

O-zine

International Orienteering Federation

On-line Newsletter

Issue 4 – December 2010



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Most of the participants at the seminar in Geneva. IOF Rules Commission Chair David Rosen in the front row on the right.

Guaranteeing event quality

BY ERIK BORG

One of the IOF's priorities is event quality. Altogether 316 IOF Event Advisers work

with the event organisers to guarantee high quality IOF Events.

Each year, 5–8 Event Adviser Seminars are

organised for the education of new Event Advisers. The final IOF Event Advisers' Seminar for 2010 was held in Geneva in conjunction with the World Cup finals.

In this issue

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ANNA ZEELIG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“The participants learnt about the role of an IOF Event Adviser and the special characteristics of IOF Events. They were able to see, first hand, the organisation of the World Cup Final events in Geneva”, David Rosen, Chair of the IOF Rules Commission, says.

David Rosen was the seminar leader together with Vincent Frey and the mountain bike orienteering specialist Sandor Talas. The seminar was organised for both MTB orienteering (MTBO) and foot orienteering (FootO). Most of the sessions were held jointly. Much of the work of an Event Adviser is common to all disciplines: “It is always interesting for experts from two different disciplines to talk together”, David Rosen says.

Earlier this year, at Easter, the first ever joint Event Adviser seminar for two disciplines was held in the Czech Republic. The experiences from this joint MTBO and FootO seminar were clearly positive: “All event adviser seminars should be held jointly for all disciplines. There is a lot we can learn from each other”, Edmond Széchenyi, the Chair of the IOF MTB Orienteering Commission says.

All IOF Events must have, in addition to the national controller, a licensed IOF Event Adviser - that includes the World Games, World Championships, Junior World Championships, World Masters Championships, Regional Championships,

World Cup Events and World Ranking Events. For World Ranking Events, the Event Adviser is appointed by the National Federation but for the other events the IOF makes the appointment.

A vital role

“The IOF Event Adviser has a crucial role in the event organising,” David Rosen says, and continues: “the Event Adviser works together with the organiser to ensure that the event is of an international standard and that the IOF Rules and Guidelines are followed.”

Event Adviser work includes approving the venue and the terrain for the event, assessing the suitability of the proposed accommodation, food, transport, programme, budget and training possibilities. The Event Adviser must also assess any planned ceremonies, approve the organisation and layout of start, finish and changeover areas and assess the reliability and accuracy of the time-keeping and results producing systems. The Event Adviser needs to check that the map conforms to IOF standards, approve the courses after assessing their quality, including degree of difficulty, control sites and equipment. There is a lot for the Event Adviser to do.

Big responsibility

“The Event Adviser must also consider

chance factors and map correctness, check any course splitting method and course combinations. Arrangements and facilities for the media and facilities for doping tests must also be assessed. The Event Adviser leads the jury if there is a protest,” David Rosen explains. As the Chair of the IOF Rules Commission David has extensive experience of training IOF Event Advisers. He also has first-hand experience of the task: He is the IOF Senior Event Adviser for the World Orienteering Championships 2012 in Switzerland.

David Rosen points out that the IOF Event Adviser has to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and focus primarily on the potentially weak aspects and, of course, not take over the work himself. Advisers have to be active orienteers and also have to control events regularly: “Licensed IOF Event Advisers must apply every two years for reaccreditation. In order to be reaccredited, event advisers must show that they still are actively working as advisers and they must continue to be endorsed by their federation”, David Rosen says.

At the moment, there are 224 foot orienteering IOF event advisers, 35 mountain bike orienteering event advisers, 36 ski orienteering event advisers and 21 trail orienteering event advisers. The next Event Adviser seminars will be held in Kazakhstan, Norway and Turkey in February 2011.



The Irish are coming

with about 1,100 members and 500 regular orienteers. There is also a good number of school children who take part in organised school orienteering events.

Among the seniors there are a lot of good orienteers who want to lift their level. Ivan Millar, Director of High Performance of the Irish Orienteering Association, says that the current success is mainly thanks to the hard work of dedicated coaches and parents of Irish juniors over the past ten years.

“There is now a core of young seniors emerging from the junior programme who are very talented and focused on doing well at the highest level”, Ivan says.

Positive approach

“Lots of people have very positive attitudes”, says Niamh. “There is more competition to gain a place on the Irish team, especially in the men's, so everyone has to work harder. “A rising tide lifts all boats”. We are supported by the Irish Orienteering Association to travel to World Cup races so the team is getting experience at a high level. The people on the Irish team also get on very well with each other and we have lots of fun together”, she says.

For the last three years Niamh has been working on a PhD in the School of Pharmacy at Trinity College Dublin in the area of anti-cancer drugs. The university has also given her good support in her sporting pursuits.

Since mid November has she been living in Gothenburg, Sweden. She moved there from the little city of Newbridge, close to Dublin,

“I moved to Sweden both to have better opportunities for orienteering and because I could undertake some interesting research at the university.”

All time best in women's class

Only two Irish runners, both men, have fared better at the World Orienteering Championships than Niamh. Wally Young was 27th in the long distance in 1981 in Switzerland. Two years earlier Wally ran

the first leg in the relay and handed over in 4th place. Aonghus O'Cleirigh finished in 28th position in the long distance in 1987 in France.

“The long term goal is to improve our team performance year on year. The World Championships 2013 looks like being an important goal in the careers of many of our current team members and we aim to have some impressive performances in Finland”, Ivan Millar says.

Aiming high

Niamh will build on her performances from this year and try to achieve more consistency at international events.

“In particular my orienteering technique needs to be improved. I will improve my map-reading skills over the next year or two so that I can compete with the best in the world. And I will have to keep my physical and mental strength up too. I will be aiming for a top 20 finish at World Championships in the near future. I also hope that I can make it to W35 without being beaten by my younger sister, Caoimhe. She is 13 now and really fast”, the Niamh says.



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Niamh O'Boyle is doing better and better and is one of the promising Irish elite runners.

BY ERIK BORG

Niamh O'Boyle has had more success than any other Irish woman at the World Orienteering Championships, and she is one of the most promising athletes from the green island.

The 26-year-old just missed out qualifying for the sprint final at the World Orienteering Championships in Trondheim, but then qualified well for the long distance and in the final came number 34.

“I orienteered well and didn't make any big mistakes. I couldn't ask for more in my first World Championships final and I was really happy when I finished. The day was even better because there were lots of Irish supporters in Trondheim, including my family. My brother Seamus also took part as a competitor at the World Championships in Trondheim. The atmosphere was brilliant”, she says.

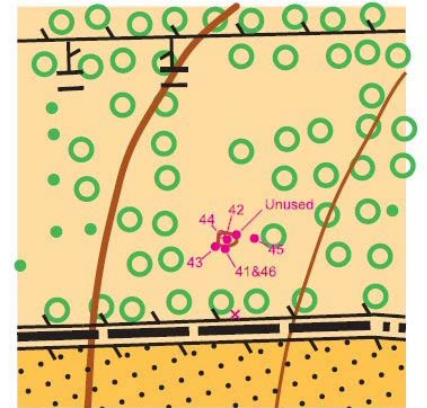
Better and better

There are 21 orienteering clubs in Ireland



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

David Healy is one of the rising men from Ireland. He ran the middle final at the World Championships in Trondheim.



TempO – the sprint form of Trail Orienteering

41	A-E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	B
42	A-E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	C
43	A-E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	A
44	A-E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Z
45	A-E	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	E
46	A-E	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	B

BY CLIVE ALLEN

TempO is an against-the-clock form of trail orienteering, a kind of ‘sprint TrailO’, and it has become ever more popular in the last two years. So much so that this year the first World TempO Trophy was held, at Kristiansten Fortress in Trondheim, immediately after the World Trail Orienteering Championships.

What you do in TempO

You go to a series of stations from each of which can be seen a different cluster of flags, usually 5 in the cluster. At each station you are given a set of 3 to 5 map sections of just the area with the visible cluster; the maps are aligned so that the north lines on the map point towards north. Each map in the set is exactly the same, apart from having a differently-placed control circle and a different control description.

You have to decide which one of the flags in the terrain, if any, matches the circle position and the control description on the first of the maps in the set. You give your answer either electronically or verbally, us-

ing letters A to E from the left as you look at the flags from the designated viewing point. Letter Z is used if none of the flags matches up. You then quickly flip to the next map in the set and repeat the process, and so on until you have decided on all the maps in the set. The overall time between opening the map set and giving your last answer is recorded. You then move on to the next station and repeat the procedure with a new set of maps.

On completion of the course, a 45-second penalty for each wrong answer is added to the total time you have taken. The winner is the competitor with the lowest total adjusted time.

In the World TempO Trophy in Trondheim there were six stations, with twenty decisions in all to be taken. First-placed Lauri Kontkanen, Finland took just 95 seconds, and Lars Jakob Waaler, Norway in second place was only 8 seconds slower, both getting all the answers correct. Impressive!

The cluster here is sited around a small hill, with all the trees marked individually (green circles) on the 1:5,000 scale map.

On the solution diagram the purple dots show the positions of the flags and the purple cross is the competitor viewing point. The purple circle indicates a map and control description with no flag at the site (answer Z).

TempO planners use some very subtle tactics! There are sometimes sites which have more than one possible control description – in this case, the flag fourth from the left in the picture was both between two trees (Control 46) and also on the E side of the knoll (Control 41). There was no flag on the southwest part of the hill (Control 44), so the answer here was Z. The flag third from left was used as a distractor – none of the circle centres / control descriptions matched that site.

A big plus for TempO is that it can often make use of small areas with simple features; in this case an orchard, used at the Jan Kjellström Trophy, Devon, England, Easter 2010.

Note for the sharp-eyed: The photo is taken from a bit to the left of the viewing point, so the order of controls seen from left to right is different.

Sighting the wreck

BY CLIVE ALLEN

Brian Parker, IOF's Senior Event Advisor at the World Trail Orienteering Championships this year, is a former Officer in the British Navy. No doubt for this reason, he has a sharper eye for wrecks than most of us.

As course planner for Day 2 of the Jan Kjellström Trophy event in Devon, England last Easter, on a superbly detailed area of coastal sand dunes, Brian needed a way for competitors to decide on the correct flag which was amongst boulders in a line close by the seashore. Looking out to sea, he saw there was a wreck 350 m away on a sandbank, perfectly placed for the purpose! The chosen control site was directly in line between the viewpoint and the wreck.

So on to the map went the wreck, and on the day of competition, out went the flags and the control site was set up. An easy problem to solve, one might think? But not all of us competitors thought to look out to sea for inspiration...



World ranking, Top 10 (as of 30 November)

Foot Orienteering

Women: 1) Simone Niggli-Luder (SUI) 5918, 2) Helena Jansson (SWE) 5855, 3) Marianne Andersen (NOR) 5826, 4) Minna Kauppi (FIN) 5762, 5) Dana Brožková (CZE) and Anne Margrethe Hausken (NOR) 5500, 7) Signe Søs (DEN) 5493, 8) Vroni König-Salmi (SUI) 5492, 9) Annika Billstam (SWE) 5480, 10) Lena Eliasson (SWE) 5452.

Men: 1) Thierry Gueorgiou (FRA) 5620 points, 2) Anders Nordberg (NOR) 5614, 3) Daniel Hubmann (SUI) 5582, 4) Olav Lundanes (NOR) 5546, 5) Carl Waaler Kaas (NOR) and Matthias Müller (SUI) 5531, 7) Valentin Novikov (RUS) 5503, 8) Fabian Hertner (SUI) 5482, 9) Emil Wingstedt (SWE) 5478, 10) Audun Weltzien (NOR) 5465.

Federation League (for leading 20 athletes)

Women: 1) Sweden 94287 points, 2) Norway 93450, 3) Finland 87684, 4) Switzerland 86123, 5) Czech Republic

81097, 6) Great Britain 62649, 7) Australia 62507, 8) Russia 58775, 9) Denmark 43387, 10) China 40909.

Men: 1) Sweden 99993 points, 2) Finland 98196, 3) Switzerland 97543, 4) Norway 96885, 5) Czech Republic 84628, 6) Great Britain 82837, 7) Denmark 80613, 8) France 76814, 9) Italy 68240, 10) Australia 68154.

MTB Orienteering

Women: 1) Christine Schaffner (SUI) 7733 points, 2) Michaela Gigon (AUT) 7583, 3) Rikke Kornvig (DEN) 7469, 4) Anna Kaminska (POL) 7437, 5) Marika Hara (FIN) 7436, 6) Martina Tichovská (CZE) 7248, 7) Maja Rothweiler (SUI) 7193, 8) Ingrid Stengård (FIN) 7118, 9) Hana Bajtošová (SVK) 7073, 10) Ksenia Chernykh (RUS) 7065.

Men: 1) Anton Foliforov (RUS) 7877 points, 2) Erik Skovgaard Knudsen (DEN) 7708, 3) Samuli Saarela (FIN) 7677, 4) Beat Schaffner (SUI) 7663, 5) Ruslan Gritsan (RUS) 7630, 6) Jiří Hradil (CZE)

7628, 7) Luca Dallavalle (ITA) 7560, 8) Jussi Laurila (FIN) 7485, 9) Tobias Breitschädel (AUT) 7477, 10) Clément Souvray (FRA) 7440.

Ski Orienteering

Women: 1) Natalya Tomilova (RUS) 1321 points, 2) Marte Reenaas (NOR) 1284, 3) Liisa Anttila (FIN) 1261, 4) Olga Novikova (KAZ) 1260, 5) Josefine Engström (SWE) and Anastasia Kravchenko (RUS) 1242, 7) Helene Söderlund (SWE) 1241, 8) Alyona Trapeznikova (RUS) 1223, 9) Olga Trifanova (RUS) 1196, 10) Kajsa Richardsson (SWE) 1194.

Men: 1) Eduard Khrennikov (RUS) 1323 points, 2) Andrei Lamov (RUS) 1322, 3) Andrey Grigoriev (RUS) 1306, 4) Staffan Tunis (FIN) 1301, 5) Kiril Veselov (RUS) 1299, 6) Lars Hol Moholdt (NOR) 1297, 7) Peter Arnesson (SWE) 1290, 8) Olli-Markus Taivainen (FIN) 1284, 9) Erik Rost (SWE) 1273, 10) Teemu Kōngäs (FIN) 1267.

Ski orienteering a new challenge

Four years ago Kajsa Richardson, a cross country skier, and Johan Granath, the well known ski orienteer, became a couple. Now she is among the very best ski orienteers in the world.

BY ERIK BORG

As a youngster Kajsa tried some orienteering, but cross country skiing was her main sport and as a junior was she among the best in Sweden. When she moved to Borlänge, in the middle of Sweden, in autumn 2006 to study, she was ready for new challenges.

“I was attracted by ski orienteering and that revived my motivation. I was interested in adding a new dimension to my skiing”, she says.

Fast progress

In December 2006 Kajsa and Johan Granath became a couple. He was already an experienced ski orienteer. Last winter he became European champion in relay and was number 14 in the World Cup overall. The future for the 31-year-old Swede looks good!

Kajsa has had remarkable success since she took part in her first race in January 2007.

She had a great foundation with her cross country skiing and has responded well to the new challenges.

“My orienteering has got better and better. Johan is, of course, a great help. Without him it would have been difficult to do so well.”

Coming goals

In the spring of 2009 Kajsa decided to really concentrate on ski orienteering. Last winter she was number nine overall in the World Cup and was fourth in one race. Now, the 24-year-old athlete is a part-time graphic designer and uses the remaining



PHOTO: ERIK BORG

Kajsa Richardson aims to do well at the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Sweden.

time training to get better and better.

A highlight for Kajsa this year will be the World Ski Orienteering Championships on home ground in Sweden. She wants to do well but hasn't any expectations about medals. She is looking towards medals at the World Championships in 2013.

The beginning of January will see the first of the major competitions for 2011 with the SkiO Tour in Austria and Slovakia. In February, the Asian Winter Games are in Kazakhstan and the European Championship in Norway, and the season culminates in the last part of March with the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Sweden.

Johan Granath competes in ski orienteering at the highest level and has assisted his partner Kajsa Richardson.



PHOTO: ERIK BORG



PHOTO: GÉZA HOMOKI

Sarolta Monspart was the first non-Scandinavian World Champion in orienteering.

BY ÁRON LESS AND
LÁSZLÓ ZENTAI

50 years ago, in 1960, in a secondary school in Budapest, Sarolta Monspart joined an orienteering club – Budapesti Pedagógus – and ran her first orienteering event. Twelve years later she became the first ever non-Scandinavian World Champion in orienteering.

On 19 October 2010, Hungarian orienteers organised a festival celebrating 50 years of orienteering of Sarolta Monspart. Coaches and leaders, friends and arch-rivals, orien-

Hungary celebrates Sarolta Monspart

teers and non-orienteers, people of all ages gathered to reflect on the sporting career of everyone's "Saci" and orienteering in Hungary in the 1960s. A special book edited by Ábel Hegedüs was published: "50 years running - written to Sarolta Monspart". In a foreword to the book, Sue Harvey, Honorary President of the IOF, greeted Sarolta on behalf of the IOF.

Sarolta was a member of the Hungarian national orienteering team 1962–1978. She was not allowed to start at the first European Orienteering Championships in 1962 because she was too young and the national federation did not seek special permission for her. But after that, her career really took off. During her active years, Sarolta won 14 national orienteering championships and 6 cross-country skiing championships. From the World Orienteering Championships she has a full set of medals; besides winning individual gold in 1972 in Czechoslovakia, she also celebrated silver and bronze medals in the relay (1970 and 1976 respectively). She was the first European woman to run the marathon within 3 hours and the first non-Scandinavian winner of the O-Ringen (in 1976); the feat wasn't repeated until 26 years later when Simone Luder clinched her first title in 2002.

When at the top of her sporting career in 1978, Sarolta suddenly suffered from serious encephalitis, acute inflammation of the brain, caused by a tick. That inflammation brought her career to an end and she was not able to reach the top again. However, Sarolta has never stopped working for sport. After making a recovery, Sarolta enthusiastically urges people to pursue sport, especially running.

Although she graduated from university as a teacher of mathematics and physics, her life career has been about sport. Between 1980 and 1989 Sarolta was the head coach of the Hungarian National Team. At the moment she is working in the National Institute for Health Development. She is a voluntary trainer of the Minden-Kor female running club and walking club for senior citizens. She emphasises the importance of physical culture and women's equality.

Sarolta was a member of the IOF Council from 1982 to 1994 and IOF Vice President during the Congress period 1994–1996. For promoting orienteering, she received the IOF silver pin in 1996. Sarolta received a medal of lifetime merit from the President of Hungary in 2003. Her name is known by nearly all Hungarians.



PHOTO: ISTVÁN KOVÁLCSIK

Hungarian orienteers celebrate Sarolta Monspart's 50 years of orienteering.

In search of more gold

BY ERIK BORG

Ruslan Gritsan has been World Champion ten times at senior level but the Russian isn't yet finished with success. "I would like to bike for a few years more. I am hooked on the sport", the 31-year-old athlete says.

At the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships in Portugal last summer, Ruslan won his tenth senior gold.

"The victory in the relay race in Portugal compensated for all the negative emotions from individual races when I didn't manage to win a medal. We had a good, young team, all of us are friends and we had the will to win. We felt strong. Each of us did our best. It was satisfying", he says.

A very special gold

In 2005, Ruslan gained his first individual gold when he won the middle distance at the World Ski Orienteering Championships in Finland. He shared the gold with Andrey Gruzdev.

"I fulfilled my dream when I became World Champion in an individual race. That gold was very special but all medals, especially from the long distance are very important to me."

Wide challenges

Later in the same year, Ruslan won two gold medals in mountain bike orienteering (MTBO). Recently, he has focused more on MTBO. He enjoys all the challenges of his "new" sport, but that is not the only reason for branching out.

"After many years of competition my body has quite a few troubles, especially my back and knees. Racing isn't the problem, rather it isn't always easy during periods with a lot of training. The injuries have prevented me from doing ski orienteering. On the bike it's easier to manage the injuries and I have the motivation and strength", he says.

Started early

In 1998 the Russian began collecting international gold medals with two individual golds at the Junior World Ski Orienteering Championships. As a senior he has taken part in twelve World Championships. During his senior championships he has won four silver medals, two bronze and nine fourth spots.

"But I haven't felt like a star except maybe in 2005 when I won four gold in total", he smiles.



PHOTO: PRIVATE

Ruslan Gritsan is one of the most successful competitors in orienteering history. The Russian has ten World Championship gold - four from ski orienteering and six from MTB orienteering.

Ruslan's success is even more remarkable since he has no sight in the right eye. It was lost when he was four years old. He has used alpine skiing to train for orienteering: both the speed and the need to react quickly to sharpen the vision in his left eye.

Supporting new stars

The man of gold is living in a beautiful hilly part of Moscow. He combines his sporting career with teaching juniors ski orienteering, foot orienteering and mountain bike orienteering. He also makes maps for MTB orienteering in the Moscow region and assists in organising competitions.

There is a lot of talent in his club. Grigory Medvedev became the junior champion in sprint in Portugal. Tatiana Repina won bronze. Both gained silver in relay.

"It is good to see new talent. It is very inspiring. I like to work with them. It also gives me motivation to beat them!"

Ruslan Gritsan gained his tenth World Championship gold as a senior when he won the relay together with Valeriy Glukhov and Anton Foliforov.



PHOTO: Pedro Dias, Organiser WMTBOC Portugal

News in brief

No new sports to 2018 Olympic Winter Games

The International Orienteering Federation applied for ski orienteering to be included in the programme of the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The IOC Executive Board recently confirmed that it has decided not to propose any additional sports to the 2018 Games but to maintain the seven current core sports. The next chance for new sports to be included in the Olympic Winter Games is 2022.

"It was of course disappointing to receive the Executive Board decision. However, the decision to simply maintain the current sports means that the door still remains open for ski orienteering in the future", says IOF President Åke Jacobson.

"We will continue our efforts to be in-

cluded in the programme of the Olympic Winter Games. It is encouraging to see the development of ski orienteering in recent years, both when it comes to improved visibility of our main events and to the new spectator-friendly competition formats. There will be new countries participating at the World Ski Orienteering Championships this winter, and we are included in the programme of both the CISM World Military Winter Games and the Asian Winter Games. This is part of our strategy to increase the visibility of ski orienteering and to spread the sport to new countries. The IOF will continue its work for ski orienteering in cooperation with the national federations. We will be well prepared when the time comes to apply for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games", Åke Jacobson says.

WOC in Future Project Group

The Project Group for the WOC in Future project has now been announced. The project aims to create a new programme for the World Orienteering Championships (WOC).

News on the development will be published on the IOF website throughout the year and a draft programme will be to be presented at the Presidents' Conference in France in August 2011.

Project Group

- Björn Persson, IOF Sports Director, Coordinator
- Leho Haldna Chair, Vincent Frey, Mike Dowling, Steering Group members
- Foot orienteering: Konrad Becker, FootO Commission Chair
- Athletes: Emil Wingstedt, Sarah Rollins
- Media/Arena/TV: Jörn Sundby, TV commentator and production coordinator
- Coach: Thomas Bühler, Swiss national team

Reference persons

To be consulted on particular matters:

- Organiser: Sören Jonsson, adviser to WOC 2010
- EEE Background: Edmond Szechenyi, former EEE project member
- TV production: Karel Jonak, TV director Czech TV
- Outside Europe: Shin Murakoshi JPN

Event organisers appointed

At its recent meeting in Helsinki, the IOF Council appointed Great Britain organiser of the World Trail Orienteering Championships 2012. The Council also confirmed that Estonia will organise the Junior World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships 2013, in conjunction with the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships.

The World Trail Orienteering Championships will be staged in Scotland in early summer 2012, and the Junior World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships in West Viru in late summer 2013. The exact dates will be published later on the IOF website.

Giaime Origgi new member of the MTBO Athletes' Commission

The Mountain Bike Orienteering Athletes' Commission has recruited a new member to strengthen the team. Giaime Origgi (ITA), who finished 10th at this years' World Championships middle distance, has joined the Commission this northern autumn.

The IOF Athlete Commissions are comprised of world elite athletes, and work in close contact with the relevant discipline commission and the IOF Sports Director. The role of the Athletes' Commission is advisory. The MTB Orienteering Athletes' Commission is coordinated by the six-time World Champion Michaela Gigon (AUT). The other Commission members are Anke Dannowski (GER) and Adrian Jackson (AUS).