
WORLD SKI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS (WSOC) 2020

– GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS –

General information

In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly of the IOF in Strömstad, Sweden in August 2016, the World Ski Orienteering Championships (WSOC) will be organised every year. In odd years WSOC shall be organised with a longer distance based competitions and even years with shorter and more stadium based competitions.

In accordance with the above, all IOF member federations are hereby invited to submit to the IOF an application to host the WSOC in the year 2020 (Stadium formats). Note that the announcement of this application is also being sent to potential venue partners, however any application shall be submitted by an IOF member federation. The application deadline is 1 January 2017.

Event programme

The **WSOC programme 2020** includes a Sprint competition, a Pursuit competition (based on the Sprint competition), a Middle Distance mass-start competition and a Sprint Relay (6 legs/2 persons, minimum 1 women per team). All competitions are intended to be organised in the surroundings of a cross country ski- or biathlon stadium. In addition to the competitions above the program includes ceremonies (opening, medal and closing ceremonies), adequate model events and rest. The total WSOC program is not expected to be longer than 6 days.

The goal of the IOF is to achieve media coverage and sponsorship support for the WSOC. The Leibnitz Convention, the WOC Guidelines, the Protocol Guide and the Sponsor Guide (all available on the IOF website, www.orienteering.org) are guiding documents in order to make IOF events more attractive and exciting, and of better quality for competitors, spectators, the media (including TV and the Internet), and sponsors.

For information on the competition formats, please consult the Competition Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events.

Event dates

In order to make WSOC the highlight of the Ski Orienteering season, IOF prefer if the event is organised in February or March. WSOC should also be coordinated with FISU World University Ski Orienteering Championship – WUSOC 2020 (dates tbd) to avoid overlap in dates

Costs (see IOF Competition Rules Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events, 7.1-7.8)

- The costs of organising an event are the responsibility of the organiser. To cover the costs of the competition(s), the organiser should seek sponsors and partners for the event but may also charge accreditation and entry fees of the participants and team officials. This fee shall be kept as low as possible and shall be approved by the IOF Senior Event Adviser.
- Each federation or individual competitor is responsible for defraying the expenses of travel to the event, accommodation, food and transport between the accommodation, event centre and competition sites. If the use of official transport to the competition sites is mandatory, the entry fee shall include these costs.

General information on application criteria and procedure

The application (in English) shall be submitted to the IOF Office by the National Orienteering Federation, not by the local organiser, using the official application form. The deadline for applications is 1 January 2017.

The application schedule is as follows:

October 2016	Application forms are distributed to the national orienteering federations and potential venues
1 January 2017	Deadline for applications to host the 2020 World Ski Orienteering Championships
1 January 2017 →	Review of the applications

The IOF Council appoints the WOC organiser for the year 2020 after evaluating the bids by 1 May 2017. A decision about the preliminary event dates will be taken in conjunction with the appointment.

Competition arenas

The quality of the competition experience depends significantly on the location and the nature of the competition arena, the layout and quality of its facilities, and the extent to which it is possible to see the athletes in action. Wherever possible in the context of providing a fair and suitably challenging competition, arenas should be attractive, easily accessible and provide opportunities for building a good spectator experience. The arena may use existing facilities or be temporarily built for the occasion.

The organiser should consider the spectator aspect also in their marketing of the event, to an internal orienteering fan base as well as the general public. The organisation of the event should be done in such a way as to maximize the number of on-site spectators and enhance their experience.

Organising fee, Anti-doping requirements, TV and Internet rights

In accordance with the rule 4.3 of the Competition Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events, the IOF Council has taken the decision to impose a levy on the event. This compulsory fee shall be paid to the IOF to obtain the organising rights for the event. The fee includes partial sponsorship rights.

The fee applicable to the 2020 World Ski Orienteering Championships is 10,000 EUR.

The organizer shall provide a local contact person for Anti-doping matters and shall provide local infrastructure for testing in accordance with IOF requirements, i.e. appropriate testing facilities and athlete chaperones. All other costs and management for doping tests that must be carried out at the Event shall be borne by the IOF Anti-doping fund. The appointed organizer shall make a contribution to the fund for the Event. For WSOC in 2020 the contribution is 4,800€. The Anti-doping contribution will be invoiced together with the sanction fee for the event.

The IOF, the national federation and the local organiser shall strive to achieve as extensive TV and Internet coverage of the event as possible. The organiser may not enter into any TV or Internet agreement without prior consultation with, and approval of, the IOF. To maximise Internet coverage, the IOF offers the Event organiser to present the event in IOF Live Center for free. IOF has the right to present any TV and live streaming production as well as GPS tracking and live results from the event in IOF Live Center, unless these rights have, with the approval of the IOF, been sold to specific regions. The organiser shall aim to optimize the internet coverage by maximize the provision of GPS units to the athletes in the finals (as close to 100% as is financially viable and at a minimum of 40 athletes per class).

Evaluation criteria

The IOF Ski Orienteering Commission uses the following set of criteria to evaluate WSOC bids.

- The applicant's vision of the World Ski Orienteering Championships and the outlined event concept
- Centralised accommodation of athletes, officials, media representatives etc. as possible, the aim of which is to create an 'Olympic Village' atmosphere.
- Suitable terrain for each of the competitions included in the programme (see above under item II: "Event programme")
- Good maps, track system and courses
- Start and finish in the assembly area
- The organisers/federation have good access to TV coverage
- The event is planned to ensure the possibility for good TV coverage

- The assembly area is sited close to a built-up area, with good press facilities and access to phone, fax and internet.

Information to be included in the application

1. General information

- The applicant's vision of the event
- The event concept

2. Dates and climate

- Preferred date or period and the reasons for proposing this period
- Climate, average temperature in the proposed period
- Snow conditions

3. Event centre

- Location
- Accommodation (standard and price ranges with attached photos and/or brochures)
- Location/structures for ceremonies (opening/awards/closing/banquet)
- Location/structures for meetings (gatherings of 10 to 50 people)
- Location/structures for media representatives

4. Competition centre

- Terrain description and altitude (some form of map shall accompany the application)
- The local organiser's experience in organising high-level competitions and international events. Experience and capabilities of preparing ski orienteering tracks
- Competition centre's accessibility from the event centre
- Telecommunications and internet support at the centre
- Information about landowners
- Name and experience of map maker

5. Travel and transport

- Closest international airport
- Travel costs and alternatives in the region
- Transport plans during the event period

6. Partnership agreements (written agreements/letters of intent to be submitted)

- Plans/contracts with the National Federation
- Plans/contracts with the competition centre
- Plans/contracts with sponsors
- Plans/contracts regarding TV coverage

7. Organisation/finances

- Planned organisation for the hosting of the event
- Financial plans for the hosting of the event

Further information and advice

The IOF, through its Ski Orienteering Commission is prepared to offer guidance on all aspects of organising the World Ski Orienteering Championships. Applicants wishing to receive further information and advice in relation to the application procedure are advised to contact the IOF Office (iof@orienteering.org).

Matter		Contact	Email
TV rights, contracts, etc.		Tom Hollowell, IOF CEO	tom.hollowell@orienteering.org
Practical administration matters		IOF Office	iof@orienteering.org
Orienteering-related matters*	SkiO	Eivind Tonna, SkiO Commission Chair	eivind.tonna@orientering.no

*terrains, arenas, technical requirements, etc.