings – FOC 5-15 & FOC 1-16 all

- FOC meeting 5-15: 10-11 October, in Riga (LAT). AL is responsible for organising the meeting. Council meeting is 16-17 October.
 - One day meeting all Saturday (9:00-20:00). Possibility to have some social activity – running Māgnets competition – on Sunday. AL to coordinate the meeting.
- Joint Council – Commissions meeting (FOC meeting 1-16): 22-23 January 2016, in Malmö. Meeting should be scheduled in order to allow arrival on Friday morning.

Legend:

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