



# INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

## Summary of the MTBO Commission Meeting

**Place:** Helsinki, Finland

**Date:** 18-19 January 2013

### Matters arising from the minutes and decisions taken since the last meeting

- CZE approved for WMTBOC 2015 (JWMTBOC TBA)
- Approval of the 2014 World Cup program
- Approval of the EAs for WCup 2014 (WOC 2015 pending)
- Approval of Rule changes
- Investment into data loggers not supported by the Council
- Approval of the Long quota system for 2013
- Organisers' Guidelines updated
- Pending decision on changes to ISMTBOM

### International Event Calendar

- 2015 JWMTBOC in CZE – by mistake it was not submitted to the Council for approval with the 2015 WMTBOC recommendation. A formal proposal was submitted for Council approval
- 2016 WMTBOC – only one application received from Portugal. As they were narrowly not selected for 2015, their 2016 application is supported.
- 2015 World Cup and EMTBOC – only Portugal applied by the deadline. The deadline for applications to be extended to 31 March.

### Event advising and event quality

- The event evaluation based on athletes' and teams' feedback was presented and discussed. Three of the four major events of 2012 received positive feedback in general, being ranked in practically all aspects between Good and Very good. The World Cup in Poland was the only event that received significant negative feedback amongst the major events, with several aspects rated as Poor to Acceptable. The summary of the evaluation is to be posted on the IOF Website and announced within the MTBO community.
- Feedback from teams shows that the form is too long and there are other comments to improve the form. A revised form to be developed for 2013.
- The Commission discussed the reports received from the EAs of the 2013 EMTBOC and 2014 WMTBOC, both to be organized in Poland. The Commission decided to contact the Polish Federation to request closer monitoring of the situation and offer help, if required.
- Two EA and organizers clinics are planned for 2013. The first one during the O-Ringen with an extra module for the local Swedish organizing aspects, and a second one in connection with the Masters in Portugal in October. A joint MTBO-FootO clinic is planned for March/April 2014 in Prague/Bratislava.
- The second issue of the letter for EAs will be sent out in February/March.

### Rules and mapping standards

- R14 – revision of IOF rules is an on-going project.
- Potential rule changes discussed for the 2014 season

- Technical zone – it was agreed that this will be implemented only for Relay competitions that pass near the Finish area. Specific rules to be worked out.
- Map given at start time: It was agreed that in some situations it could provide an extra challenge to competitors, but it could significantly increase the safety risk. The conclusion was to stay with the current system.
- Appendix 8, point 2: Ideally the Mixed Sprint Relay should be the first competition in the programme.
- Touch free punching – SI / EMIT situation: the Commission has agreed on ideal touch free standards for MTBO on its meeting in August 2012: punching range: at least 2m; feedback: both sound and light; light should be visible for at least 5 seconds; chips should not switch off automatically before read out; backup in both the carried chip and the station unit. These need to be discussed with SI and EMIT and agree on roadmap to get the systems certified and introduced on international events.
- World Ranking rules were reviewed and it was agreed that the total score should be calculated as the sum of the 4 best results (and not 5 as until now), to make it easier for smaller and non-European nations to achieve full World Ranking scores. Further reduction of the number of required events was discussed, but it was agreed that it would potentially open the possibility of “gaming” the system or achieving high scores based only on one competition format.
- ISMTBOM review 2012: the Map Commission has accepted the recommended changes to the ISMTBOM, except for the colouring standard suggested for areas where offroad riding is normally allowed. The intention is to get the recommended system accepted as officially experimental, until a new system is agreed per point below.
- ISMTBOM review 2013 with special focus on creating a colouring system for rideability that can be used both in areas where off-road riding is normally allowed and where not.
- ISMTBOM Sprint standards to be developed during the next year to present an official standard to replace the current “generally accepted” use of MTBO and Sprint FootO legends. A team of experienced MTBO map makers is to be formed for the task.
- OCAD has developed a patch to handle the Upper and Lower Magenta requirement of MTBO with the course setting features. It was released in late 2012 in the Service Pack for OCAD 11. The solution is to be tested by MTBO course setters, feedback will be given to OCAD if necessary, and it will be announced in the MTBO community.

### **Strategic development**

- An attractive image for MTBO should be developed for the younger generation. These riders are attracted by the good party atmosphere in countries where a good base already exists. There is a need to develop an easy to communicate message to attract young and high-potential athletes in developing countries. Masters, especially with FootO background, get a good value proposition (less strain on joints and increased speed).
- Media / Social Media presence is seen as one of the key channels to attract younger riders and strengthen the cohesion of international riders in the off-season. A Facebook MTBO Group has been established and it has been the most active international MTBO Forum so far. Next steps are to improve Commission participation in the group; create an MTBO page besides the group; and create a shortlist of the recommended MTBO videos in the public domain.
- New formats to be tested and developed
  - The mixed sprint relay is a format to debut on the EMTBOC in Poland this year as an official competition. Poland has already incorporated it as an unofficial race on the 2014 WMTBOC. The Commission will follow the experience of the EMTBOC and decide whether to recommend the Council to make it an official World Champs competition.
  - Long distance score events are seen as possibility to attract a broader group of riders from the MTB and adventure racing world. The 3 to 5 hour long score events, typically done by teams of 2, are on the border between MTBO and adventure racing. They are very popular in several countries, but currently they have no standardized rules. The plan is to develop standard IOF rules for national and international events for the 2014 season with the objective to stage a World Cup series soon after.
- Broader geographic base

- Scandinavia – Sweden has developed tremendously over the past couple of years, and it seems that it has a good momentum. The challenge is to take the learnings of Sweden to develop MTBO in Norway.
- North America – there is increased interest for MTBO in the USA, also shown by the participation of the first official USA team on the World Champs in Hungary. Next step is to explore the best way the Commission could support local effort.
- Latin America – a development clinic has been planned in South America. Next step is to set a date that would suit most interested participants.

### **IOF Commissions**

- The Council agreed that each support commission with no current MTBO dedicated member (Environment, IT, Map, Medical) may be extended by a member recommended by the MTBO Commission. The Commission should seek candidates with MTBO background who would be supported by their Federations.

### **MTBO documents**

- The organiser's guidelines update has been completed and is awaiting proofreading by the IOF Office before being posted on the IOF website.
- Other documents that should be developed during the coming congress period:
  - Easily customizable template for an MTBO flyer to be published by a federation
  - The interpretation of mapping standards
  - How to organise small events / first MTBO event in a region/country
  - Templates for the official information Bulletins

### **Next meeting**

- The next commission meeting will be held in Rakvere, Estonia, on Thursday 29th August 2013 (rest day of the World Championships).