

Annual Meeting of the European Orienteering Federations Sunday, 12th September 2004 at Västerås Sweden

Part I: Summary of the discussion in the Workshop

The chair of the Working Group (WG), Bjorn R. Berntsen, opened the meeting and introduced the WG members and presented the programme for the workshop. The aim of the workshop is to discuss the main items on the agenda of the annual meeting.

1. *Proposed Statutes for AEOF.*

B. Berntsen introduced the present situation with no detailed working rules for the Annual Meeting of European Orienteering Presidents (AEOF). The WG had therefore prepared draft statutes (better called working rules) that have been distributed to the member federations. Close to this meeting the IOF council had prepared a set of working rules for co-operation between IOF and the regional level. This paper had not been circulated to anyone before the WOC week, but introduced to the WG one day before this meeting. However the paper included most of the paragraphs in the proposed statutes and would be presented at the IOF pre-Congress meeting the following day.

The chair proposed to await the discussion the following day and not vote over the proposed statutes. The assembly agreed to this strategy.

Discussion:

Sweden: We support the chairman's proposal not to vote. We will ask for a clarification of Item 8 – event fees, it may be a problem to claim fees by an informal organisation like AEOF.

Answer: To introduce a fee will be optional. If a fee is introduced (this may happen if EOC is a separate event and not part of WCup), the fee will be the income of IOF. However the AEOF should sanction such a levy.

2. *Rules for Foot EOC*

A: Annual or biannual championship

This issue had been deferred from the previous meeting in Rapperswil

B. Berntsen introduced the issue and proposed not to vote on it, as Congress will vote on the international event programme at the Congress, and the matter will be discussed at the IOF seminar the following day.

Discussion:

Russia: As WOC is organised every year, EOC should also be an annual event. Any new structure/system of major IOF events shall be introduced in order to motivate athletes (for example with three top events every year, the Grand Prix may not motivate). Today – the main motivation is a title. Participation in EOC brings extra resources to national federations. Athletes should also have the right to choose what is most important for them (WOC versus EOC).

Great Britain: to a great extent agreeing with Russia, but there is a need to wait for the Congress decision.

Finland: we do not support EOC every year. It would be a too fast development.

Sweden: we do not support an annual championship; it would be too many events.

Belgium: resources are the main factor to decide where to participate

Norway: first we need to know the IOF event structure. Annual EOC may decrease the value of WOC that shall be the most important event. More time is also needed to evaluate the present calendar. For the time being we support biannual EOC.

Czech Republic: EOC must be organised every second year.

Austria: The main issue are money. Lack of money does not allow some federations to participate in both an annual WOC and EOC.

B: Format of EOC

Øivind Holt introduced today's situation. EOC has proved to be a more important concept for press and runners than WC. Today: the programme seems to be too long for some, but may be acceptable for others. We may change the programme, but it is not a must. He introduced the different models spelled out in the circulated paper, and presented the opinion of the WG on each model.

The key question is: Do we need all the present races? WG will definitely keep the relay. If a race should be taken out, the sprint may be the most suitable. If so, an option is to organise a separate Sprint Championship.

But we can also continue with the same format as to-day for a new period. Any changes will first be valid in 2008.

Discussion:

Russia: EOC must not have the same structure as WOC. A separate EOC in sprint is a too sensitive issue. We may keep all races, but to change the programme (long distance with mass start / no qualification for long – saves 3 days).

Denmark: One complete EOC is a good idea. Sprint must be included; it is the most media and spectators friendly competition.

Belgium: By reducing the number of athletes in each competition, qualifications may be removed (reducing the number of races to 4).

Ukraine: Athletes start to specialise. Entry fees shall be levied per competition.

Russia: We should not reduce number of runners/competition.

Finland: Finland supports mass start for long distance. Sprint must be a part of the championship.

Denmark: No final decision shall be made today.

Russia: EU Federations may bring new fresh ideas to the IOF, influence IOF policies.

Øivind Holt: Small changes (fewer days) can be introduced, but no major changes at this moment. To enable future organisers to be able to predict the format, large changes cannot be introduced earlier than 2008, better after 2010.

Denmark: Thanks to the WG for preparing a working paper on this issue. It is a good basis for discussion, also within IOF.

Norway: Mass start might be good idea in long. Sprint is a valuable competition. The format of sprint can be developed further.

Czech Republic: No decision to change is required to-day. For 2008 and 2010 we suggest one event with all 4 competitions.

3. Rules for SKI EOC and EYOC.

B. Berntsen introduced the issue. For Ski-O EC only one change is proposed – to give a wild card for the current champion.

More important changes are proposed for Ski EYOC: relay and team score.

Discussion:

K. Kirkevik – SOC: In case of a combined JWOC and EYOC there might be a conflict between these two events in the relay competition. The possibility of

organising separate JWOC and EYOC is very limited, because of a short season. JWOC shall be the main event. Introducing a relay race shall be approved also by IOF Council. Team score – it may also create conflict, there are two events.

Russia: Foot O and SKI O rules shall be harmonised. Most of the team leaders at the last JWOC approved a relay to be included in the EYOC event. We do not see any conflict between EYOC and JWOC. No extra costs for organisers may occur; the same courses can be used. In all Foot O events for youth, a team score is calculated.

4. *Proposals from member federations*

A: Russia – classes M/W -23

A. Kuzmin introduced the Russian proposals. Including the M/W 23 classes in the Ski-EOC in Vologda was reckoned a successful experiment. No new competition shall be organised, but more titles will be awarded, to provide more motivation to athletes.

Discussion:

Norway: We do not support the Russian proposal. It may influence media focus, create tensions for national federations

Sweden: There are already enough competitions.

Ukraine: We are supporting the Russian proposal. Class 23 may help to keep young talented runners, who are still behind the best.

Russia: The experience from Vologda is very positive. Medals for more people were provided. One event, two result lists.

Denmark: They do not support the proposal. Media may be confused.

Kåre Kirkevik: Vologda was really an excellent event. A lot of discussion followed, the necessity to add more runners to the team in case of a -23 class is very difficult to operate when it is a part of WC.

Norway: There is the risk that a 23 year old person would win both classes. Two titles for one person will create confusion. With 6 athletes in WC, federations should give priority to younger runners in their team.

B: Great Britain: To grant the status of EOC to the events being held as WC Round 1 in Spring 2005

R. Field introduced the proposal. His suggestion was to postpone the issue. In case there is no annual EOC the proposal is withdrawn.

Berntsen: The solution might be to decide: In case EOC shall be annual, the 2005 organiser is GB, because there are no other candidates.

Russia: We may decide on ad-hoc basis only for 2005.

Ø. Holt: No ad-hoc championships should be awarded. If we decide on annual EOC, Great Britain is the only effective candidate.

5. *Next meeting*

B. Berntsen informed about the different options. It may be difficult to assemble enough federations in Japan for the 2005 meeting. WG suggests to organise the next annual meeting during EYOC 2005 in Czechia.

Discussion.

Finland: Japan might be possible for us.

Sweden: We do not plan to send a team to EYOC.

Great Britain: The meeting should be held in Europe.

6. Members for the WG

B. Berntsen introduced the issue. J. G. Tutor does not continue in the WG. A. Kuzmin might be elected as a Council member. The secretary has not received any proposals for new members beforehand. It is necessary to prepare proposals during the coffee break.

7. Other issues

B. Bertsen informed that Hungary had submitted a late application for EYOC 2006. There will be vote if to accept this as a valid application.

Part II: Annual meeting

Ex ante: The Chairman of the Foot-O Commission Brian Porteous gave an introduction on the development in new member federations; how a co-operation with well developed national federations can be established.

1. Opening and roll call

19 federations were present. The names of the delegates are given in appendix 1.

Bjørn R. Berntsen introduced himself and the members of the WG. He thanked the secretary Øivind Holt for preparing the agenda and working papers.

The proposed agenda was approved.

There were no new items suggested for item 12 - Any other business.

Item 7 was withdrawn since no proposal had come from the MBO commission.

2. Election of chair and tellers

B. Berntsen was appointed to chair the meeting. As tellers were A. Kuzmin and B. Porteous appointed. Juraj Nemeč was appointed to take the draft minutes.

3. Approval of the minutes from Rapperswil – any actions taken by WG

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Øivind Holt gave a briefing on the work in the WG:

- EYOC 2004 had been organised by Austria in Salzburg and
- EOC 2004 by Denmark in Roskilde
- Ski O EYOC in Voukkatti, Finland in conjunction with JWOC in Ski-O

All 3 events have been successfully organised and the organisers were thanked for the great effort they had undertaken.

The following SEA's have been appointed

- EOC 2006 in Estonia : Lars Forsberg SWE
- EYOC 2005 in Chez: Mark Heikoop, NED

WG had met once: during EOC in Roskilde. WG had prepared working papers on

- The competition program of EOC
- Draft statutes / working rules for the Assembly of European O- Federations
- Special Rules for Ski O EOC – Ski O EYOC.

The call for this meeting was sent out by the end of May and all papers distributed 4 weeks prior to the meeting.

4. Statutes for AEOF.

The decision is postponed. However it was agreed to use the prepared working rules as a guideline for future work

5. Rules for EOC in Foot O.

No voting on any new format.

Decision: To organise EOC until 2010 according to existing EOC Rules.

The annual meeting asks the WG to continue to develop new formats for the various races and disciplines in cooperation with the IOF.

6. Rules for Ski-O Championships

A: SKI-O EOC. Rules were approved. (Appendix 3)

B: SKI-O EYOC. It was voted on two issues:

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-------|-------------|
| - To include Relay as the part of the event: | Vote: Yes: 5 | No: 8 | Abstain: 6 |
| - To calculate a team score: | Vote: Yes: 2 | No: 7 | Abstain: 10 |

None of the proposals were carried. (Appendix 4)

8. Appointment of organisers

A: EYOC 2006

The meeting decided to accept the late application from Hungary, giving 2 applications to consider: Slovenia, Hungary.

Ø. Holt was asked to introduce the Slovenian application (Slovenian federation not present).

S. Monspart introduced the Hungarian application.

Vote: Hungary 7 Slovenia 9 Abstain 3

Slovenia is appointed as the EYOC 2006 organiser.

B: SKI-O EOC

There was only one applicant – Russia. The assembly agreed to allocate the event to Russia.

9. Proposals from member federations

A: Russia: To establish M/W- 23 classes in European O-championships

Vote: Yes: 2 No: 14 Abstain: 3

The proposal was not carried.

B: To grant EOC status to the WC 2005 round 1 in GB

The final decision was postponed. There are two options:

1. In the case IOF Congress approves biannual senior Regional championships, the proposal will be withdrawn by BOF.
2. In case IOF approves annual senior Regional championships, the 2005 WC round 1 organised by BOF will be granted the status of EOC.

10. Next meeting

WOC 2005 is organised in Japan. This may limit the participation. Therefore WG suggests to organise the next annual meeting in Czechia, in conjunction with EYOC 2005.

Decision: The next meeting will be held on Saturday 25. June 2005 in Sumperk in the Czech Republic (<http://www.eyoc2005.com/>)

11. Appointment of the WG

BOF: asked for postponing the election.

Comments from the podium: There is enough time to propose members. Candidates should have different background regarding disciplines. The geographical aspect should also be taken into account.

Proposal from Russia: To reassemble the meeting and have the election after the IOF Congress.

The proposal for postponement was not supported. The chair asked for nominations:

- Great Britain propose David May
 - Ukraine propose Vitalij Petrov
 - Germany propose Hans Breckle
- Juraj Nemec, SVK was willing to continue in the WG.

Italy: it is necessary to include MTBO representative, a person from France should be member. No name available.

Denmark: MTBO person should be included.

Comments from the podium: We cannot elect an anonymous person. WG will try to improve contacts with MTBO Commission when this commission is re-established. We must wait until 2005 to find a new member responsible for MTBO.

Elections:

Chair: Bjorn R. Berntsen NOR

Members: Hans Breckle GER, David May GBR, Juraj Nemec SVK, Vitalij Petrov UKR

Appointment:

Secretary: Oivind Holt

Attachment 1: Federations and their representatives in Västerås

1. Austria	Erich Simkovics
2. Belgium	Roger Aerts
3. Bulgaria	Iordanka Melniklijska
4. Denmark	Ole Husen
5. Germany	Hans Breckle
6. Finland	Heike Kauppinen
7. Czech Republic	Petr Pernicka
8. Estonia	Leho Haldna
9. Great Britain	Bob Roge
10. Hungary	Istvan Hajdu
11. Italy	Mita Crepaz
12. Latvia	Peteris Apinis
13. Lithuania	Rimantas Mikaitis
14. Norway	Harald Thon
15. Slovakia	Juraj Nemec
16. Sweden	Thomas Bruce
17. Switzerland	Marcel Schiess
18. Russia	Alexey Kuzmin
19. Ukraine	Vitalij Petrov, Viktor Biloshytskyy

Attachment 2: The Working Group 2003- 2004

Address:

Chairman

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Attachment 3

Special Rules EUROPEAN SKI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Ski Orienteering Championships (in short Ski-EOC) is the official event to award the titles of European Champion in Ski Orienteering in classes M/W 21. It is organised under the authority of the European Presidents meeting / IOF and the appointed Federation. These Special Rules are valid from 1st November 2004.

1. Principles for Ski-EOC

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

- The best ski orienteers of each European Federation shall be offered competitions of the highest technical quality.
- The event shall have a social atmosphere, letting people exchange experience and find new friends
- The Ski-EOC can be arranged in conjunction with WCup events or as separate events.

2. Event programme

The event is organised in years when WOC is not arranged. The programme shall include a Sprint distance Final, a Middle distance Final, a Long distance Final and a Relay with three legs in both M/W 21. The programme shall be kept within 6 days. The event shall follow the IOF Competition Rules unless otherwise is stated in these Special Rules. The dates of the Ski-EOC shall be co-ordinated with other international events by the IOF.

3. Event application and appointment of organiser

Any European Federation, which is a full member of the IOF, may apply to organise the Ski-EOC. Applications shall reach the IOF before March 31st 2 years prior to the event. The Annual Meeting of the IOF appoints the organiser. An IOF Event Advisor from another Federation shall be appointed to control the event.

4. Participation and Classes

Competitors representing IOF full member Federations and competitors representing European associate members of IOF can compete in Ski-EOC.

In the individual events a Federation may enter maximum **6 runners** in each class and 2 teams in the Relay. 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.

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

5. Starting order, start interval, winning times, red groups etc.

The IOF Competition Rules for WCup Ski-O events applies to starting order, start interval and winning times. If arranged in conjunction with WCup events, the WCup Rules apply with respect to red group (TOP15) allocation. If arranged separately from WCup, the red group allocation shall be decided based on the current standing of the IOF Ranking List.

6. Prizes

The organiser shall prepare and pay for specially designed medals (as decided by the IOF Working Group) for both the individual events (3 medals in each class / race) and the Relay, and a diploma shall be given to the six best competitors in each class and race.

If arranged in conjunction with WCup, only the team with the better result in the Relay shall be placed on the Ski-EOC result list

Attachment 4

Special Rules

EUROPEAN YOUTH SKI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European Youth Ski Orienteering Championship (in short Ski-EYOC) is the official event to award the titles of European Youth Champion in Ski Orienteering in classes M/W - 17. It is organised under the authority of the European Presidents meeting / IOF and the appointed Federation. These Special Rules are valid from 1st November 2004.

1. Principles for Ski-EYOC

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

- The best junior ski orienteers of each European Federation shall be offered competitions of the highest technical quality in M/W -17.
- The event shall have a social, rather than a competitive atmosphere, letting young people exchange experience and find new friends
- The costs of participation shall be kept low.

2. Event programme

The event is organised annually. Ski-EYOC in M/W -17 may be organised in conjunction with JWOC. The programme shall include a Middle distance Final, a Long distance Final

No Ski-EYOC Relay shall be arranged. If arranged in conjunction with JWOC, the EYOC competitors may participate in the JWOC Relay event.

The programme for the Ski EYOC races shall be kept within 3 or 4 days. The event shall follow the IOF Competition Rules for Ski Orienteering Events unless stated otherwise in these Special Rules. The dates for the Ski-EYOC shall be co-ordinated with other international junior events.

3. Event application and appointment of organiser

Any European Federation which is a full member of the IOF may apply to organise the Ski-EYOC. Applications shall reach the IOF before March 31st 2 years prior to the event. The Annual Meeting of the IOF appoints the organiser. An IOF Event Advisor from another Federation shall be appointed to control the event.

4. Participation and Classes

Each Federation may enter 4 runners in each class..

The Ski-EYOC is divided into 2 classes for the following age categories:

W-17 – becoming maximum 17 years old during the year of the competition.

M-17 – becoming maximum 17 years old during the year of the competition.

All entered runners may run both individual distances.

5. Starting order, start interval – winning times

The start interval in the Long and Middle distance competition shall be 2 minutes. The start draw shall be made with 4 starting groups, each starting group being drawn at random.

Competitors from the same Federation shall not start consecutively.

	MIDDLE	LONG
W17	20-25 min	35-40 min
M17	20-25 min	40-45 min

6. Prizes

The organiser shall prepare and pay for specially designed medals for both classes of both races (3 medals in each class / race, totally 12 medals), and a diploma shall be given to the six best competitors in each class and distance. No team score shall be calculated

Attachment 5

Updated after the decisions in Västerås 12th September 2004

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 1st of January 2005.

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 every second year in 2006, 2008 and 2010. The program shall be kept within 7 days and include the following competitions: Relay, Long, Middle and Sprint. The individual races shall be organised as a qualification race competition with A- and B-finals.

In the relay 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 31st 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.