

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING FEDERATIONS

Monday, July 31st in Århus, Denmark

1. Opening and Roll call

The meeting was opened at 7 pm by the Chairman of the Working Group (WG), Bjørn R Berntsen.

20 voting Federations were present, these being AUT, BUL, CZE, DEN, ESP, EST, FIN, GBR, GER, HUN, ISR, ITA, LAT, NOR, POL, POR, SUI, SVK, SWE and TUR.

2. Election of Chair, Tellers and Minutes Secretary

Bjørn R Berntsen was elected to chair the meeting and tellers were elected from AUT, GBR and ITA. David May was elected to take the minutes.

3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved and there were no new items from the delegates for inclusion under item 15 (Any Other Business).

4. Approval of the minutes from Sumperk – actions taken by the working group

The minutes of the 2005 meeting were approved.

David May briefed the meeting on the work of the WG in the last 12 months.

Five European Championships had been staged:

- Foot-O Championships: EOC 2006 in Estonia and EYOC 2006 in Slovenia
- Ski-O Championships: EOC and EYOC 2006 in Russia
- Trail-O EOC 2006 in Lithuania

The following organisers had been appointed:

- Organiser of EOC in Foot-O and Trial-O 2008: Latvia
- Organiser of EYOC in Ski-O 2007: Austria

Event Advisors had been appointed for EOC 2008 (Rimas Jovaisis – LTU) and for EYOC 2007 (Christian Breitschädel – AUT)

David May had been appointed as Secretary to the Working Group

5. Presentation of the Ski-EYOC 2007 by the appointed organiser (Austria)

Lucie Rothauer (Böhm) gave a brief presentation on behalf of the organisers. The event would be centred on Salzburg and be held between February 11th and 17th.

6. Presentation of the EOC 2008 by the appointed organiser (Latvia)

Juris Cebulis described the programme (25th May – 1st June 2008), the accommodation, agreements made and terrain types for the event to be held in and around the city of Ventpils. The Trail-O EOC would be held at the same time and would be fully integrated into the EOC week, e.g. by having joint opening and closing ceremonies.

The Sprint race would be a part of the 2008 World Cup series.

7. Appointment of the organiser of EYOC 2008

Switzerland and Latvia presented their bids to the meeting. Latvia proposed that EYOC should be staged in conjunction with EOC from May 29th to June 1st and Switzerland proposed dates of October 9th to 12th.

POR and ESP were unhappy with the selected dates, especially those in October, as they fell in school term time and gave little chance for training camps beforehand, whilst HUN pointed out that the Latvian bid presented a once in a lifetime opportunity for EYOC and EOC to be staged together. POR proposed that a settled date is needed.

Voting: Switzerland 11; Latvia 9; abstentions 1

Thus Switzerland was appointed as organiser of EYOC 2008.

NB 21 voting slips were counted whereas only 20 countries appeared on the roll call as one country entered the meeting after the roll call was taken.

8. Appointment of the organiser of Ski-EOC 2008

Bids had been received from Bulgaria and from Switzerland. After consultation with the Ski-O Commission, Bulgaria withdrew their bid.

Thus Switzerland was appointed as organiser of Ski-EOC 2008.

9. Appointment of the organiser of Ski-EYOC 2008

Bulgaria was appointed as organiser of Ski-EYOC 2008.

10. Appointment of the organiser of MTBO-EOC 2008

As no bids had been received to stage MTBO-EOC 2008, the meeting mandated the WG to find an organiser.

11. Proposal from member Federations

Austria proposed that the name *Orienteering Junior European Cup* (which is usually held in October) be changed to *Junior European Orienteering Championships*, which would mean an upgrade in the event status. Lucy Böhm (AUT) presented the proposal and pointed out that the present age groups covered by OJEC are 17/18 and 19/20 and that 17/18 is already covered by EYOC. The new JEOC should thus integrate EYOC into the overall programme.

Bjørn R Berntsen said that, as Special Rules would need to be worked out and organisers sought, it would be too early to start in 2008. Thus the item would need to be continued on next year's agenda.

FIN: if this is agreed then EYOC and JEOC must be held together and a time period selected (not clashing with JWOC!).

SWE: we need more time to consider the consequences of such a change. The Working Group should look into this and produce a report.

POR: such a change would completely change the philosophy of EYOC.

Bjørn R Berntsen: WG will make a proposal on this issue for the next meeting.

AUT: withdrew the proposal.

12. Proposal for a website for European Orienteering matters

David May reported that the IOF website was due to be re-launched by the end of August and that the IOF General Secretary had offered space on the site for a section devoted to European affairs. Write-access to nominated persons could be granted so that the WG would be responsible for posting material such as Special Rules and details of European Championships itself.

The meeting approved this proposal and David May will take it forward with the General Secretary.

13. Decision concerning the next meeting (venue, format)

The next meeting will provisionally take place on Tuesday 21st August 2007 in Kiev, Ukraine.

14. Appointment of the Working Group

The following were unanimously elected:

Chair: Bjørn R Berntsen (NOR)

Secretary: David May (GBR)

Members: Juraj Nemec (SVK), Erich Simkovics (AUT), Vincent Frey (FRA) and Dan Chissick (ISR).

15. Any other business

The Chairman had three items:

- That the Working Group should have the authority to make minor changes to Special Rules when appropriate between meetings. This proposal was accepted.
- That the WG should look into the format of the EOC as it currently has a heavy programme. This proposal was also accepted.
- That, as the biggest IOF Region, we should help other Regions with their development. European Federations were asked to send any ideas about a way forward on this topic (by email or letter) to the WG.

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