

## Minutes of Athletes' Commission - SkiO meeting 1/2014

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DATE	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2014	
PLACE	Orsa Grönklitt, Sweden	
PRESENT	Hans Jørgen Kvåle (HK)	NOR, coordinator, note taker of minutes
	Klaus Csucs (KC)	ROU
	Tatiana Rvacheca (TR)	RUS
	Christian Spoerry (CR)	SUI
	Staffan Tunis (ST)	FIN
ABSENT	Alison Crocker (ALC)	USA
	Olga Novikova (ON)	KAZ

### 1. Opening

HK opened the meeting and present the agenda.

### 2. Athletes and Nations Development

#### 2.1. IOF Ski Orienteering Academy

HK presented that the work with the Ski Orienteering Academy is going well. An application for founding has been sent to the IOF Office and IOF Vice President with responsibility of regional development Astrid Waaler Kaas.

A first presentation with parts of the material to the Ski Orienteering Academy were presented at the Nordic Junior Meeting in Norway in the middle of January. The first official Ski Orienteering Academy will be hold in Turkey in February as a part of the Engan Ski-O Days. Here approximately 100 possible participants from 6-7 nations are expected.

HK has also tried to contact the organisers of WMSC in Finland without any luck. Many military federations has asked for some Ski Orienteering education so he will continue to get in touch with the organisers for an agreement.

#### 2.2. Low cost possibilities at events

KC informed he had been in contact with the ESOC and WCup final organisers in Tjumen. They had promised to help nations with low budgets. These nations should take contact with the organisers directly. If they have any questions they can also take contact with KC and he will support these nations.

### 2.3. Eastern Europe

KC informed he had been in contact with several countries in Eastern Europe to see how he could help them. He had struggled to get in touch with the right people, but told them that they should take contact with the organisers if they wanted to take part at international events.

### 2.4. Middle Europe

CS asked AC for feedback on when SOT should be organised in 2015. Since the ESOC will be held in January and WSOC in February, only pre-Christmas or March are the organisers possibilities. It seemed like the organisers were planning a geographically compact event with the competitions organised close to the Brenner pass in Austria and Italy. AC suggested either having a shorter SOT in December or organising it as a season ending race in March. In December is risky due to the snow conditions and March might not attract as many international participants. Still the AC thought March would be the best time for SOT in 2015.

### 2.5. Baltic

ST reported that Baltic countries so far this year had been very actively in the World Cup and it seemed like there are many young and developing athletes on their way up. Unfortunately the snow conditions in the Baltic countries have been bad this year and the Estonian JWSOC organisers have even been looking for reserve arenas for the event. Still there is a month left so they hope to get snow in time.

### 2.6. Asia, Russia and parts of Eastern Europe

Nothing to report

### 2.7. North and South America

Nothing to report

## 3. Event Development

### 3.1. Event evaluation

HK informed about the evaluation from the World Cup opening in Finland. 55 replies from 12 out of 16 participating countries were recorded.

Overall the repliers were middle satisfied with the event. The organisers had some trouble with punching cards running low on battery in the first competition causing a lower score. The organisers however managed to get new replacement cards for the next competition and staged a replacement race on the rest day, giving the athletes value for their money and all World Cup races were held. There were discussions about the decision to cancel the race at the event but the evaluation clearly states that the decision made were correct.

The repliers were fairly satisfied with the information given, except of the embargoed area where there were rumours about athletes not had followed the embargo due to not understanding a bit vague sentence in the Bulletin. A standard Bulletin sample from the IOF with all sentences correctly written could prevent similar problems in the future and also raise the quality of the Bulletins. The repliers were satisfied with the event centre and the

accommodation (which were cabins booked directly for each nation), but they wanted to have some better waxing facilities. No transport were offered by the organisers since this were not practical.

The repliers really did not find the model event adequate, but they were moderately satisfied with the practical organisation of the competitions except for the course setting with butterfly loops as mass-start forking in the first middle distance. The repliers were satisfied with the maps and terrains.

There has been some varied feedback from organisers that not really see the use of having an evaluation of their event. After discussions with SOC members and others HK will continue conducting evaluations after the World Cup in Norway and Sweden. Hopefully will the evaluations make the organisers put an extra effort into the event and AC, SOC, EAs and future organisers get the athletes direct feedback on how to improve our product.

KC commented that it is important for the organisers to have as many participants as possible at their events. He questioned why bigger nations not sent full quotas to their events, and especially why they did not let athletes (or their club) pay for their own and take part in the event if they not sent a full quota. There were also comments on that some nations had participants wanting to take part, but their federation did not let them take part because they not had any team leaders.

### 3.2 Chasing start format

At the World Cup round in Sweden the new format *chasing start* was tested after AC proposal. HK asked for the ACs feedback after they tested the format.

AC found the new format interesting and would like to test it again in the World Cup. Instead of having a prologue that not count in the World Cup it could be possible to base the start list in the chasing start on a World Cup sprint. This would give the athletes more value for their money. The Sprint will then be of big importance, and if you loose a lot of time here you will loose in 2 races. But that will be a part of the game, and if Biathlon can do so without any problems so do we.

HK suggested it would be interesting to test the Chasing start format using runners choice forking. AC found the idea worth to test, but would like to try it out before being able to discuss the concept.

AC asked if there were any possible events to test the chasing start next season. Suggestions were December WR events in Scandianavia and SkiO Tour.

## 4. Rules and guidelines

HK presented proposals for rule changes in the following rules:

### Competition rules

- Send in rules changes proposed last season that not done as the AC still thinks should be changed.
- Biggest issues:

- Ski changes
- Rules for electronic start gate
- Appendix: Guidelines for chasing start
- Appendix: Guidelines for GPS tracking

### WSOC, ESOC and World Cup special rules

#### ***Proposal for the World Cup Programme:***

HK wanted to hear what the AC thought of two changes to the World Cup Programme. 1) Organising annual WCup and 2) organising the WCup rounds that not is combined with major championships as shorter 3 competition events over a long-weekend with only individual races. Will shorter WCup rounds make it easier for more athletes from more nations to take part? Would it be easier for the organisers?

AC meant longer World Cup rounds gave more value for the money than shorter events and that shortening the World Cup rounds not were to way to go. Fewer competitions at each World Cup event will also reduce the organisers income, which might make the IOF sanction fee too high for the organisers.

AC also agreed to keep 4 World Cup rounds per year, starting the first World Cup round in middle of December in Scandinavia and lasting until March.

There were some discussions around organising the World Cup annually. Last year we suggested to organise WSOC annually, but this was not approved. Since we in non-World Cup years organise enough major events (SkiO Tour, ESOC and WSOC) to hold an World Cup (12 individual competitions) this would give our sport something extra these years without too much extra effort. Depending on the dates for WSOC and ESOC maybe it would be possible to add a World Cup opening or final also, but it would not be needed to have 12 competitions.

AC discuss this with other athletes and teams until next meeting in Tyumen, were we decide if we want to make a proposal.

#### ***Proposal for Participation rules at World Cups:***

HK proposed that it would increase the fairness if all World Cup events had a full National Group (10 athletes) starting before the World Cup athletes since the conditions would be more similar for all the athletes. If there are not enough national athletes to fill up the National Group quota international athletes that are not selected for the World Cup team might start in the National Group. They will not receive World Cup points, but they will get good practice, World Ranking points and the possibility to fight for a place in the national team for later World Cups. This would also increase the organisers income so it will be easier for them to cover expenses.

Old rule:

*“As well as the two extra official competitors (rule 6.10), the organising Federation may enter up to 10 additional national competitors (National*

*Group) for the competition, but these must start prior to the official World Cup competitors and they can not be awarded World Cup points or prizes.”*

Proposed new rule:

*“As well as the two extra official competitors (rule 6.10), the organising Federation may enter up to 10 additional national competitors (National Group) for the competition. After the preliminary entry the organisers shall announce how many national competitors that will take part in the National Group. If the organising Federation will not enter all 10 additional national competitors, athletes from other nations can apply for a place in the National Group until the Final Name Entry. The selection of international competitors for the National Group shall be made according to the World Ranking. The National Group must start prior to the official World Cup competitors and they can not be awarded World Cup points or prizes”*

The start allocation for the National Group should maybe also be added to the Start allocation special rules.

#### World Ranking special rules

The SOC asked AC to look through the new FootO World Ranking rules:

- Separate ranking list for sprint and distance
- Sum of the 4 highest scores from the last 12 months makes your ranking
  - Only 2 WOC points may count in the ranking
  - Overseer Athletes may have points valued longer (?)
- Fixed points or point intervals for the winner of WRE
  - WOC Finals: 1500 ranking points.
  - World Cup, The World Games, Regional Championships (World Cup status): 1450 ranking points.
  - Regional Champs (non World Cup status): A min. possible score of 1100 ranking points, max. possible score of ranking 1400 points.
  - All other WRE including the Junior World Championships: A max. possible score of 1400 ranking points and a min. possible score of 800 ranking points.
  - Minimum 10 ranking points to all finishers

AC discussed how these rules could be implemented in Ski Orienteering. HK make a draft for a proposal.

#### Mapping specifications

Last spring AC sent a proposal to the Map Commission for updates on the ISSkiOM. Still the Map Commission has not replied to this proposal, but they sent out a clarification of the map symbol sizes at different scales as we proposed. HK suggested that AC resend the rest of our proposal to the Map Commission.

### Chart for Ski Orienteering organisers

HK informed that he is trying to summary the feedback received through the event evaluations and combine them with the competition and special rules to prepare a chart for Ski Orienteering organisers and EAs on what the athletes expect from a major Ski Orienteering event.

### Bulletin dummies

After questions from organisers how to write the Bulletin correctly and to raise the quality of the Bulletins HK proposed that we shall send a request to the IOF Office if they can prepare Bulletin dummies they send to organisers of IOF events that it is easy for the organisers to use and make changes to so they fit their event and tell all the participants what they need to know.

It could also be an idea to have standard forms for entries, complaint/protest, EA- and organisers reports.

Other proposals shall be sent to HK so he can write a proposal for rule changes that can be discussed at the AC meeting in Russia before being sent to the right commissions. Both AC members and all other athletes/team officials can send proposals to HK:

[hansjorgen@benhamkvale.com](mailto:hansjorgen@benhamkvale.com)

## 5. Anti-Doping matters

ST informed he is no longer in the ADAMS reporting system and therefore does not have as good contact with the development. As the athlete in the AC with the most experience on this he will still have the Anti-Doping responsibility in AC.

ST informed that WADA has launched an ADAMS application for smartphones that will make whereabouts reporting more convenient for the athletes. However, as his user account for ADAMS is no longer active he has not had any chance to try it out

The IOF conducted doping tests on the World Cup Round in Sweden. AC hopes to see even more doping test at events and out of competition tests conducted by IOF and the national agencies.

## 6. Communication

### 6.1. Social medias

HK informed he has opened a Twitter account for the AC, @SkiOrienteering. This account is made to spread information from the Ski Orienteering world to all enthusiasts. Here we have the opportunity to spread even more information than we do on the Facebook page, without letting our followers get "tired" of Ski Orienteering news.

HK also informed that all major Ski Orienteering events are now Facebook events where interested athletes and coaches can find all the events easily and all information about the event.

All the AC members are encouraged to help HK to update these social medias.

## 6.2. Ski Orienteering Awards

HK suggested that AC hold a Ski Orienteering Award ceremony at the banquet at the World Cup final and ESOC in Russia. Suggested prizes:

- Male Ski Orienteer of the year
- Female Ski Orienteer of the year
- Newcomer of the year
- Team of the year
- Most unlucky athlete of the year (?)
- SkiO picture/movie of the year
- SkiO course of the year
- Organiser of the year
- Athletes prize (open, can be won by anyone nominated by the AC)

AC is the jury in each category, except of the Athletes prize where AC nominates and the athletes vote for their favorite.

## 6.3. SkiO Dream Team Competition

HK suggested holding a Dream Team Competition at ESOC. The Dream Team competition is a manager game where the participants have 30 millions to buy 3 men and 3 women for their SkiO Dream Team. All participants at the ESOC will be given a value from 1 to 10 millions which is shown in a List of Competitors. A team can only consist of one athlete from each nation. During the event the Dream Team get points from the athletes position in each race with 100 points to the winner, 99 to 2<sup>nd</sup>, 98 to 3<sup>rd</sup> etc. The owner of the Dream Team with the most points after the event is the winner.

This should make the athletes know each other better and make them bound across nation and level boarders. HK can stage the competition. The winner will be announced during the Ski Orienteering Awards.

## 7. Future AC meetings

- 9th March, WCup Final and ESOC, Tjumen, Russia

Work to have accomplished by this meeting:

- Get better contact with the countries in your responsibility region. Find out how we can support them to increase the SkiO activity in their country and get them more active at international events– All
- Event evaluation for World-cup round 2 in Norway and Sweden - HK
- Prepare proposals for rule changes and a organising chart – HK
- Any input on Anti-doping matters – ST
- Communication – HK
  - Continue spreading information on Facebook and Twitter
  - Prepare Ski Orienteering Awards
  - Prepare SkiO Dream Team Competition
- Prepare next meeting - HK