

**MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING  
FEDERATIONS**  
**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Rapperswil, Switzerland**

**SEMINAR:**

**1. European Championships July 2002 – July 2003**

Øivind Holt reported on the Foot-O European Championships held since the last meeting.

- EYOC (Slovakia) – the event advisor Dusan Vystavel, CZE reported a successful event and the organisers were thanked. 19 Federations had taken part and there was a good spread of winners throughout the nations. The 2004 EYOC takes place in Austria.
- EUOC (Hungary) – a successful event that attracted good press coverage. Thanks were expressed to the organisers and to the SEA (Morten Dalby).

Kåre Kirkevik (chairman Ski-OC) reported on the Ski-O European Championships held since the last meeting.

- EYOC (Russia) – this was organised in conjunction with the European Junior Championships and was a successful event despite there being fewer participants than expected. The organisers were thanked.
- EUOC (Italy) – this was organised in conjunction with a World Cup event and was very successful. The organisers were thanked.

**2. Future applications to hold EuOC (2006) and EYOC (2005)**

Estonia and the Czech Republic gave short presentations regarding their bids to hold EuOC 2006 and EYOC 2005 respectively. There was also a bid from Hungary to hold EYOC 2005 but no presentation was made (HUN not present at the meeting).

**3. The role of the European Championships in a wider Regional Championship context**

Brian Porteous (FOC Chairman) emphasised that he was keen to listen to views and that the main discussion relating to this issue would be held at the Presidents' Conference next day. He reminded the meeting that Regional Championships are much easier to discuss in a European Context than in the rest of the world and that the 2002 Congress expected that development should involve *partnership* with regions.

Bjørn Berntsen pointed out that responsibility for the European Championships was still in the hands of the European Presidents as no alternative structure was yet available from the IOF.

**4. Special Rules for EuOC (see appendix).**

Øivind Holt introduced the draft document and reminded the meeting that it would be valid from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004. The Special Rules were then discussed:-

**Principles**

- In general, the number of Special Rules should be minimised (FIN)
- The number of competition days should be reduced to 5 (EST)

- Qualification and Finals need more competition days – there should be 7 competition days including Finals in 5 consecutive days (Konrad Becker)
- The Working Group should consider programme models before next year's meeting (Øivind Holt)
- World Cup rounds don't need Qualification races (GER)
- The new IOF Rules require Qualification for World Cup Finals (Brian Porteous)
- If the number of runners per event were reduced to 3, there would be no need for Qualification races (ITA)
- It's better to give more runners especially the second best, the chance to compete and gain experience – hence 6 runners per event (Øivind Holt)

### **Frequency of EuOC**

Øivind Holt summarised the case for and against an annual EuOC and reminded the meeting that, for the time being we still have a World Cup and that there is a limit of 20 competition days per year for elite runners.

The advantages of an annual EuOC are that this is more attractive for media and sponsors and higher status helps runners to get more funding. In addition, the profile of orienteering is raised as EuOC has higher status than the World Cup.

If the EuOC continues to be staged every two years, regions outside Europe could attract elite runners to go there in non-EuOC years, conflict with the Nordic Championships would be avoided, it would be easier to find qualified organisers and the IOF would have greater flexibility in controlling its event calendar, especially in years which contain the World Games.

- Orienteering is not an Olympic sport so elite runners have few opportunities to show themselves; an annual EuOC is thus supported. Moreover, in ex-Soviet countries, medals are important for funding and the profile of the sport (UKR)
- The IOF will establish a working group to look into the whole issue of a world programme; thus we should revisit this issue in 2004 and should be wary of introducing more championships (FIN)
- There already is a World Cup event in 2005 which, if given EuOC status, would not involve holding any additional events (RUS)
- The proliferation of championships in the last few years results in too much competition. Finland's proposal is supported (ITA)
- A clear message on the future of the World Cup is needed from Council before decisions about EuOC can be made. Finland's proposal is supported (CZE)
- Finland's proposal is supported (Bjorn Persson)
- The Finnish position is understood (GBR)
- A decision should be made only on 2005 (RUS)
- A way should be found to combine EuOC into an annual World Cup (UKR)
- EuOC in 2006 should be postponed (ITA)

### **Openness of EuOC**

- Non-European runners should be able to compete in EuOC (RUS)
- Openness is supported (NOR)
- Non-European Federations could save money if EuOC is closed and this could be used to fund their own development (EST)
- It is better to be open for the time being as long as EuOC also is a WC event. So the organiser does not need to make two result lists, that may confuse media and spectators. (Øivind Holt)

**Relay – how many teams should count?**

- It is difficult to make decisions now as the future of Regionalisation is unknown (ITA)
- There is a similar situation in JWOC; more countries can take medals if only one team per Federation counts in the results. Countries should nominate which team is to count in the Relay beforehand. (RUS)

**5 Members of the Working Group for the next year**

Bjørn Berntsen reported that all members of the Working Group were prepared to stand next year except for Konrad Becker, so a new member would be needed and the Ski-O commission would be proposing a candidate.

- We have confidence in the Working Group and are in favour of making as few changes as possible (SWE)
- It is not necessary to have a Ski-O member and Hans Breckle (GER) is proposed (Konrad Becker)
- Juraj Nemeč (SVK) of the Ski-O Commission is proposed (Kåre Kirkevic)

**6 Any other business**

The Special Rules for Ski-O and MBO will be discussed in 2004. The MBO Commission was asked to prepare a draft.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN  
PRESIDENTS  
Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2003 at Rapperswil, Switzerland**

**1. Roll Call**

Nations present were Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden and Ukraine.

In the Chair was Bjørn Berntsen, Norway; Secretary: Øyvind 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 Fontainebleau meeting**

The Minutes were approved. Øyvind Holt reported that Radoslav Jonas, SVK had been appointed as Event Advisor for EYOC 2004 in Austria

**3. Special Rules for the EuOC**

**(1) Principles for EuOC**

These were agreed

**(2) Event Programme**

Estonia proposed that (a) together with IOF Commissions, a suitable programme concept for EuOC should be worked out, and (b) the concept should be presented and voted on at the meeting of European Presidents in 2004.

**This was accepted without voting.**

Sweden proposed that decisions on frequency of EuOC should be deferred until 2004.

**The voting was For: 11 votes; Against: 4 votes; Abstentions: 0.**

Great Britain proposed that the EuOC be held in 2005 in conjunction with the World Cup as a one off event to assess the viability of holding the EuOC on an annual basis.

**The voting was For: 5 votes; Against: 6 votes; Abstentions: 4.**

The Chair proposed that there should be a EuOC in 2006.

**The voting was For: 14 votes; Against: 0 votes; Abstentions: 1.**

As a result of these votes, item 2 of the Special Rules regarding the Event programme was approved.

**(3) Participation**

The Special Rules proposed that the EuOC should be open only to European runners.

**The voting was For: 3 votes; Against: 7 votes; Abstentions: 4.**

An Italian proposal that only 3 runners should be allowed to compete in each competition was withdrawn, but is to go to the working group for further consideration. It should be noted that the reasoning behind the proposal is that:-

- Qualification races would be avoided
- It would favour specialisation of athletes
- There would be a reduction of time and costs

- The races would be fairer towards the weak (both from a financial and a technical point of view) Federations

The Special Rules proposed that in the Relay, a Federation may enter two teams.

**The voting was For: 11 votes; Against: 2 votes; Abstentions: 2**

The Special Rules proposed that in the Relay, only the better-placed team will count in the results..

**The voting was For: 11 votes; Against: 2 votes; Abstentions: 2**

#### **(4) Event application and appointment of organiser**

This was agreed

#### **(5) Prizes**

This was agreed

#### **4. Appointment of the organisers for the 2005 European Youth Orienteering Championships**

There were two applicants, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

**The voting was CZE: 7; HUN 3; Abstentions: 5**

#### **5. Appointment of the organisers for the 2006 European Orienteering Championships**

The application from Estonia was approved.

#### **6. The possibility of staging a European Mountain Bike Championships in conjunction with the MBO World Cup**

Juan Garcia Tutor, MBO Commission Chairman, explained that the World Cup in MBO is likely to be replaced by a series of World Ranking Events. A decision on this depends on the Presidents' Conference approval of an annual MBO WOC.

The earliest time when a MBO European Championships could be staged would be 2005. The whole issue will be referred to the working group for further consideration.

#### **7. The venue and format of the next meeting.**

The delegates agreed that the next meeting should be held at Vesterås on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September (before Congress)

#### **8. Appointment to the Working Group**

The approval of the meeting was granted to all those members who wished to remain in the working group. Two candidates were proposed to replace Konrad Becker, Hans Breckle and Juraj Nemec.

**The voting was: Hans Breckle (GER): 3 votes; Juraj Nemec: 10 votes.**

#### **9. Any Other Business**

Italy suggested that there was too little focus on MBO and Ski-O in the European Presidents' meeting. Bjørn Berntsen explained that there was sure to be more on the agenda next year.

Bjørn Bertsen will present a set of working rules for this European meeting next year in Västerås.

Great Britain proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the Secretary for their hard work and especially for the well-conducted nature of the meeting.

Draft Minutes taken by David May (GBR).

### **The appointed working Group 2003-04**

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## **Special Rules**

### **EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

European Orienteering Championship (in short EuOC) is the official event to award the titles of European Champion in Orienteering. It is organised under the authority of the European Presidents meeting / IOF and the appointed Federation.

These special rules are valid from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2004.

#### **1. Principles for EuOC**

The championship shall be organised in accordance with the following principles:

- The participants shall be offered competitions of the highest technical quality.
- The organiser shall follow the design of a compact championship model in order to minimise transport time and cost and give competitors, leaders and other representative of orienteering a possibility to meet outside the forest.
- The costs of participation shall be kept low and accommodation of different standard and prices shall be offered.

#### **2. Event programme**

The event is organised in 2004 and 2006. (*the future frequency to be decided in the 2004 European Presidents meeting*) The program shall be kept within 7 days and include the following *races*

- Relay
- Long
- Middle
- Sprint

The individual races shall be organised as a qualification race competition with A- and B-finals.

In the relay race each team consists of 3 competitors. The event shall follow the IOF Competition Rules unless otherwise is stated in these Special Rules. The dates of the EuOC shall be co-ordinated with other international events and finally approved by IOF.

#### **3. Participation**

Competitors representing IOF full member Federations can compete in EuOC including competitors representing European associate members of IOF.

In the individual events a federation may enter maximum **6 runners** in each class. The current European Champion shall be given a wild card to enter the qualification in the next EuOC in addition to the ordinary entries from his federation.

In the relay a federation may enter 2 teams, but only the better-placed team will count in the prize list.

There shall be no limit on the number of runners and leaders in a team

#### **4. Event application and appointment of organiser**

Any European Federation, full member of IOF may apply to organise EuOC. Applications shall reach the IOF Secretariat before January 31<sup>st</sup> 3 years prior to the event. The Meeting of European Presidents appoints the organiser. An IOF licensed advisor from another federation shall be appointed to control the event.

## **5. Prizes**

The organiser shall prepare and pay for specially designed medals (as decided by the European Working Group) for all the individual events (3 medals in each class / race) and relay (9 medals in each class) and diplomas for places 1-6.