

## Minutes of FOC Meeting 4-14

Lavarone, Italy: 6, 8, 9 and 10 July 2014

### Present:

Aron Less (AL), acting Chair  
Blair Trewin (BT), Chair for JWOC 2017 discussion  
Unni Strand Karlsen (USK)  
Göran Andersson (GA)  
Vincent Frey (VF)

David May (DM) – via teleconference

Björn Persson (BP) (IOF Sports Director) (items 9 and 14)  
Matthias Merz (MM) (FootO Athletes Commission Chairman)

### Apologies:

Mikko Salonen, Hideo Onoe

Items on the agenda were not considered in order. Items in the minutes are listed under the most appropriate subject heading, which was not necessarily the part of the meeting in which they were discussed.

### 1. Opening

### 2. Minutes of meeting FOC 3-14

These minutes were endorsed by e-mail prior to this meeting.

### 3. Oceania Championships Rules

BT

Oceania Championships rules have been endorsed by Council but have not been incorporated into the IOF Competition Rules at the time of the meeting – BT to follow up. *(Advice from the office is that incorporation is imminent).*

### 4. World Cup 2015 Special Rules

GA

The Special Rules were considered by Council and some queries returned to FOC. FOC does not support the Council proposal to count all events, noting that few competitors run all individual races at WOC. FOC supported the other Council amendments to the draft Special Rules. *(Final Special Rules, including the FOC proposal to drop one event, were adopted by Council at its WOC meeting).* Sprint relay rules remain to be written and will be finalised at the October meeting.

**Action point: GA should draft the first version of the 2015 Sprint Relay World Cup Special Rules by October 2014.**

### 5. JWOC Development Project

Discussion on this item is covered under item 11.

## 6. World Cup programme for 2016

There have been a number of proposals put forward for a new EOC programme for 2016 (which would affect that round of the World Cup). A proposal is to be put to the European Working Group for a single qualification race for middle and long, and the introduction of a sprint relay. *(The EWG meeting voted against this, so the 2016 structure will be the same as 2014 with qualification races for all individual events).*

The meeting expressed its view that there was a need for the appointment of an assistant SEA for EOC 2016, in consultation with SEA Konrad Becker. It was suggested that someone involved with WOC 2017 in Estonia could be approached. **Action point: USK looks for an Assistant SEA for EOC 2016.**

## 7. Rules deviation

The proposal to run a sprint relay (in place of a forest relay) at NAOC 2014 was endorsed.

## 8. Major event evaluation

BT

Discussion of the paper was deferred to the October meeting. The principles in the paper were used in the evaluation of the JWOC 2017 candidates and some amendments will be proposed based on that experience. BT will solicit further comments and prepare an updated paper for the October meeting.

## 9. WOC

BP

2014:

- BP advised that a decision had been taken by the organisers (*subsequently overturned after a protest*) to introduce protected rankings and move some lowly-ranked runners into later starting groups. FOC was informed about this issue after the initial start lists were published. FOC's view is that the rules should be followed.

2015:

- there is concern about accommodation – the new campus in Inverness will be ready to be used as an event centre but not for accommodation as originally intended.  
- the long distance will not be televised (logistics are too difficult to cope with). Per Forsberg has been contracted for both WOCs 2015 and 2016.

2016:

- USK gave a verbal report. No known issues at present.

2017:

- the first SEA visit will take place in October.  
- Markus Puusepp is the event director. During this WOC week, he is given valuable insight as part of the WOC 2014 organising / event advising team.

2018:

- one application from LAT. The General Assembly decided that LAT will host WOC 2018 and the event will be linked with WMOC 2019. LAT will be given the chance to organise WMOC 2019 also, subject to an acceptable application being made.

It was noted that FOC receives fairly limited information about WOC compared with other major events (much WOC information being handled directly by the Sports Director). FOC is not able to fulfil its remits without this information and asks for regular WOC reports similar to those for other events.

It was noted that under existing rules, a runner can be replaced due to injury/illness after the start draw (up to 1 hour beforehand); with the replacement taking the original runner's start spot. It was noted that this could be manipulated through naming a highly-ranked runner who had no intention of contesting that event and then replacing them with a lower-ranked runner who would use a better starting place than they would otherwise have had. No firm recommendation was reached but an earlier deadline for replacements (e.g. the previous afternoon) was suggested.

There was negative athlete feedback on the reordering of women's starting groups (and in particular the lack of notice of this) in the 2014 WOC long distance. It was also felt by both the Athletes Commission and FOC that if there are to be wildcards/protected rankings, a specific policy needs to be developed well before the actual event.

**Action point: BT to engage with Council on wildcards / protected world rankings concerning WOC.**

Other feedback received (through the Athletes Commission and elsewhere) following the early races of WOC 2014 included:

- There was major dissatisfaction with the shortening of the start interval.
- The Venice sprint maps in some cases departed from ISSOM standards (Mårten Boström has reportedly put together a list), in particular with respect to symbol sizes and the use of the gate symbol.
- Unreliable GPS tracking (especially in the sprint) was a negative for those not familiar with the sport.
- Courses at the sprint relay were widely felt to be too easy, and there were traffic issues (both vehicle and pedestrian).
- The use of touch-free punching had a positive response.
- It was noted that in 2015 the schedule presents a potential conflict between the sprint and sprint relay events.

**Action point: USK to gather any rule change propositions for the October FOC meeting.**

## 10. World Cup

AL

MM reported on the proposal to outsource running of the World Cup. A constructive discussion has been held with members of Council and the signing of a memorandum of understanding for further discussions was announced during the pre-General Assembly seminar.

A major question will be whether sufficient sponsorship can be found to support the proposal as written. A World Cup series is needed to provide regular content for broadcasters (YLE in Finland is

especially keen) but it is unclear whether non-Nordic organisers could support live TV production, which is not cheap (potentially EUR 100,000 or more per event).

2014:

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2015:

- SWE is the only newly tabled SEA report (other than those covered under WOC/ROC items).
- some contracts between the IOF and the Organising Federations are yet to be signed

2016:

- Further discussions were held whether the POL events could also be an integral part of the new World Cup program – the answer being affirmative.

## 11. JWOC

AL

AL presented a status report. SEA reports from 2014 and 2015 were tabled.

The JWOC development project report was presented. This was generally supported and will now be discussed by the team officials' meeting at JWOC. In parallel with this, the 2015 and 2016 organisers have put forward a proposal to run an A and B final for the long distance (with qualification based on the middle distance races. FOC preliminary supported this as a two-year trial, in condition that the coaches meeting during JWOC also supports the proposal. *[PMN: The JWOC coaches meeting was overwhelmingly against the proposal of splitting up the JWOC long distance race.]*

Presentations were made by the three candidates for JWOC 2017 (FIN, GER, and HUN). FOC recommended to Council that FIN was the best of the three bids with the other two bids both also acceptable. *(Council subsequently appointed FIN as the organisers).*

**Action point: AL to communicate FOC's recommendation to the NOR/SUI organisers.**

## 12. WMOC

DM

2014:

- Number of confirmed entries passed 1400, i.e. IOF budget target is reached.
- Some improvements on the website, but hardly any relevant information published.
- Still some challenges regarding transport, maps and courses, timekeeping, results, etc.
- The deadline for entries is 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Bulletin 2 due October 1<sup>st</sup> (there are general elections in Brazil in mid October, making ordinary business difficult).
- Oivind Holt (SEA) reckons that he needs 2-3 weeks to check maps and courses. His time for advising and controlling the start draw, writing the Bulletin, train the timekeeping / result group will most probably be very limited. Experienced assistance to undertake these jobs in order to meet the deadline is very much needed.
- DM was appointed by ESB as Assistant Senior Event Adviser during WOC week; with IOF covering one travel to Brazil (either for the controlling visit in September or for the event).

2015:

- a proposal was put forward for a map scale of 1:7500 to be used for the older classes (65+). This was supported by FOC. **Action point: AL to put this forward to ESB.**

2016:

- dates are August 5-14, 2016
- All arenas, terrains and the EC are now approved
- National Controller is Kuno Rooba
- Bulletin 1 due mid-August
- Maps already "in very good shape"
- Need to resolve connection with Tallinn O Week

2017:

- NZ have a central organising body. Dates for the World Masters Games have now been confirmed as 21-30 April, 2017.

### **13. Regional Orienteering Championships**

**BT, HO**

Asia:

- No SEA reports for 2014 have been received, but bulletins have been issued and the event appears to be proceeding as planned.

North America:

- an SEA is needed for 2016 – likely candidates will depend on the venue. FOC had previously advised USA that their original plan of running the 2015 US Championships and NAOC 2016 on the same area was not acceptable and USA are currently pursuing alternatives.

Europe:

- see item 10 for discussion on EOC structure.  
- an evaluation of EOC 2014 will be prepared for the October Council meeting. Part of this will be allowing a right of reply to the organiser and SEA reports, both of which were widely circulated.  
**Action point: USK/BT to follow-up on the EOC 2014 reports.**

Oceania:

- it is likely that Oceania 2017 will take place in NZL over the Easter weekend (one week before WMOC). Concern was expressed over the capacity of NZL to organise two events of this size in rapid succession. **Action point: BT to follow up with NZL, whether they are able to host both Oceania 2017 and WMOC 2017 close to each other.**

### **14. The World Games**

It has now been confirmed that orienteering will be in the program of the 2017 World Games in Wroclaw (POL). It is planned at this stage that the sprint will be held in the town centre, with the middle being a primarily forest race with an in-town finish.

## 15. Event advising

USK, BT and others

USK presented a list of SEA candidates for various upcoming major events in 2016-17. This was agreed to. **Action point: AL to proceed with the list to ESB.**

The SEA list has disappeared from the IOF website (the EA list is still there). **Action point: FOC asks the IOF Office to update the EA list on the web page with asterisks on SEAs. USK to follow this up on FOC's behalf.**

The next EA clinic will take place during Swiss O Week. The next HLES will take place in Tallinn. David Rosen will be going to the 2015 Oceania Championships in Tasmania. **Action point: BT will follow up with existing high-level national controllers in Australia and New Zealand to determine whether there would be sufficient demand for a clinic during Oceania 2015.**

The sprint relay seminar went well (with 42 participants from 19 countries), and it was suggested that similar seminars (perhaps a middle/long seminar?) could work well in 2015.

A draft paper on guidelines for SEAs at WMOC, JWOC, World Cup and ROCs was tabled. This received generally favourable feedback. Comments are to be sent to USK who will then put the final version to the October FOC meeting. All proposals in existing SEA reports are also to be collated for the October meeting to prepare any rule change proposals.

There was a broad discussion of the problems at EOC 2014. It was agreed that FOC needs to follow up events more closely, including more regular contact with SEAs. Delays in the IOF Office are sometimes a contributing factor to lack of communication with SEAs. (In general FOC feels that better communications with the IOF Office and IOF Council are needed.

It was also noted that SEAs currently have very limited training over and above that already undertaken by EAs. It was also queried whether assistant SEAs were needed for certain ROCs.

## 16. Time penalties

GA

There was a lengthy discussion but no consensus was reached. This matter will be considered further in October.

## 17. Electronic punching

GA

FOC considered whether to recommend final approval of the Emit Touch-Free system. Items considered in discussion were whether requirements on punching distance are needed in the rules, and how other disciplines (where touch-free may become a standard in time) are considered.

After discussion, FOC agreed to recommend final approval of Emit Touch-Free, subject to the definition of appropriate proximity standards. This was then considered by the IT Commission and by Council.

## 18. Youth promotion

VF

There was no specific discussion. It was felt that this item might be more appropriately the responsibility of a new commission or working group as it has cross-cutting implications.

## 19. Guidelines

All

A status report was tabled with the meeting papers. There was no further discussion. Some guidelines should be updated by January.

## **20. World Ranking**

**VF, BT**

There will be a post-season review of the World Ranking. It is also expected that there will be a need for a detailed proposal on rebasing of points.

## **21. Visibility of orienteering**

No specific report.

## **22. Prior knowledge and embargoes**

**BT**

A draft discussion paper was circulated by BT before the meeting. FOC agreed that this discussion paper could be circulated more broadly.

## **23. AOB**

**AL**

MM advised that he will be stepping down as chair of the Athletes Commission as he is no longer an active international athlete. FOC thanked him for his contribution to Commission discussions since his appointment. It needs to be considered how FOC and the Athletes Commission relate – perhaps through direct contact of the respective Chairs, as the Athletes Commission cannot be expected to be represented at meetings which take place at WOC.

The possibility was raised of having an open FOC meeting during WOC (along the lines of the open IT Commission meeting that has been held in recent years).

## **24. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on the second weekend of October, and will be hosted by David May at his home in Wales.