

**MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING
FEDERATIONS
Saturday, 6th July 2002 at Fontainebleau, France**

SEMINAR:

1. **How to organise future management of the European Championships.**

As a result of the decision taken at the General Assembly the previous day, this matter should be returned to at the Presidents' Conference in Switzerland in 2003. Until then Council will be responsible.

The timing of the European meetings was then debated. Whether it should be before or after the Presidents' Conference or Congress, or even both before and after can be decided from year to year according to circumstances. The discussions should include Mountain Bike-O, Ski-O and Trail-O as well.

2. **The principles and rules for the European Youth Orienteering Championships.**

Oyvind Holt presented his paper (revised 27th June 2002). A discussion on when in the year it should be held, then followed:

- Great Britain pointed out that it must not conflict with the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC).
- Bulgaria was happy with the first week in July, but preferred the last week in June.
- Russia and Germany preferred the last week in June as well.
- In Belgium there is a problem with the exam period at this time.
- Ukraine suggested that there would be visa problems.
- Slovakia pointed out that the European Youth Championships 2003 was staged for the third week in June and would like advice on whether this would be the right time.

It was also pointed out that no Scandinavian teams had entered the event this year in Gdansk, Poland. Comments about this followed:

- Sweden said that this was not a question of time, more a question of money and also they do not have a team in this particular age group.
- Finland: the situation is similar to that of Sweden and they think that there is no need for this Championship at this stage.
- Norway will discuss potential future participation in the competition
- Denmark's view is similar to that of Sweden and Finland.

The details of the winning time for the normal race were then discussed with Federations in general agreement that 45-50 minutes is about right. Ukraine asked whether the **normal** race should be planned as a **middle** or a **long** race. The general agreement was that the planning should be as for a **long** race.

Russia asked whether associated IOF members could organise the European Youth Championships, and not just full members. This suggestion was supported by Bulgaria. Oyvind Holt pointed out that IOF Rules must be followed and that IOF Rules do not allow associated members to organise. Spain was in agreement with this, pointing out that there was not sufficient experience in running events in associated Federations.

Item 4 in Oyvind's paper was about participation and suggested that each Federation may enter four runners in each class. However, if the number of participating

Federations were more than 25, the maximum number from each Federation should be reduced to three. A debate on this then followed. Ukraine suggested that the clause relating to the “runners from participating Federations should be reduced to three” should be deleted.

Oyvind pointed out the principle behind this was one of fairness of competition and not one of organisation. Hungary agreed with four per Federation. Czech pointed out that the Special Rules are annual and can be adapted to suit the circumstances. But Oyvind pointed out that it was not practical to change the Special Rules every year, especially as the period of application is two years beforehand.

Italy asked whether we could agree on the Special Rules now. Austria wanted a vote on the current Special Rules. Switzerland pointed out that it should be the Foot-O Commission who should decide the Rules and that their decision should be based on the results of the debate in the Seminar. Finland agreed that it was crucial that the Foot-O Commission should decide the Rules. Helge Simonsen summed up by suggesting that the European Presidents should recommend the Rules to the IOF and that the IOF should then decide.

(Footnote: It was pointed out that at present there were nowhere near 25 Federations entering the competition; as long as the Scandinavian teams do not attend, then we are not in danger of invoking the Special Rules anyway.)

Regarding the Special Rules, Norway pointed out that these are valid for Foot-O only and asked what the situation was about Ski-O. Oyvind suggested that we should have general rules for all disciplines and Special Rules for individual ones and that the latter could be based on the Foot-O Special Rules.

3. **New Championships**

This discussion was preliminary to Item 8 for the Annual Meeting of European Presidents later on.

Oyvind gave some opinions about the new championships which were heavily influenced by input from Federations and coaches beforehand. He suggested that there should not be a regional event that challenges the JWOC and that M/W –20 should not be European Championships.

Proposed M/W-23 Championships: the suggestion was that this should not be a new class. The case for helping young orienteers to develop should be promoted by including young runners in World Cup teams instead; for example, there could be one under-23 runner in every World Cup team. (NB this was a Foot-O Commission proposal from the Helsinki meeting).

European Masters competition: again the principle of not challenging the existing IOF event, i.e. the World Masters Orienteering Championships, should hold. A European Masters Championships would weaken the IOF funds too, since it takes a large fee from the World Masters.

Ukraine suggested that there should be medals for M/W-23 in the context of the World Cup. This was supported by Russia. In particular, Ski-O has good experience of under-23 competitions and we should learn from this.

4. **Applications for future events.**

There were three applications for European Youth Orienteering Championships in 2004, from Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria.

Denmark then gave an update on the European Championships for 2004. Bulletin 1 is ready now. However, there were funding problems and that led to a change of event area. The dates are 10th –17th July. More details can be found on their website www.eoc2004.dk.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN
PRESIDENTS
Saturday, 6th July 2002 at Fontainebleau, France**

1. ROLL CALL

Nations present were Austria, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Russia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Spain, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Poland and Germany.

In the Chair was Helge Simonsen, Norway; Secretary: Oyvind Holt, Norway; the rest of the Working Group, Alexei Kusmin, Russia; Mark Heikoop, Netherlands, Juan Garcia Tutor, Spain; Konrad Becker, Switzerland were present too.

2. Approval of the Minutes from Tampere meeting

The Minutes were approved and actions taken by the Working Group discussed. In particular, Oyvind reported that the European Youth Orienteering Championships 2002 were well organised by Poland.

3. Rules for a European region of IOF

The Chairman pointed out that there was little need for discussion on this matter as it has now been handed over to the IOF for formal deliberation. This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

4. Rules for the European Youth Orienteering Championships

These are to be decided by the relevant IOF body. This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. Frequency of European Youth Orienteering Championships

Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia proposed that the Championships be held annually. This was unanimously decided. At the same time Slovakia was given approval for the Championships in 2003.

6. Appointment of Organiser for EYOC 2004

Hungary withdrew its application for this event before the voting took place. The voting which followed was: Austria, 8 votes; Hungary, 7 votes. There were 5 abstentions. Therefore Austria was appointed to hold the European Youth Orienteering Championships in 2004.

The Secretary pointed out that there was no IOF price tag for the event. However, the event must fund an IOF event adviser, this funding to cover transport and accommodation.

7. Appointment of future organisers.

Since all Federations should have an equal chance to apply for the European Youth Orienteering Championships, the Czech application for 2005 will be put on hold until the Working Group sends out application forms to other Federations. These will be sent out as part of the Minutes, which will also point out that the deadline for applications, is 31st January 2003.

European Orienteering Championships, 2006: as there is no schedule for the World Cup 2006 yet and as European Championships are likely to be combined with a World Cup event, we must return to the question of EuOC 2006, when the World Cup programme is established. The Working Group will then take up the issue and the

meeting unanimously decided to mandate to the Working Group to discuss the appointment with the relevant IOF Commission.

8. Proposals for new events

- i) Proposals for an M/W20- European Championship were voted on. There were 2 votes for, 13 votes against, with 5 abstentions. Therefore, the proposal was not carried.
Proposals for an M/W23- Championship: there were 3 votes for, 13 against, and 4 abstentions. Therefore, the proposal was not carried.
- ii) Proposal for a Masters European Championship: there were 2 votes for, 13 against, with 4 abstentions. Therefore, the proposal was not carried.
- iii) Slovakia withdrew its proposal for an M/W23- Ski-O Championship. Voting then proceeded on the proposal for an M/W17- Championship to be held alongside the Ski-O JWOC from 2003. The voting was 10 for, 2 against, with 8 abstentions. Therefore, the proposal was carried - a recommendation to the relevant IOF bodies will now be made.

9. Next Meeting

This should be held in conjunction with WOC 2003 in Switzerland, and will be held before the Presidents' Conference.

10. Appointment to the Working Group

This is an interim measure until the IOF decides on the rules for interregional bodies.

There were two proposals for the structure of the Working Group. The Chair proposed that there should be 5 plus Secretary; Bulgaria proposed a wider grouping with 7 plus Secretary. This was voted on.

The Chair's proposal gained 10 votes, the Bulgarian proposal, 8 votes and there were 2 abstentions. The Chair's proposal was thus carried. The Working Group was then elected. The Chairman, Helge Simonsen, indicated that he was standing down from the job and the proposal that the current Working Group be elected en bloc with the exception that Helge Simonsen be replaced by the current Norwegian President, Bjorn Berntsen, was accepted unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

Spain is looking for input into the possibility of having a European Mountain Bike Championships in conjunction with the Mountain Bike World Cup. This should be considered by the Working Group in conjunction with the relevant IOF bodies.

Finally, the Chairman was thanked for all his hard work with the group over the last few years. The Chairman in turn thanked all the members of the Working Group, especially the Secretary, for their own hard work.