

Helsinki 2013-02-05

World Orienteering Championships, Qualification and Starting order

Summary of proposal for hearing by IOF member federations

This document summarises the IOF Council's proposal for qualification to the individual Middle and Long distance finals in the World Orienteering Championships 2014 and onwards, and how to decide the starting order.

The proposal has been developed as a result of the decisions taken at the IOF General Assembly 2012 in Lausanne concerning the future programme of the World Orienteering Championships.

The proposal in full detail, including background and reasoning, is published on the IOF website under the section "Foot Orienteering – WOC in the Future". This document summarises the proposal.

1. Qualification to Middle and Long distance finals

1.1 Introduction of a Division system

It is proposed to introduce a Division system which defines the number of starting places a nation is entitled to.

- Nations ranked 1-8 have a base allocation of 3 runners (Division 1)
- Nations ranked 9-22 have 2 runners (Division 2)
- Nations ranked 23- have 1 runner

Countries will be ranked separately for men and women. Men and women will have the same number of countries in each division.

1.2 Initial set-up of the system

The initial set-up of the system to use results from the preceding 2 years (2012 and 2013), with the same point score to be used for long and middle.

1.3 Promotion and relegation

At the end of each year, nations are moved between divisions as follows, based on points from the preceding two years:

- The highest-scoring country from Division 2 promoted to Division 1 for the following year

- The lowest-scoring country from Division 1 relegated to Division 2 for the following year
- 2 highest-scoring countries from Division 3 promoted to Division 2 for the following year
- 2 lowest-scoring countries from Division 2 relegated to Division 3 for the following year

The number of countries listed above for promotion/relegation would be a minimum. If a country outside the automatically promoted group outscores a country outside the automatically promoted group – despite having fewer runners to earn points (e.g. if the 2nd highest-scoring country in Division 2 outscores the 2nd lowest-scoring country in Division 1) – those countries would also exchange divisions.

1.4 The point score system

- Individual: 120 for 1st place, 100 for 2nd, 80 for 3rd, 70-65-60-57-55-53-51 for positions 4-10, then 50-49-...-1 for positions 11-60. In the initial set-up of the system when qualification races are still in use, places 16-20 in the qualification races would earn 15-12-9-6-3, and those who qualify for the final but do not record a result in the final would receive the points for last place in the final (normally 16).
- Relay: 240 for 1st place, 160 for 2nd, 130 for 3rd, 114 for 4th, 106 for 5th, then 100-96-...-8-4 for positions 6-30.

If a country has more runners than it would be entitled to from its divisional status alone (through personal places for World or Regional Champions, or through being a host country), only its best 3 (2,1) runners should score points if the country is in Division 1 (2 or 3 respectively).

1.5 World Champion has a personal place

The World Champion in the distance should have an additional, personal place, provided he/she is part of a nation's team.

1.6 Regional Champion has a personal place

The Regional Champions in the distance should have additional, personal places at the next World Championship after that Regional Championship, and provided he/she is part of a nation's team.

1.7 Host nation has full representation

Regardless of the division in which they are currently placed, the host nation should be allocated 3 places.

1.8 Demand on minimum quality

The ability of division 3 countries to start 1 runner in the final should be conditional on that runner having achieved a World Ranking score of at least 500 points at least once in their career prior to the WOC event (this could occur at earlier events in the same WOC, e.g. the Sprint Qualification).

2. Determining the starting order in the Middle- and Long distance finals

2.1 Use of World Ranking

The World Ranking List forms the base for determining the starting order at the WOC Middle and Long finals.

The IOF Council has initiated a review of the current World Ranking System with a goal to address issues raised by member federations.

In the event of a separate ranking for middle distance and long distance (or for middle and long distance combined) being developed, consideration shall be given to using this ranking in place of the 'full' World Ranking.

2.2 The Red start group

The 10 highest-ranked competitors, according to the competitors' current World Ranking, calculated as of the day before the competition, should have the 10 last places in the starting sequence, with their order to be randomly drawn (a "Red Start Group").

2.3 The remaining start field

All remaining competitors should start in the reverse order of their World Ranking, with any ties to be resolved by a random draw.

2.4 Protected ranking

Further investigation shall be carried out as to the feasibility of using a 'protected' ranking or other similar mechanism for formerly highly-ranked competitors with poor World Rankings as of the start of WOC. An example where this could be applicable is maternity-leave.

2.5 Runners from same nation may start in sequence

Rule 12.9, which states that athletes from the same nation shall be separated by one runner and may not start in sequence, shall no longer be applied to the WOC long or middle distance finals.

2.6 Final decision on race-programme

The question of whether the men's and women's races are run simultaneously, overlapping or separately shall be determined by the WOC organizer, with the approval of the SEA and in consultation with broadcasters and with the IOF Sports Director.