

# Consultation paper on IOF Sustainability Policy

## 1 Introduction

The IOF General Assembly 1998 adopted an Environment Policy which is little known among the national federations and the organizers of orienteering events. To strengthen both the strategic work on the international level and the practice on the organizer level, a revised policy is proposed.

This consultation paper contains both the text proposed as a new *Sustainability Policy* (chapter 2) and a complementary background paper (chapter 3 and further) which justifies the revised goals in the policy and outlines several measures which the orienteering community should consider implementing.

The consultation paper is penned by the IOF Environment Commission. The commission would very much appreciate feedback on the document from all orienteering communities, and especially from national federations. The consultation period will last until 31 July 2017. Please send feedback to the chairperson of the Environment Commission, Einar Tommelstad [tommelstad@gmail.com](mailto:tommelstad@gmail.com).

After the consultation process, the Sustainability Policy together with background papers and received feedback will be submitted to Council as a proposal for adoption on the General Assembly in 2018.

## 2 Sustainability Policy (to be adopted by the General Assembly)

The human race is over consuming the resources of the Earth and the change of our own habitat is on track to be irreparable. The overwhelming facts of nature curtailment and Climate Change is beyond the political arena. It is our common responsibility to act, on local and organizational levels like the orienteering sport community, even though parts of the world deny the facts or the will to act. We cannot wait for government permission to act.

As part of the global community of sports, we are obliged by statute to abide the Olympic Charter and implement the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21. The sport of orienteering is expected to contribute to a more sustainable development, even though our environmental footprint already is very low.

The sport of orienteering is particularly connected to nature and green areas because the forest is the arena of our sport. It is essential for us to care for both nature itself and the partnership with governing bodies and landowners.

As a sport dependent on green areas to passionately practice our activity, we have a distinct responsibility to defend, respect and care for nature both at local and global levels. **This Policy therefore aims to bring the sport of orienteering from words to action.**

To achieve a real contribution to sustainability of the world as we know it, and to ensure our sport access to desired areas in the future, the General Assembly of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) adopt the following principles:

- All orienteers shall act carefully in line with the **Code of Conduct** of orienteering.
- All IOF work and all IOF events shall be **completely carbon neutral** by using a fee-based carbon crediting system.
- All orienteering events and activities shall be **completely litter free** and ensure **best practices for waste handling**.
- All orienteering events and activities shall be **properly planned and organized** to care for flora, fauna and relevant stakeholders in the area.
- All national federations shall prepare environmental **good practice guidelines** specific to their own countries.

To help to execute the principles, the IOF shall develop and maintain:

- A *Code of Conduct*
- An *IOF Policy on access to terrain*
- Suitable *measures* to achieve the embedded sustainability targets
- Relevant *guidelines* and *checklists* for event organizers
- *Knowledge* of public access to terrain
- *Documentation* on how orienteering does or does not impact nature
- Examples which *showcase* orienteering as an environmentally friendly sport

### 3 Background paper

#### 3.1 Summary

The background paper justifies the revised goals in the policy and outlines several measures which the orienteering community should consider implementing.

Overall, the orienteering community is already very good in most of the goals in the policy, especially about planning and organizing events, and the policy also have a mission to communicate this high level of our work. What is new, going from an environment policy to a sustainability policy, is our responsibility to act on sustainability issues in a broader perspective, and Climate Change specifically.

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### 3.3 Time frame towards adoption

Milestone	Document	Outcome	Time
EnvC meeting	Consultation Paper	Discussion	May 2017
Open consultation phase	Consultation Paper	Feedback	May-July 2017
Presidents Conference	Consultation Paper	Feedback	WOC week 2017
Joint Meeting	Draft Policy Paper	Feedback	January 2018
Council meeting	Draft Policy Paper	Passage	March 2018
Deadline GA proposals	Final Policy Paper	Proposal	March 2018
General Assembly	Formal proposal	Adoption	October 2018

## 4 Sustainability – the concept

The term *sustainable development* is widely used but the modern concept derives from the United Nations (UN) World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), also known as the Brundtland Commission 1987 report, *Our Common Future*. Today the concept contains economic development, social development and environmental protection.

The sustainable development concept is based on the insight that human consumption, over time, can't be higher than the ecological system provides. One important earlier work using the term sustainable was the Club of Rome in 1972 with their classic report, *Limits to Growth*, about economic and population growth with finite resource supplies.

As environmental concern has grown into major issues for the world, especially climate change, sustainable development has evolved into a substantial special field of both research and politics. Today sustainable development, sustainability and environmental science go hand in hand.

For the term *sustainability*, the meaning in general is defined as the endurance of systems and

processes. However, since the organizing principle for sustainability is sustainable development, the expression has the same meaning in the public. Both terms are used on the same field, which often refers to four interconnected domains: Ecology, economics, politics and culture.

It is argued that the term “sustainability” should be viewed as human-ecosystem equilibrium (homeostasis), while sustainable development refers to the holistic approach leading to sustainability, but for this document that nuance is not particularly relevant.

To measure the human impact on Earth's ecosystems, methods for estimating the ecological footprint is developed. Typically measured as amount of natural capital consumed each year is used. Ecological footprint analysis is now widely used around the Earth as an indicator of environmental sustainability.

## 5 Obligation and motivation

### 5.1 Agenda 21

The Earth Summit (UN Conference on Environment and Development, UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, resulted in the following documents:

- *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*
- *Agenda 21*
- *Forest Principles*

Also, legally binding agreements (the Rio Convention) were opened for signature:

- *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*
- *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- *UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*

The adopted *Agenda 21* is an action agenda for the UN, other multilateral organizations and individual governments to act at local, national and global levels. One of the significant implementations of Agenda 21 is that local authorities take steps to implement the plan locally. These programs are often known as Local Agenda 21.

Besides the UN adopted Agenda 21, an association called ICLEI was formed in 1990 of more than 200 local governments from 43 countries. This association, today known as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, now have more than 1500 members from 86 countries and their focus is to promote local action for global sustainability. Their program consists of the Rio Convention and topics from Agenda 21. ICLEI is widely regarded as a paragon of Agenda 21 implementation.

Especially relevant for sport is that the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) signed an agreement with the IOC in 1994 to develop joint initiatives, and an Agenda 21 for sport and the environment was developed.

### 5.2 Sustainable Development Goals

On 1 January 2016, the 17 *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit – officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate

change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals.<sup>1</sup>

Sport has proven to be a cost-effective and flexible tool in promoting peace and development objectives. In the Declaration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>2</sup> sport's role for social progress is further acknowledged:

*"Sport is also an important enabler of sustainable development. We recognize the growing contribution of sport to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect and the contributions it makes to the empowerment of women and of young people, individuals and communities as well as to health, education and social inclusion objectives."*

The United Nations envisages sport to be an important and powerful tool with the potential to tackle challenges entailed in each of the 17 SDGs<sup>3</sup>.

### 5.3 The Paris Agreement

*The Paris Agreement* was adopted by all 196 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. Implementation of the Paris Agreement is essential for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience.<sup>4</sup>

The first installment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report confirms the overwhelming scientific consensus that the impacts of climate change are accelerating, and they are largely driven by human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. For the first time, the report also quantified the global "carbon budget," the amount of carbon dioxide emissions we can emit while still having a likely chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. If emissions continue unabated, the world is on track to exceed this budget in only about 30 years – exposing communities to increasingly dangerous forest fires, extreme weather, drought, and other climate impacts.<sup>5</sup>

The world is behind the schedule and UNEP writes in their introduction about Climate Change: The potential for runaway greenhouse warming is real and has never been more present. The most dangerous climate changes may still be avoided if we transform our hydrocarbon based energy systems and if we initiate rational and adequately financed adaptation programmes to forestall disasters and migrations at unprecedented scales. The tools are available, but they must be applied immediately and aggressively.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (web page visited 14 November 2016).

<sup>2</sup> [UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015.

<sup>3</sup> From <https://www.un.org/sport/content/why-sport/sport-and-sustainable-development-goals> (web page visited 16 April 2017).

<sup>4</sup> From [www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/parisagreement22april/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/parisagreement22april/) (web page visited 14 November 2016).

<sup>5</sup> From <http://www.wri.org/ipcc-infographics> (web page visited 19 November 2016).

<sup>6</sup> From [UNEP web page](#) (web page visited 26 February 2017).

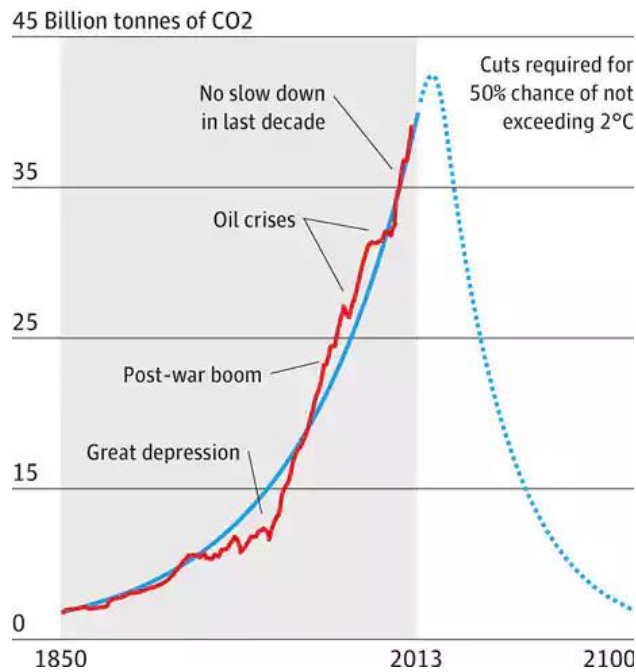


Illustration: Emissions graph from [The Guardian](#): CO<sub>2</sub> emissions since 1850 (red); exponential growth (blue); cuts to hit climate target (dashed blue).

Climate change is already affecting nature. [A report published in Science](#) in November 2016 says: "Most ecological processes now show responses to anthropogenic climate change. In terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, species are changing genetically, physiologically, morphologically, and phenologically and are shifting their distributions, which affects food webs and results in new interactions. Disruptions scale from the gene to the ecosystem and have documented consequences for people, including unpredictable fisheries and crop yields, loss of genetic diversity in wild crop varieties, and increasing impacts of pests and diseases. In addition to the more easily observed changes, such as shifts in flowering phenology, we argue that many hidden dynamics, such as genetic changes, are also taking place. Understanding shifts in ecological processes can guide human adaptation strategies. In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, climate action and policy must therefore focus equally on strategies that safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems."

#### 5.4 IOC Sustainability through Sport

Recognising its responsibility to promote sustainable development, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) considers the environment as an integral dimension of Olympism, alongside sport and culture. Taking into consideration the decisions adopted in 1992 by the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro regarding Agenda 21, the Olympic Movement decided to establish its own [Agenda 21](#). Adopted by the IOC Session in 1999, the aim of the Agenda is to encourage the members of the Olympic Movement to integrate sustainability principles into their operations.

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The Olympic Movement  
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own Agenda 21

The *IOC Guide on Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development* was developed by the IOC in collaboration with all the Olympic International

Federations to help the members of the Olympic family transform the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21 recommendations into concrete actions and programmes. The Guide offers methodological and practical tools to the sports community, based on the principles of sustainable development.

In connection with the Rio+20 summit in 2012, IOC published a document, *Sustainability through Sport: Implementing the Olympic Movement's Agenda 21*, which contains a summary of progress made over the last 20 years in the area of sustainable development, including environmental protection, education and socio-economic development. Besides looking back, the new publication also casts a look forward to determine the steps that need to be taken to involve future generations – today's young people – in the process of working towards greater sustainability.<sup>7</sup>

## 6 Ethics

Ethics is not discussed as a separate topic in this document, but integrated in other discussions.

## 7 Footprint of Orienteering

### 7.1 Sports Facilities

The sport of orienteering does not require permanent sports facilities, but takes place in a variety of terrains, both forest and urban areas. Large orienteering events sometime use existing arenas built for other sports, if the terrain right next to arena is suitable. Footprint from construction, maintenance and operation of sport facilities is therefore close to zero.

Normally the arena for orienteering is built up of temporary installations for each event and removed immediately after. The arena typically contains the competition finish facilities together with assembly area facilities, customized to the size of the event.

### 7.2 Events

Orienteering events vary from a very small number of participants to several thousands. At the smallest, there are only a few controls in the forest and one time keeper, and at the biggest events, it is more like a weeklong festival with large service facilities.

In general, the larger the event is, the larger the footprint grows. In terms of necessary facilities to organize the event, the need grows in both width and amount. Examples of relevant topics to address in an environmental and sustainability perspective are: Arena equipment, electric power, food service, wastewater from showers, lavatories, transport and parking. In terms of the strain on the terrain used, it is particularly relevant to consider the care for the flora and fauna.

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<sup>7</sup> From [IOC Factsheet: The Environment and Sustainable Development \(Jan 2014\)](#) (web page visited 19 November 2016).



### 7.3 Nature and Wildlife (flora and fauna)

Orienteering has always been a forest-based sport. The sport originates from the concept of finding the fastest way from A to B through the wilderness, with help from a map and a compass only. With a growing number of participants, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, awareness of the impact on wildlife and nature also came to attention. The relationship with stakeholders, like landowners, hunters and authorities, was gradually managed more systematically. One example is that course planners have developed methods to avoid too much interference with the wildlife.

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Taking care of nature is essential to secure access also in the future

Our direct use of nature, like forests and other outdoor areas, does require particularly strong attention to this aspect of our sport. Taking care of nature is essential to secure access now and in the future.

Over the last two decades, orienteering has moved more and more into urban areas, like parks and streets, with a new type of challenges regarding stakeholders. The terrain is different from the wilderness, but the demand for dialog with stakeholders and consideration for the surroundings is no less important!

### 7.4 Surrounding partners

Organizers of orienteering events need to address stakeholders on different levels and different topics. Depending on the size of the event, an organizer must invest adequate resources in this. Among stakeholders and topics, the following are relevant:

- Authorities and regulations
- Landowners (terrain, assembly area, hunting grounds, parking area)
- Nature and wildlife
- Other stakeholders
  - Forestry
  - Hunting
  - Nature conservation organizations
  - Outdoor life
- Athletes and participants
- Other sports (in the same terrain)
- Special for urban areas
  - City government
  - Traffic (police)
  - Cafes, shops, etc.
  - Other landowners and stakeholders

### 7.5 Personal Equipment

Orienteering is a sport where the athletes need very little personal equipment. Customized shoes and clothing, a sport magnetic compass and a training watch fill the need. The footprint is very low, even for professional athletes, for wearing out shoes and clothes on a regular basis.

The key equipment for the athletes, the customized map, is to be considered as consumption in

terms of using new and different maps all the time. Due to fact that the maps are printed on standard paper, and the transparent plastic protection, if used, is also considered a standard product, neither have a considerable impact to the footprint.

## 7.6 Travel

Travel is probably the biggest indirect impact orienteering has on the environment. Actually, almost everyone travels every time they participate in an orienteering event, small or big. It is not often that public transportation is suitable or that the event is in biking distance. This means car travel is extremely common for most orienteers. Further, many orienteers travel quite a lot by plane to participate at all forms of orienteering events, in their holidays, training camps and championships. The transportation sector counts for 14% of the global greenhouse gas emissions<sup>8</sup>, and the wear and tear of car tires accounts for around half of the emissions of microplastics<sup>9</sup>. This topic has not yet been addressed in the orienteering community.

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Travels are probably the biggest indirectly impact orienteering have on the environment

## 7.7 Unique to the Ski-O Discipline

Ski-orienteering is typically organized at cross- country ski arenas, but with an additional customized network of ski tracks created by snowmobile. Ski-orienteering requires about the same standard of personal equipment as cross- country skiing, with distinctive environmental issues to some types of ski wax. Ski-orienteering is quite small in numbers of events and participants.

## 7.8 Unique to the MTB-O Discipline

MTB-O is typically organized in terrain with a high density of paths and tracks. Personal equipment is, as the discipline name indicates, a mountain bike. There are different regulations in different countries on where it is allowed and acceptable to ride, so land access is probably the main specific issue to address for the MTB-O discipline.

## 7.9 Unique to for the Trail-O Discipline

Trail-o is typically organized at places where roads and paths are available by wheelchair. There are no special environmental concerns for Trail-O.

# 8 Earlier IOF work

Traditionally, the IOF and its member federations have focused on nature impact issues. Both as correction and improvement after incidents, but also as precautions to avoid incidents. Earlier work by the IOF Environment Commission has also focused on nature impact, to **collect knowledge and to document how the sport of orienteering does or does not harm the nature.**

[The previous IOF Environmental Policy](#), adopted by the General Assembly in 1998, is a one-page

<sup>8</sup> From <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data> (web page visited 25 February 2017)

<sup>9</sup> From <http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/en/News1/2015/The-rogues-gallery-of-microplastics/> (web page visited 25 February 2017)

document with a bullet list of principles to follow. The policy focused on behaviour towards nature and local stakeholders. The preparatory work is not documented, or at least not known to today's EnvC. The policy document is probably very little known in the orienteering community today. This may be explained by good behaviour of event organizers and athletes in general, and the level of conflicts are low. On the other hand, the text in the policy is rather superficial and mostly encouraging. **To move from words to action, a new policy should both set executive goals and impose requirements on the organization and the member federations.** Also, the policy mainly addressed the term *environment* and does not address the term *sustainability*.

## 9 Initiatives to join

### 9.1 UN Climate Neutral Now

The secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is leading a campaign to motivate individuals and organizations to take climate action by contributing to the global effort to achieve a climate neutral society. As part of the [UN's Climate Neutral Now Initiative](#), companies, organizations and individuals can pledge to:

- Measure and report their greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible
- Offset remaining emissions with UN Certified Emission Reductions (CERs)

Sports organizations have a particularly important role in working toward climate neutrality. They inspire and delight citizens all over the world, and as such can greatly increase awareness and promote additional climate action from civil society.<sup>10</sup>

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Sports organizations have a particularly important role in working toward climate neutrality

The UNFCCC Climate Neutral Now web site offers both a [Climate Footprint Calculator](#) and webshop for purchasing CERs. By 2016, the CERs cost from 1 to 5 USD per tonne, and the calculator tells that the average emissions per capita per year is as follows:

Country	Tonne per year per capita
Hungary, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland,	6-7
China, Denmark, France, Italy, Lithuania, Slovakia, UK	8-10
Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Japan	11-12
Brazil, Czech Rep., Finland, Norway,	13-15
Estonia, New Zealand, Russia, USA	18-20
Australia, Canada	29-33

<sup>10</sup> From [UN FCCC web page](#) (web page visited 7 January 2017).

Note that these numbers are a simplified calculation per capita, and a given person's footprint can be much larger or smaller dependent on transport, household standard and lifestyle!

For example, travelling by car to orienteering events can be calculated as:

Car type	Km per event (round trip)	Number of events per year	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> (equivalent)
Average diesel car	300	10	0.37
Average petrol car	300	10	0.62

Air travel is not included in the calculation above. To calculate the footprint of air travel, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has developed a Carbon Emission Calculator. This calculator uses typical aircrafts on the different routes, and counts each flight you put in. For example, the calculator can tell the following:

Route (round trip)	Tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> (equivalent) per passenger
Stockholm-Alicante	0.43
New York- London	0.72
Oslo-Antalya	0.44
Zurich-Helsinki	0.31

## 9.2 UNEP #CleanSeas campaign

Marine littering is not directly connected to the activities of orienteering, but waste can possibly end up in the ocean.

Examples of relevant actions:

- Dispose of plastic properly (best practice waste management)
- Reduce use of plastic bottles (provide tap water, if possible, for free)

## 10 Examples of implantation and actions

The International Ski Federation (FIS) has developed several tools to increase their effort in terms of sustainability. The *FIS Green Guide for Events*<sup>11</sup> describes 8 areas of consideration, which is useful also for other outdoor sports. Further, FIS has established guidelines and checklists for the world championships, referred to in a later chapter.

The 2015 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships in Falun (SWE) received an environmental certification by the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation. The vision was that the entire competition arena would be carbon neutral, partly by using the municipal energy system with renewable energy and

<sup>11</sup> From [FIS web page](#) (web page visited 26 February 2017).

environment-friendly transport and vocational vehicles.<sup>12</sup> Falun 2015 also received the ISO 20121 certification. To achieve ISO 20121, the organisations must demonstrate that they have considered within their management system all key financial, economic, social and environmental issues relevant to their operations. Focusing solely on environmental issues is not sufficient.<sup>13</sup>

World Orienteering Championships (WOC) 2016 in Strömstad-Tanum, Sweden, set high goals to reduce the impact on the environment and climate. They became certified<sup>14</sup> in accordance with the environment [diploma](#) by Svensk [Miljöbas](#). In the final report of WOC 2016, the organizer writes that several of the goals were not reached. The biggest challenge was to implement solutions that work, both in planning and executing, and in economic terms. The organizer also addressed that IOF should have higher ambitions on Environment, Climate and Sustainability.<sup>15</sup>

## 11 Areas and Possible Actions of Implementation in the IOF

### 11.1 Administration

The typical activity of an international body like the IOF is administration, meetings and travel. While the daily work is office based and consists of typical office workplace issues, there is also much travel per person in the organization. Both to conduct the formal meetings that constitute the organization on different levels, but also all the travel that is necessary when executing the objectives decided by the General Assembly and Council.

To confirm best environmental practices at the IOF office, the IOF should be **certified to an environment management system**, like the [ISO 14001](#), [EMAS](#) or a relevant national standard, like the [Swedish Environmental Base](#). See also the [comparison](#) between the standards.

Even though retirement funds in recent years have had an increased attention to climate risk<sup>16,17</sup>, the largest carbon footprint for an individual may be the pension savings. The IOF should consider to **adopt ethical investment, with fossil fuel divestment**, as a criteria for choice of provider of pension services for their employees.

### 11.2 Sponsors

Even though orienteering does not have an abundance of sponsors, the IOF should consider to **adopt a set of criteria for relevant sponsors and partners** and the events it's governing. It is difficult to use a environmentally friendly label on our sport and argue that the IOF is completely carbon neutral if the main sponsor is a major emitter of greenhouse gasses. Probably this can be solved in context with the consideration of adoption of ethical investment with fossil fuel divestment, mentioned above.

### 11.3 Travels

Available technology makes it possible to substitute meetings that require travel with video call

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<sup>12</sup> From [FIS web page](#) (web page visited 26 February 2017).

<sup>13</sup> From [FIS web page](#) (web page visited 26 February 2017).

<sup>14</sup> From [IOF web page](#) (web page visited 19 February 2017).

<sup>15</sup> [Report](#) uploaded on the IOF web page (web page visited 05 March 2017).

<sup>16</sup> [IPE web page](#) (web page visited 05 March 2017).

<sup>17</sup> [Pacific Standard web page](#) (web page visited 05 March 2017).

meetings and similar. And there are examples from other organizations about imposed travel policy, i.e. use of train instead of airplane or car, but consequences on time spent must be considered. Another incentive could be to have more generous terms on travel expense reimbursement if travel is by train, electric car and similar.

To reduce the footprint from meetings and travel, the IOF should:

- Organize meetings in conjunction with events where the participants already are present
- Choose locations which lead to less total travel for the participants
- Organize meetings and seminars as video call meetings or webinars
- Implement a **travel policy** for employees and volunteers
- Favor low emission alternatives when refunding travel expenses for employees and volunteers
- Implement travel as an evaluation criteria in the impact study for IOF events

To be carbon neutral, the IOF should implement a travel policy where all travels are compensated for, by CERs or similar scheme

#### 11.4 Procurement and Purchasing

In principle, the IOF should have a procurement policy which addresses sustainability and the environment. But the IOF has a very small administration and therefore it seems inexpedient to develop a bureaucracy around procurement. On the other hand, the IOF office should consider health, safety and environment (HSE) when purchasing different articles or services.

Examples of procurement the IOF office does:

- Bank and insurance services
- Office building and electricity
- Office machines and stationary
- Advertising material, and printed matter
- Medals and prizes
- Transport of goods
- Travel of staff
- Internet services, like web pages and communication platforms
- Services supplied to organizers, i.e. IT and timekeeping, TV production, doping controls

#### 11.5 Local Actions (by member federations, i.e. national associations and districts)

The IOF should encourage its member federations to follow the same policies as IOF adopts. In principle, the IOF could set minimum criteria for the member federations, but it is probably not possible to sufficiently monitor or enforce them .

The IOF should focus on marketing of how we as a sport behave, and **IOF should support local actions through examples of best practice** and checklists for events.

One fundamental question to reduce the footprint of the sport, both directly in terms of impact on terrain use for the activity, and indirectly in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, is if there should be restrictions on participation. However, several studies<sup>18</sup> show that the sport does not leave lasting

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<sup>18</sup> IOF have published several studies at their [web site](#).

traces in the terrain, even the very big events. With good planning the impact on the nature is very limited. Travels should be addressed, to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, but in other ways than stop participating in outdoor sports. Also, people that experience nature tend to care for it, and the sport orienteering should therefore attract more people to join our activities.

## 11.6 IOF events

The IOF is governing several different events, with rather different profile, both in terms of disciplines and size of participants and interests from outside. From the largest and most complex, the WOC week, to smaller competitions assign as World Ranking Event (WRE).

For IOF events, IOF make written agreements with the national federation. The agreement document should **state clearly the responsibilities** of each party. Which responsibilities are placed at the IOF and which are placed at the national federation, and which responsibilities the national federation can and can not forward to the local organizer. In this context the IOF should do a **study on the potential liability of IOF events**, including environmental situations, to find out if there is need of an organizer insurance on IOF events.

All events, including IOF events, should be conducted in best manner regarding health, safety and environment (HSE), and when applicable do risk assessment in their planning to minimize the probability and the potential consequences. On the other hand, it is probably a lot to learn from earlier events, and therefore more efficient on most levels will be if the **IOF to set requirements to be fulfilled by the organizer**, both for the planning and goals to achieve for the event itself.

How strict the IOF should put requirements on the different events, must be in context with how big the event are, and how much resources the IOF have on event advising. The existing arrangement with **IOF appointed event advisors should be used**, by educating them to check environment requirements also. If there is no one from IOF to advise or verify that the requirements are followed, then the requirements in reality is only recommendations. But of course, national event advisors can do as well job as IOF event advisors!

For large IOF events, and other IOF events with interests from outside the sport, there should be an **impact study** as part of the bidding process, where environment and sustainability is a part of the study. The impact study should be an important document in the evaluation of the candidates and key elements should be included in the contract for hosting the event.

As an example, FIS request an environmental report in addition to the candidacy documents. The content is described in their *Environmental Guidelines for Sustainable FIS World Championships*<sup>19</sup>. FIS has also developed a checklist to complement the framework in the guideline.

“  
there should be an  
*impact study* as part of  
the bidding process

In relation to the requirements and the impact study, there should be a **report from the organizer** afterwards. This can both be helpful for the IOF to improve their requirements and the advisor role,

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<sup>19</sup> From [FIS web page](#) (web page visited 26 February 2017).

and to document the impact of large orienteering events. If possible, such a report (or the final report from the organizer) should be connected to a reward, for instance an agreed percent of the total payment from the IOF, to motivate the delivery. Use of Eventor as system for events reporting could be an effective way to collect statistics from different types of events, and the IOF should consider to discuss such development of Eventor with the provider, on a strategic level. Especially if IOF's use of Eventor contributes to a wider acquisition of the software among the IOF member federations.

To achieve the goal in the Sustainability Policy that all IOF events shall be **completely carbon neutral** by using a fee-based carbon crediting system, it is recommended that the IOF implements this fee as part of the agreement with the national federation mentioned above. Buying offsets should be administered by the IOF. Such a fee should be predictable for the organizer by the requirements from the IOF. Further, the IOF should consider how to use the impact study and the reporting mentioned above to calculate the fee.

The use of Eventor as registration system for events make it possible to integrate measures on each participant, if the organization is willing. Registration systems like Eventor facilitates to require registration and payment up front. This makes it possible to adopt an environment fee on each participants, and in theory the fee can be dependent on where the participant travel from. The environment fee should only be collected by IOF to be paid directly to achieve the goal "to be completely carbon neutral". For championships an environment fee should be a flat rate on each competitor and officials, to avoid extra burden on only a few countries.

### 11.7 Management system on events

To manage quality and environmental issues on IOF events, the IOF should evaluate a selection of existing management systems for events and if suitable consider to implement such a system.

### 11.8 Large non-IOF events (> 1000)

The sport of orienteering have quite good experience with large events. Many countries have events with more than 1000 participants, and the classics like O-Ringen, Sweden, and Jukola, Finland, with more than 10 000 participants are more like festivals than normal orienteering events.

There is no clear definition between large and medium sized events. What is clear though, is that the bigger the event is the more important it is to plan and execute environment friendly behaviour as part of the event.

The governing bodies of large events, often the national federation, have the responsibility to set goals and requirements for the events and to assure the quality is achieved. Environment friendly behaviour should be an important part of this.

The IOF should prepare **guidelines and checklists based on best practice** to help the governing bodies and the organizers to plan and execute their events in the best possible way. Examples of best practice should be picked up from both inside and outside the orienteering community.

Basically, almost every aspect of an orienteering event have potential environmental impact, and should be considered:

- Terrain issues, flora and fauna



- Arena, landowners
- Electric power
- Catering and food services
- Waste handling
- Shower, waste water
- Lavatories
- Transport, parking

Example: Payment for parking dependent on numbers of passengers and dependent on car and fuel type.

Vehicle	No. of passengers	Price
Bus	20 or more	Free
Electric car	any	Free
Diesel or petrol car	3 or more	Normal
Diesel or petrol car	1 og 2	Double
Diesel or petrol car	0	Triple

### 11.9 Small and medium non-IOF events (< 1000)

Small and medium sized events should follow the guidelines and checklist for large events, as long as suitable or relevant.

### 11.10 Guidelines (on politics, collaboration, nature, terrain/maps, events)

The IOF should prepare guidelines on environmental topics, with examples of best practice from different regions.

All national federations should prepare environmental **good practice guidelines** specific to their own countries, in relevant languages.

### 11.11 Promotion of orienteering

The IOF should develop different ways to promote orienteering as the environmental friendly sport it is. Examples of such promotion can be marketing material to used by IOF in existing channels, and concepts as add-ons to events or other activities.

### 11.12 Code of Conduct

One way to communicate our position and values could be a short point-based document that formulates a promise on how we act towards the community, the nature and each other. The IOF should consider to establish a **code of conduct** for all orienteers.

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