

Athletes SkiO Commission meeting 7 March 2013

Date: 7 March 2013

Place: Holiday village "Singorye"

Present: Alison Crocker (USA), Andrey Lamov (RUS, *representing Eduard Khrennikov (RUS)*) Christian Sporrey (SUI), Hans Jørgen Kvåle (NOR), Staffan Tunis (FIN) Tatiana Kozlova (RUS, *representing Olga Novikova (KAZ)*).

§1 SkiO rules adjustments suggestions to SkiO Commission

This meeting was used to discuss through and find Athletes Commissions view on possible rule changes SkiO Commission want to do next season

1. *Formulate a supplement to competition rules in order to make the requirements for national championships with WRE status more clear. All athletes should be allowed to take part in the event and foreign athletes should not be discriminated in the start list. If mass start the foreign athletes must be allowed to take part in the mass start. Individual start for foreign athletes must at least get their seeding position from WRE or better. Meaning the organiser can put all foreign competitors last in the start field. Maximal gap from national to international group should not exceed 5 min.*
 - Athletes Commission (AC) finds todays rules on this pretty clear. They might need some change for extra clarity, but it is more important that the nations start following this rules. If it is not possible the event might not be a WRE event.
2. *Change the rule regarding mixed sprint relay, that the teams can decide by them self if they want to start with a man or a woman. The stages should be designed so they take equal time for men and women. This means that there are different stage lengths depending on gender. All running the same distance should be of the same gender, otherwise it becomes too difficult for the organiser to keep track of the various stages. All stages should be forked.*
 - AC agrees with this rule change. This is the way it has been done the last years anyway.
3. *Help the organiser about if to start with the man or woman in the mix sprint relay. Proposal is to change the start order each WSOC (ie every two years) and each ESOC (every year).*
 - AC think for WOC the starting gender should alternate and that EOC has the opposite gender.
 - AC also finds it very important that the gender order in the mixed sprint relay are clear in advance and should be announced in Bulletin 1 or 2
4. *Clarifying the start allocation method for different forms of competition and when there are several competitions in the same event which system of rules prevails, even in relation to national rules. This is especially a problem how the seeding should be at*

WRE competitions. Current SkiO rules do not specify in a sufficient degree what applies to WRE.

- AC finds it hard to make a general rule for start allocation in WRE because the number of participants varies between 2 and 60. We think this might not be anything for the rules, but more for the organiser handbook.
 - Athletes Commission thinks that in races with more than 10-20 participants there must be some seeding in WRE.
5. *Clarify how international rules should interact with local rules. IOF Rules take priority over national rules (ie WRE).*
- The International Ski Orienteering rules define pretty clearly that international rules take priority in international events as WRE.
6. *When competing at WRE competitions in other countries than the country you live in, should you compete for your country or club?*
- Athletes Commission doesn't see this as a big issue, and think it is ok if national rules decide. But to represent countries is also ok for WRE
7. *Clarify that regional championship in as large extent as possible, follow the rules of WSOC, although there are more participants per federation in a regional championship compared to WSOC. The start allocation methods in Regional Championship should follow the start allocation methods for WSOC.*
- This will only work for Europe region. But for Asia and North America this does not work. This is nothing for the international rules, but for the regional special rules for ROC.
8. *Clarify how the prohibited area shall be shown on the map and if it should be marked in the terrain. Should there be a difference between whether the prohibited area has a line around on the map and how it then should be marked in the terrain?*
- Athletes Commission thinks if forbidden areas have to be used all tracks going in to this area should be marked. It is also important that the marking on the map are clear as possible and that the right symbols are being used.
 - Athletes Commission also want that forbidden areas will be informed at the Team Officials meeting and if possible shown on the old map of the area.
 - It is also important the course setting avoid that the best route choices are through forbidden areas.
9. *Clarify how roads shall be shown on the map depending on whether a road is covered with snow without tracks, snowploughed and skiable, sanded or snowless. Should an unploughed road be taken away from the map? http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/ISSkiOM_2009_corrected_2010.pdf*
- Athletes Commission thinks this rule is pretty clear.
 - But the Athletes Commission wants a clarification about forbidden roads. They are not allowed to follow, but are they allowed to cross?
 - Athletes Commission thinks snowless and heavy sanded roads always should be forbidden. Running with the skis in the hands should be avoided in Ski Orienteering and we do not want to destroy our equipment.
10. *View of the damage from this year, we want that the JWSOC relay should be allowed to have three teams in each class (W & M) per Federation so that EYSOC athletes can participate at the relay (or that all juniors in place could participate - for example,*

this year did not three Russian junior boys compete for there went three super EYSOC guys). It was not okay to mix the teams if you had two full teams with, which leads to that Finland and Russia had a number of athletes who did not have a relay. To have three teams does not affect the results because only the best team counts. We should not require that competitors from EYSOC should be accredited on JWSOC to participate to the junior relay.

- AC agree with allowing 3 teams to start at JWOC. But we had discussions about how many teams that should be allowed to fight for JWOC result. Maybe just the 1st team?
11. *Clarify if you are or not are allowed to have junior in the senior relay teams if the juniors not are acidity in the senior quote for that federation.*
- AC thinks juniors should be allowed in senior competition as long as they also are accredited as seniors/fit in the quote
12. *Clarify rules for quarantine zones.*
- AC understands quarantine zones will be more used in the future, and think this is a good thing if it is needed to develop our sport. But it is important that the quarantine zone have good enough facilities. It is hard to make any rules about this because it depends on many factors, for example how long time the quarantine is going to be. But it is important that there are sufficient possibilities for warm up, both running and skiing. The quarantine zone should also have toilet facilities and preferable a heated room/tent.
13. *How calculate the realycup when including mixsprint?*
- Athletes commission thinks only the best team should count the in relay world cup, but that every team will get an result. Since mixed relays now will be a big part of all the relays we think it should only be one relay world cup, not men and women separately.
 - AC always discussed to take away the sprint world cup. Especially to include team results in the individual world cup seems weird.
14. *Stating that if the organiser provides GPS equipment, can not a competitor refuse to wear this. Failure to carry the equipment from start means disqualification. Of course, an athlete can by accident drop the equipment in the forest, but if a competitor deliberately takes off the equipment it will cause disqualification.*
- This rule is pretty clear already
 - AC thinks again it is important that course setting should make the best route choice not go through forbidden areas. If this still occur there should be guards in the forbidden area
 - AC does not think the solution organisers do today with showing the map on the tracking during the event, but then to take it away after the event are a good solution. We think it is better to always show the map, but instead use corridors of the best route choices or hide the map in part that are critical for later competitions.
 - Since only some of the athletes today use GPS devices provided from the organiser AC also thinks all athletes should be allowed to ware their own GPS units (without map function). Today the athletes carrying the organisers GPS units have the possibility to analyze their race, while the rest does not have this possibility.

§2 Further work for the Athletes Commission

Season evaluation

Hans Jørgen will send out a questionnaire and get feedback from athletes and team leaders from the season and summarize this for SkiO Commission and Event Advisers.

Rule changes

Hans Jørgen will support Roland Hellberg in SkiO Commission in their work of updating the international SkiO rules.

All AC members should think and talk with more people about the suggestion of annually WOC and WCup. We also need to decide what we think about ski changes in the long distance. We were split in one or none. If you have some new thoughts tell Hans Jørgen.

AC will hopefully get the World Cup special rules for 2014 as we will look through and comment during the summer. Waiting for SOC

We are also waiting for the suggestion for the new world ranking rules from the IOF working group. We should get this by the middle of the summer.

Change of mapping specifications

AC wants to make A4 the standard map size for SkiO maps. We also would like to add a new supporting map scale to the long distance for readability; 1:10000. Ski-o maps cannot be simplified as foot-o since they already are and we often use same areas for long and sprint races.

AC also would like to have clarification of forbidden roads. They are not allowed to follow, but are they allowed to be crossed?

Today two different colours for ski-o green are being used. One following the mapping standard and one darker. The organisers often use the darker for readability. Should we allow both or just have one standard?

We would also like to have some example pictures in the IOF mapping specifications about how control circles should be cut to show the tracks and also example for how to make maps for colour-blind persons.

Hans Jørgen will take contact with SOC and Håvard Tveite in IOF mapping commission.

Organiser Handbook

Hans Jørgen will work with SkiO Commission to get our viewpoints into the Organiser Handbook

Future events

Christian Sporrey will keep up his work with SkiO Tour organisers and try to make them have one organising committee. Also informing them about that we exist and if they have any questions they would like the AC view on we are happy to help them.

Staffan Tunis will start a dialog with the Finnish organisers for next year's World Cup while Hans Jørgen will have contact with the other WCup organisers. We will also inform about ACs existence and the help we can offer. We will also make sure the organisers are making a proper web page and possibilities to follow the competitions live here.

Alison Crocker: work with organisers of North American championships and trying to make Canadians and Americans athletes take part in more ski-o races, both nationally and international.