

DRAFT
Minutes of the Extraordinary IOF General Assembly
held on Friday 3rd August, 2001
in Tampere, Finland

1. Opening of the Extraordinary General Assembly

The President of the IOF, Sue Harvey, GBR, wished the participants welcome.

In her opening remarks, the President said that Council had requested her to call this Extraordinary General Assembly for the purpose of deciding on the future elite events programme (EEP) in foot orienteering.

The President stated that the intention behind the EEP proposals is to raise the visibility of orienteering and to provide the IOF with the tools needed in order to achieve additional media attention and find external resources for the sport. She remarked that Council's proposal can be seen as the final step of a development process spanning five years, beginning with the General Assembly in 1996.

2. Roll call

The Secretary General called the roll of those present (see APPENDIX I).

3. Voting members present

The Secretary General announced that the number of voting members present at the time of the roll call was 32 full member federations, each having one non-transferable vote.

4. Presidium

Sue Harvey (President), Åke Jacobson, Hugh Cameron, and Edmond Szechenyi (Vice Presidents) were elected to constitute the presidium during the proceedings of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

5. Minutes witnesses

Hans Breckle, GER, and Brian Parker, GBR, were elected to certify the minutes of the meeting.

6. Election of tellers

Bob Mouatt, AUS, Petteri Palmi, FIN, and Jiri Subrt, CZE, were elected tellers.

7. Approval of agenda

The agenda for the Extraordinary General Assembly was approved.

8. Open sessions

It was agreed that the sessions should be open and observers welcomed.

9. Proposals for a new elite events programme

Edmond Szechenyi introduced Council's proposals for a new elite events programme in foot orienteering. In so doing, he stated that Council had decided to put forward to the General Assembly four separate proposals, two of which were aimed at establishing a new structure, and two of which were related to implementation.

The President thanked Edmond Szechenyi for the presentation. She stated that all of the four proposals would be voted on separately, and opened the floor for discussion.

At this stage, the KAZ delegate joined the meeting, the number of voting members thus being 33.

The delegates deliberated on the four proposals at length, expressing a wide variety of views on the implications of the proposed changes to the programme. A major part of the discussion centred around the proposal for increased WOC and World Cup frequency, and the proposed qualification system.

A number of countries, amongst them NZL and AUS, expressed concerns about the participation costs, saying that it would make participation more difficult for countries outside Europe. They anticipated that the proposal to establish an annual WOC and World Cup might cause the number of countries participating in the WOC not to increase, but to decrease. Equally, several countries expressed their concern about the proposed qualification model, the main reason being that they did not consider the system to be fair to all members.

Those countries being in favour of Council's proposal stressed the need to make the event programme more media friendly and attractive for sponsors. They held that a yearly WOC would assist in raising the profile of the sport, and that this is necessary in order to get external money for the development, and to achieve the Olympic ambitions.

In closing the general discussion, the President thanked the participants for their contributions. The General Assembly then proceeded to vote on Council's proposals, taking a separate vote on each of the four issues.

9.1 The discipline formats at WOC and World Cup in foot orienteering

Supported by RUS, GBR proposed to take out the sentence referring to the middle distance as the one to be used in Multi-sport Games. Council consented to this.

Put to the vote, the amended proposal (see APPENDIX II) was approved by 32 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention.

9.2 The frequency of WOC and World Cup in foot orienteering

AUT moved that, in future, separate World Championships should not be organised in the years of the Olympic Games. RUS held that WOC should not be included in a World Cup round.

The President said that both the proposals would be considered in conjunction with the implementation process. Council also consented to a request from HUN that an assessment of the event programme be made after five years.

The proposal that WOC and World Cup in foot orienteering be run annually (see APPENDIX II) was adopted by 24 votes in favour, 7 against and 2 abstentions.

9.3 Qualification procedure for WOC in foot orienteering

On behalf of Council, the President withdrew the proposal. In so doing, she said that, because of the complexity of the qualification issue, Council would look further into the matter and come back with a proposal for the 2002 General Assembly to decide on.

9.4 The introduction of the new calendar of world events

By voting 26 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions, Council's proposal for implementation of the new calendar of world events (see APPENDIX II) was adopted.

10. Closure of the Extraordinary General Assembly

The IOF President Sue Harvey thanked the delegates for all opinions expressed, saying that it is never easy to reach consensus, and stressing the importance of a proper evaluation process.

The IOF President awarded the IOF silver pin of honour to Björn Persson (SWE), and the bronze pin to Juraj Nemeč (SVK). David Rosen (GBR) not being present at the General Assembly, the IOF bronze pin will be presented to him on a future suitable occasion.

On behalf of the President of the International Olympic Committee, Sue Harvey presented to each of the Council members an IOC diploma for their contribution to the development of the sport.

Finally, Sue Harvey officially closed the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Sue Harvey
President

Barbro Rönnerberg
Secretary General

Minutes verified by:

Hans Breckle

Brian Parker