

Rules Harmonisation Project

Oivind Holt

David Rosen (Chair IOF Rules
Commission)

Aims of project

- 1. To identify which rules are common across the four disciplines (FootO, SkiO, MTBO, TrailO)
- 2. Suggest improvements to eliminate minor differences.
- 3. Consider whether extra regulations should be incorporated into the rules
- 4. Improve usability of the rules

Aims (continued)

- 5. Consider different options for publishing the rules and supplementary documents

History of IOF Rules

Originally there were separate rule booklets for:

- World Orienteering Championships
- Junior World Orienteering Championships
- World Cup
- Mapping Specification
- Control Descriptions (1990)

History continued

- In the late 1990's, the single Foot Orienteering Rules were developed with event-specific rules indicated by an abbreviation in the left margin.
- Subsequently, the rules for SkiO, MTBO and TrailO were developed following the FootO model.
- More comprehensive guidelines have been developed

Current documents

- Separate rule booklets for each discipline
- Appendices to the rule booklets
- Special rules for World Cup and other special rules e.g. Procedure for allocating WMTBOC long distance start slots
- Guidelines e.g. WOC Guidelines, IOF MTBO Organisers Guidelines
- Procedural instructions e.g. IOF Protocol Guide, IOF Anti-Doping Rules
- Specifications e.g. ISOM, ISSOM

Rule Booklets

- IOF Foot Orienteering Rules
- IOF MTB Orienteering Rules
- IOF Ski Orienteering Rules
- IOF Trail Orienteering Rules

Appendices to the rule booklets

FootO:

- Appendix 1: General competition classes
- Appendix 2: Principles for course planning
- Appendix 3: IOF resolution on good environmental practice
- Appendix 4: Approved punching systems
- Appendix 5: Leibnitz Convention
- Appendix 6: Competition Formats
- Appendix 7: The European Orienteering Championships
- Appendix 8: The Asian Orienteering Championships
- Appendix 9: The Oceania Orienteering Championships
- Appendix 10: The North American Orienteering Championships
- Appendix 11: The South American Orienteering Championships

Special Rules

- Special Rules for WOC
- Special Rules for the 2016 World Cup in Orienteering – Individual
- Special Rules for the 2016 World Cup in Orienteering – Sprint Relay
- Special Rules for MTBO World Cup 2016
- Procedure for allocating WMTBOC long distance start slots
- Start allocation method for WSOC WCup and ROC
- Ski Orienteering World Cup 2015-2016 Special Rules
- Maximum entry fees for World Cup 2015-2016

Guidelines

- WOC Guidelines
- JWOC Guidelines 2016
- WMOC Guidelines 2016
- Guidelines for World Ranking Events 2016
- Guidelines for Course Planning – World Class Events
- Guidelines for Sprint Relay
- Jury Guidelines
- IOF MTBO Organisers Guidelines
- IOF Technical Guidelines for Elite Trail Orienteering
- Organizers handbook – TrailO Secretariat

Procedural instructions

- IOF Protocol Guide
- Administrative guidance for organisers of IOF Events
- The IOF Sponsor Guide
- IOF Anti-Doping Rules

Specifications

- International Specification for Orienteering Maps
- International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps
- International Specification for MTB Orienteering Maps
- International Specification for Ski Orienteering Maps 2014
- IOF Control Descriptions

Issues with current rules

- Too many documents
- Some advice in guidelines are obligatory so should they become rules?
- Common rules appear in the four separate booklets and each need updating if a common rule changes

Types of common rules

1. Rules which are exactly the same across the four disciplines (Yellow)
2. Rules which are essentially the same across the four disciplines but with some discipline-specific wording (Blue)
3. Rules which are the same across three out of four disciplines (Green)
4. Rules which are different for at least two disciplines (White)

- 14.2 The competition terrain shall not have been used for orienteering for as long as possible prior to the competition, so that no competitor has an unfair advantage.
- 14.3 The competition terrain shall normally be embargoed as soon as it is decided. If that is not possible, then arrangements for access to the terrain must be published as soon as possible.
- 14.4 Permission for access into embargoed terrain shall be requested from the organiser if needed.
- 14.5 Any rights of nature conservation, forestry, hunting, etc. in the area shall be respected.

15. Maps

- 15.1 Maps, course markings and additional overprinting shall be drawn and printed according to the IOF *International Specification for Orienteering Maps* or the IOF *International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps*. Deviations need approval by the IOF Council.
- 15.2 The map scale for Long distance races shall be 1:15000. The map scale for Middle

Work carried out June 2016

- We reviewed the rules across the four disciplines
- We identified instances where the rules could be harmonised
- With these changes, the percentage of fully harmonised FootO rules went up from 34% to 42%

Options

1. Four separate rule books similar to the present ones.
2. A separate rule book containing the common rules, plus separate rule books for the discipline-specific rules.
3. One single rule book for all disciplines with discipline-specific and event-specific rules indicated. (Norway has done this).

Users of rules

The rules need to be suitable for the main users:

- Event Advisers/Jury members out in the field
- Event Organisers
- Coaches
- Athletes
- Discipline Commissions
- IOF Council members
- External bodies