

Decisions made in SOC winter meetings in 2015

Introduction:

Pages 1 and 2 summarizes the decisions made in SOC winter meetings in 2015. Pages 3-5 contains the separate meeting minutes from the meeting held in Hamar, Norway and pages 6-10 minutes from the meeting held in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Decision:

1. Remits

Remits for years 2015-2016 were discussed through, modified and approved. The major change from previous Remits was that Nicolo Corradini was given a task to oversee the acquisition of new countries and their ability to develop ski orienteering also after the WSOC/ESOC/Asian Winter Games/FISU Games participation.

2. Olympic project

According to IOF strategy, Ski Orienteering is seen as one of the sports in Winter Olympics in long term. In order to realize this target, IOF has to promote ski orienteering to multiple decision makers and instances. Therefore the active and wide presence is required. Following responsibilities to achieve this presence were given:

- Youth Olympic Games in 2020 in Austria → Tom Hollowell will check whether Ski orienteering is allowed to be one of the sports
- Sport Accord 2015 → Hans Jørgen Kvåle, Tom Hollowell, Anna Jacobson and Brian Porteous will participate
- Asian Winter Games 2017 → Tom Hollowell will lead the marketing campaign
- 2022 Winter Olympics → Asian Working group will take care of marketing in Kazakhstan and People's Republic of China

3. The frequency of WSOC

SOC will propose to IOF Council that WSOC should be changed to an annual event starting either from season 2017/18 or season 2018/19. ESOC and Wcup would be arranged every second year.

4. Sport director

It was agreed that the future sport director for ski orienteering should take care of the marketing side of the sport. Tom Hollowell and Leho Haldna will lead the selection process. The nomination should be done during H1 2015.

5. U23 Category

U23 category will not be tested in near future. Instead the focus will be put to FISU Championships, Universiades and CISM competitions.

6. Rules

Accreditation fee: Roland Hellberg was mandated to check from David Rosen, whether it is possible to formulate a rule from this subject. Roland will also find out whether it is possible to determine the exact level of the accreditation fee.

Late starts: SOC will propose that no late start at the European Championships, World Cup, WCup will be allowed, especially when the races are broadcasted. Before the final decision, Athlets' Commission will be asked to give feedback from the proposal.

Rule 12.12-18 mismatch: Rules 12.12 and 12.18 are not fully aligned. Roland Hellberg will make a proposal for updated rules.

7. CISM and FISU games

Valentin Garkov will continue his work with FISU helped by Juraj Nemec. Alexander Bliznevskiy will ensure the success in FISU Universiades in 2019. Patrick Desbrest is retiring from French army and his role as a CISM responsible will be discussed in H1/2015.

8. Next SOC meetings

Next meetings were scheduled as follows:

- Aug 4 1st meeting
- Aug 5 2nd meeting
- Aug 6 Presidents' conference

Minutes from IOF SOC meeting in Hamar, Norway, 12-13 February 2015

Meeting time and place

Meetings were held on February 12 and 13, 2015 in city of Hamar and Budor ski arena, respectively.

Present

Feb 12: Chairman Eivind Tonna (NOR), Vice Chairman Antti Myllärinen (FIN), Aleksandr Bliznevskiy (RUS), Thierry Jeanneret (SUI), Roland Hellberg (SWE), Nicolo Corradini (ITA) and Juraj Nemec (SVK). In addition, Markku Vauhkonen (FIN) and Carl Fey (USA) participated the meeting.

Feb 13: Chairman Eivind Tonna (NOR), Vice Chairman Antti Myllärinen (FIN), Aleksandr Bliznevskiy (RUS), Thierry Jeanneret (SUI), Roland Hellberg (SWE), Nicolo Corradini (ITA) and Juraj Nemec (SVK). In addition, Leho Haldna (EST), Tom Hollowell (SWE), Hans Jørgen Kvåle (NOR) and Jan Arild Johnsen (NOR) participated the meeting.

Items discussed in the meetings:

§ 1 Remits

Remits were discussed through.

Decision: Remits were accepted and the following addition was made: Nicolo Corradini was given a task to oversee the acquisition of new countries and their ability to develop ski orienteering also after the WSOC/ESOC/Asian Winter Games/FISU Games participation.

§ 2 Olympic project

According to IOF strategy Ski Orienteering is seen as one of the sports in Winter Olympics in long term. Marketing of the sport in several levels as well as the overall attractiveness of ski orienteering (to youth, TV, sponsors) plays a significant role. Tom Hollowell was seen as an overall coordinator of the project.

Decision: **Youth Olympic Games in 2020 in Austria** → Tom Hollowell will check whether Ski orienteering can be one of the sports in these games

Sport Accord 2015 → Hans Jørgen Kvåle, Tom Hollowell, Anna Jacobson and Brian Porteous will participate

Asian Winter Games 2017 → Tom Hollowell will lead the marketing campaign

2022 Winter Olympics → Asian Working group will take care of lobbying in Kazakhstan, Antti Myllärinen will analyze the potential in China.

§ 3 The frequency of WSOC

The frequency of WSOC was discussed in details. Current format of arranging WSOC every 2nd year reduces the publicity ski orienteering gets. This also limits athletes' possibilities to get sponsorships. Event quality was seen a challenge but the (potentially) decreasing sanction fees were seen to attract more applicants.

Decision: SOC will propose to IOF Council that WSOC should be changed to an annual event starting either from season 2017/18 or 2018/19. ESOC and Wcup would be arranged every second year.

§ 4 Competition quality

Competition quality was discussed together with Tom Hollowell and Leho Haldna. It was commonly agreed that GPS tracking for each athlete, touch-free punching and "IOF LiveCenter" type production is the minimum requirement for IOF Wcup and ESOC. However, live production requires network bandwidth and this has to be taken into consideration more in the future when selecting competition venues. In addition, arena production was seen a key element in WSOC. In that respect, WSOC 2015 in Hamar did not reach all the requirements set by IOF. It was proposed that organizers could get partial return from Sanction fee in the future if the agreed quality standards were met.

Decision: -

§ 5 Sport Director

SOC together with Leho Haldna and Tom Hollowell discussed about the selection of sport director. It was commonly agreed that sport director would be responsible of marketing and promoting the sport and would also work to get more financing for the sport.

Decision: Tom Hollowell together with Leho Haldna will lead the selection process.

§ 6 Under 23 category

U23 category was discussed in details.

Decision: U23 will not be tested in near future. Instead of U23, FISU World Championships, Universiades as well as CISM Championships were seen to support the development of the athletes well enough.

§ 7 Rules

Accreditation fee: SOC decided that athletes' accreditation fee is an option but it must be clear what the accreditation fee for competitors will include. Roland Hellberg was mandated to check from David Rosen, whether it is possible to formulate a rule from this subject. Roland will also find out whether it is possible to determine the exact level of the accreditation fee (for example max € 10).

Late starts: SOC will propose that no late start at the European Championships, World Cup, WCup will be allowed, especially in television broadcasts. Roland will ask feedback from athlete's commission. After that SOC will consider what kind of proposal we'll do for Rules Commission.

Rule 12.12-18 mismatch: Rules 12.12 and 12.18 are not fully aligned. Roland will make a proposal for updated rules.

§ 8 Feedback from WSOC 2015 organizers

Jan Aril Johnsen from WSOC 2015 organizers told about challenges organizers met during the project. Development ideas were:

- Accreditation fee for all athletes needed to cover administrative work
- WADA fees are too high and can not be anticipated (Accreditation fee would help)
- Fixed red group for the week needed in order to reduce the workload. In addition IOF rules should be changes so that the usage of the Eventor could be wider. This would on its behalf ease the organizers' workload.
- Entries have to be made in time and no exceptions should be granted

Decision: -

§ 9 ESOC event evaluation from Athletes' Commission

Hans Jørgen Kvåle gave SOC feedback from ESOC 2015. In overall, there was much to learn from arena production, flexibility of organizers and the atmosphere organizers were able to create for athletes.

Decision: -

§ 10 Meetings in WOC 2015

Following meeting days were scheduled:

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|-------|-------------------------|
| Aug 4 | 1 st meeting |
| Aug 5 | 2 nd meeting |

Minutes from IOF SOC meeting in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, 22-23 January 2015

Meeting time and place

Formal meetings were held on January 22 and 23, 2015 in Hotel la Tgoma, Lenzerheide, Switzerland and informal meetings and discussion were on going during the whole week January 19-25.

Present

January 22: Chairman Eivind Tonna (NOR), Vice Chairman Antti Myllärinen (FIN) on skype, Aleksandr Bliznevskiy (RUS), Valentin Garkov (BUL), Thierry Jeanneret (SUI), Roland Hellberg (SWE) and during the first part of meeting attended IOF president Brian Porteous and from Athletes' Commission; Staffan Tunis (FIN), Hans Jørgen Kvåle (NOR) and Christian Spørry (SUI).

January 23: Chairman Eivind Tonna (NOR), Vice Chairman Antti Myllärinen (FIN) on skype, Aleksandr Bliznevskiy (RUS), Valentin Garkov (BUL), Thierry Jeanneret (SUI), Nicolo Corradini (ITA) and Roland Hellberg (SWE). Valentine bring with him one representative from a Bulgarian organizer to make a presentation as a introduction to this meeting.

Introduction

In connection with the European Championship, in Lenzerheide, Switzerland, Ski orienteering Committee customary meetings were held.

There was a pre-posting agenda that we worked through during the days of the meetings, based on current issues, tasks from the past meeting (Lavarone July 2014), experience of the last season and received items from the IOF Council, rule commission, SEA and AC.

Several of the items on the agenda, we returned to on several occasions. We also had several invite guests who presented facts before our discussions and in some cases also participated in the subsequent discussions.

Few of the items on the agenda were of the nature decision items, while the most tasks were more of the character enlightening and discussion in order for Ski-O Commission to act on at our next meeting in conjunction with the World Championships in Norway or to send further to different IOF instances.

These minutes follow the agenda, which was extended during the meetings, while we in fact discussed the points in a different order and some for several days, depending on when we were visited by our guests. It is not clear from these minutes, when the guests that were featured on the various discussion points.

On some of the points that involved significant and extensive discussions in different directions, it is not in this minutes reproduced who said what and in what direction, but only

described as that point is discussed. In contrast, at the points where we made decisions there are decision with associated responsibilities and deadlines described.

Antti, Eivind and Roland has prepared the minutes in cooperation.

Items prescribed to the extended agenda

§ 1 Remits

We worked through the existing remits and made some updates. Our ambition is to include AC on the remits as speaking partner. We agreed upon the suggestions. Roland was asked to do some cosmetics to the remits and send them out to SOC.

Decision: We agree on the updated remits so far and we will decide the content at our next meeting. **Eivind** continues to work with remits for AC support.

§ 2 Competition calendar

We worked through the status for the competition calendar 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019. The goal is to be more ahead for the future. We also want to include FISU/CISM/Universidad/World Winter Gamed in the calendar to avoid calendar conflicts.

Decision: **Thierry** continues to work with the calendar so we achieve predictable seasoning planning.

§ 3 Status for the Sport Director

We informally discussed this item and conclude that we want to have more information from IOF-office at our next meeting.

Decision: IOF will give more information about the status of Sport Director at our next meeting in Norway (probably by Tom Holloway).

§ 4 WSOC 2015 – last minute update

We wish to have more countries participating and respectively SOC member were asked to work hard with their countries. IOF President Letters send in the beginning of the season to member presidents asking them to participate will help.

Decision: SOC members must work with their respectively countries to get more participants to WSOC – the goal is to have more participant federations than in Kazakhstan.

§ 5 FISU and CISM (and also Universidad)

Eivind made an updated over the situation. There are some differences between IOF-rules and CISM- respectively FISU-rules, which we must be aware of. Valentin presented the status for FISU. Aleksandr presented the status for Universidad.

Decision: Patric work further with CISM and Valentin with FISU with help from Juraj. Aleksandr works with Universidad.

§ 6 Competition quality

We still want to reach a higher quality on our major IOF events, both from technically and from a media point of view. One request is that every organizer has to send a printed example of the competition maps with track net and a course example to the Map commission for approval. This will also be a matter for the Sport Director.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 7 Under 23

Aleksandr made a presentation of the U23-concept. SOC think this is a good proposal to overlap from junior to senior level. SOC has asked some Federations, and the most Federations do not support U23 due to financial restriction. There was a discussion, if U23 should be a part of JWSOC or a part of WSOC, and in any case, how big should the allocated competitors be?

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 8 Skiathlon

Aleksandr made a presentation of this Skiathlon concept. SOC think this could be a possibility solution when it is bad snow conditions within a venue and we want that the competitions should be organized. SOC stress the important to still focus on the orienteering (navigation and map reading) skills.

Decision: Alexander follows up the development of this format and discuss this further in Norway.

§ 9 Accreditation fee

We discussed this item and looked to historical fee levels, our rules and the ambitions with low cost, a higher degree for specialization, the organizers need for cost reductions – and concluded with it could be reasonable to have a small accreditation fee (like €10) for entered athletes if the competitors get some service from this fee.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 10 Late starts

Roland presented the discussion about rules clarification for late start. There is no simple solution. It seems not to be the late starter that is a problem for, but the competitors who will benefit from a late starter. From media perspective, SOC do not think it is a god solution to accept a late start.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway and parallel **Roland** send a mail to Rule Com and ask for support to our view.

§ 11 Information from IOF president

Brian P informed about the Winter Olympic situation. There are some new aspects - the seven sport continue, but the number of sports could increase – there will be focus on costs for the arena etc when choosing new disciplines – the host city could add events, etc. It will be important to still have and develop SkiO in CISM, FISU, Asian Winter Games, Universidad, etc. IOF must be proactive to keep SkiO in these major events and parallel woo IOC.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 12 Mass start group

Roland informed about a mismatch in the rule 12.12 – 12.18.

Decision: **Roland** make a suggestion for rule clarification.

§ 13 Anti-doping work

Doping tests were discussed and it was noted that more attention to the secrecy of the tests should be paid.

It is also a huge cost for the organizers to be prepared for the anti-doping work. SOC want that the anti-doping work should be fare and no too costly for the organizers.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 14 New timetable for rule changes

IOF has changed the timetable for rules changes – the content to this is any suggestions for rules change must be ready before our meetings in Scotland.

Decision: Roland will suggest any rule changes to Rule Com before the beginning of July.

§ 15 Expert group for helping organizers

We were discussion how we can get more competitions and starts. One solution we mentioned was to build expert group/groups that could help an organizer within technical and media parts. Another idea could be to arrange an international calendar so athletes from different countries easy could see major events incl WRE in their vicinity.

Decision: We will discuss this item further in Norway.

§ 16 Next meetings

Next meeting will be in Norway in conjunction with WSOC, Hamar. We made a preliminary agenda (see below). In Norway we will decide about meetings in Scotland.

Decision: Antti will prepare the agenda and send it to SOC

Some issues for the meetings in Norway (not in order) and preliminary meeting times:

12 feb 16:30 Hamar

13 feb 09:00 – 16:00 Budor (with a break for VIP race)

1. Minutes from meeting in Swiss
2. Frequencies of major events; WSOC every year, ESOC every second year, WCup?
3. Competition program 2017
4. Status for a Sport director – Tom Hollowell
5. Developing the sport from a market point of view – Tom/Leho Haldna
6. Competition quality – Tom/Leho
7. Arena production development
8. Skiathlon – discussion with Leho
9. U23 – discussion with Leho
10. More competitions and starts - Instruction for support group for organizers, need for an international calendar, etc
11. Accreditation fee for competitors (... €10)
12. Late starts – response from Rule Com.
13. Reflection from season 2014-15 – need for adjustments, WRE, etc
14. The way toward Olympics
15. Meetings days in Scotland, agenda