

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING FEDERATIONS

Tuesday, August 21st in Kyiv, Ukraine

1. Opening and Roll call

The meeting was opened at 12.10 pm by the Chairman of the Working Group (WG), Bjørn R Berntsen.

21 voting Federations were present, these being AUT, BLR, BUL, CZE, DEN, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, HUN, ITA, LAT, LTU, MDA, NOR, POR, SLO, SRB, SUI, SWE and TUR. In addition, GEO was present as an associate (non-voting) member.

2. Election of Chair, Tellers and Minutes Secretary

Bjørn R Berntsen was elected to chair the meeting and tellers were elected from FRA (Vincent Frey) and DEN (Helge Soegaard). David May (GBR) 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 14 (Any Other Business).

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

The minutes of the 2006 meeting were approved.

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

Four European Championships had been staged:

- Foot-O Championships: EYOC 2007 in Hungary
- Ski-O Championships: EYOC 2007 in Austria
- Mountain Bike Championships: EOC 2007 in Italy
- Trail-O: EOC 2007 in France

The following organisers had been appointed:

- Organiser of Mountain Bike EOC 2008: Lithuania

In addition, the working group has followed up the following requests from the 2006 minutes:

- A paper was distributed in July giving proposals for the possible future format of the EOC. This was discussed under agenda item 10
- Federations were asked to submit ideas about how European Federations might support development in other regions. There were no submissions, and Federations were asked to keep this item on their own agendas.
- The working group did not support the 2006 AUT proposal to rename OJEC as JEOC (fuller reasons were distributed in July)

- Website – editing is not as user-friendly as anticipated so little progress so far. The secretary promised to seek further guidance on this issue.

5. Appointment of the organiser of EOC 2010 and ETOC 2010

Bulgaria was the only applicant. The event would be based on the Black Sea resort of Primorsko, some 50 km from a major centre at Burgas. The proposed dates were end of May or beginning of June. AUT preferred an earlier time in May in order to suit student competitors and BUL would be able to stage the event in mid May if necessary. The Working Group was asked to consider the optimal dates for the event.

BUL also agreed to combine ETOC 2010 with EOC but, as they had very limited experience with Trail-O, could only do so with expert assistance. Anne Braggins (Trail-O Commission Chair) agreed to source this assistance.

BUL was awarded EOC 2010 by acclamation and agreed to postpone a separate application to host WMOC 2010 as a result. They also agreed to publish their presentation on the Federation website.

6. Appointment of the organiser of EYOC 2009

LAT and SRB presented their bids.

The proposed Latvian event would be based on the winter sports centre of Sigulda during the last weekend of June, the Sprint race being in the town centre. Prices would be kept low but no detailed figures were yet available. POR queried the dates, citing that students in Portugal (and Spain) were completing examinations in late June and that the following week would be preferable. The Latvian presentation would be published on their Federation website.

Serbia hoped to hold the event in Kopaonik and promised good quality accommodation at an inclusive price of 200 €, again during the last weekend in June. They were flexible enough to use the following weekend (or the previous one) if required. SRB also reassured the meeting that political stability in Serbia should not be a problem.

Voting: Serbia: 17 votes Latvia: 4 votes

Serbia was appointed as organiser of EYOC 2009. The Working Group will discuss the most optimal dates and inform Serbia when to organise this event.

7. Presentation by the appointed organiser of Ski-EYOC 2008; Appointment of the organiser of Ski-EYOC 2009

BUL gave a short presentation in which they explained that Bulletin 1 was already published on their website. The main change from their presentation of last year was a move from Borovets to seek better snow conditions.

SWE have been appointed as organisers of Ski-JWOC 2009 and, with the approval of the Ski-O Commission, have agreed to combine this with Ski-EYOC 2009.

SWE was then appointed as organisers of Ski-EYOC 2009 by acclamation.

8. Presentation by the appointed organiser of MTBO-EOC 2008 (LTU)

Remigijus Arlauskas explained that the Federation was experienced at staging major events, e.g. WMOC 2001, and would be staging the event in the same area – the Curonian Spit.

LTU wished to combine the event with official Championships for youth, juniors and masters also, and had lodged separate proposals to include a Sprint race and a Rest day in the programme.

AUT pointed out that the MTBO Commission had recommended against increasing the programme length whilst LTU said that their proposals were flexible. Further discussion on the proposal to include Sprint was then deferred to item 11.

DEN proposed that there should be a Junior European Championships in MTBO as it would be good for the promotion of the sport amongst juniors. Other Federations, including AUT, SUI and FIN, were concerned that the current base of junior mountain bikers was too small and experience was limited also. We should wait until the participation base was more viable.

DEN then withdrew their proposal.

9. Appointment of the organiser of MTBO-EOC 2009

DEN was the only candidate and, after promising that prices would be lower than for WOC 2006, was appointed to organise MTBO-EOC 2009 by acclamation.

10. Future format of the European Championships

The working group had distributed a paper in July which gave four possible alternative programmes, each of which was designed to reduce the load on organisers and athletes. The paper is attached to these minutes.

SUI had replied to the paper, proposing that no change to the format be made as:

- Athletes believe current programme is **not** too heavy
- Extra cost of 8 days compared with 6 is not significant
- All three disciplines are essential
- EOC Long should be same format as for WOC – very few opportunities for “proper” Long races otherwise

Various Federations including AUT, NOR and SWE expressed support for the working group proposal (Alternative 2). However, it was necessary to decide on the Swiss proposal first.

Voting: to keep the present programme: 9; to change the current programme: 6; abstentions: 4

The current programme was therefore accepted.

11. Proposal from member Federations

LTU made two proposals – (a) that there should be a Sprint discipline in the MTBO-EOC 2008 and in future events, and (b) that there should be a rest day in the MTBO-EOC programme.

A wide ranging debate about the Sprint race took place. AUT reminded the meeting that the MTBO Commission had decided that the EOC should be more compact than WOC – Middle or Sprint but not both whilst Ole Husen said that he was not a member of the Commission at that time!

LTU pointed out that Sprint was present unofficially anyway and FIN said that, if so, it should be outside the official programme. DEN confirmed that, after 2009, EOC would take place every two years and that this should be taken into account in the decision. The Chairman then decided that the voting should refer to the LTU event in 2008 only and not for future EOCs.

Voting on the proposal that there should be a Sprint discipline in MTBO-EOC 2008:

For: 11; Against: 5; abstentions: 3

Voting on the proposal that there should be a rest day in the MTBO-EOC programme:

For: 1; Against: 7; abstentions: 11

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

The next meeting will provisionally take place in association with WOC 2008 in the Czech Republic. The exact date will be fixed later depending on the IOF meeting schedule.

13. Appointment of the Working Group

All members of the working group signified their willingness to continue for another 12 months. In addition, Zoran Milovanovic had been proposed by the Serbian Federation and the meeting agreed that an extra member was acceptable.

As a result the following were unanimously elected:

Chair: Bjørn R Berntsen (NOR)

Secretary: David May (GBR)

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

14. Any other business

The Chairman had two items:

- That the Working Group should have the authority to co-ordinate the design and supply of medals and certificates for all European Championships, much as the IOF has done for IOF Championships. This proposal was accepted.

- That larger Federations should continue to seek to support smaller Federations with their development – in Europe as well as outside – especially by looking to neighbouring Federations. DEN reminded the meeting that this was even more applicable to MTBO.

Working Group contact details

Chairman

Bjorn R. Berntsen: bjorn.r.berntsen@recgroup.com; phone +47 67542864 (h), +47 97735514 (mob), fax +47 67815201

Secretary

David May: david@themays.org.uk, phone +44 1600 711507 (h)

Members

Juraj Nemec: Juraj.nemec@umb.sk , phone +421 48 4466318, +421905164820 (mob), fax +421 48 446 6666,

Vincent Frey: vincent.frey@ch.unilog.com, phone +33 (0)3 89 63 73 46 (h)

Dan Chissick: chairman@nivut.org.il, phone +972 4 9973803 (h)

Erich Simkovics: Erich.Simkovics@univie.ac.at , phone +43 664 33 55592, fax +43 1 440 17 08

Zoran Milovanovic: siljazzm@eunet.yu; phone/fax: +381 26 313 031 (job); +381 11 3281 383 (federation); mobile: +381 62 228 553

Memorandum

To: All European Orienteering Federations

From: The Working Group for the European Orienteering Federations

Date: July 20, 2007

NEW FORMAT FOR EUROPEAN ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP IN FOOT-O

At the annual meeting of the European Orienteering Federations in Århus, Denmark on July 31, 2006, it was proposed that the Working Group (WG) should look into the format of the European Orienteering Championship (EOC) as it currently has a heavy programme.

At the upcoming EOC in Latvia the programme is as follows:

Sunday 25.05.	Model Event, Opening Ceremony
Monday 26.05.	Sprint Qualification and Sprint Final
Tuesday 27.05.	Long distance Qualification
Wednesday 28.05.	Long distance Final
Thursday 29.05.	Rest day, training
Friday 30.05.	Middle distance Qualification
Saturday 31.05.	Middle distance Final
Sunday 01.06.	Relay

In total, the competition will take 8 days. In addition, the teams are anticipated to arrive one day before and leave one day after.

The WG has been considering the following alternative formats:

Alternative 1:

Skip qualification for both Long distance and Middle distance. Long distance Final can then be organised as a mass start with forking (or loops).

The Middle distance could be organised on one day as a short prologue in the morning and a chasing start in the evening based on the results from the prologue. This takes away 2 days, ending up with 6 days.

Alternative 2:

Skip qualification for Long distance and organise the Long distance Final as a mass start with forking. Keep the rest of the programme as it is to day. This takes away 1 day, ending up with 7 days.

Alternative 3:

In addition to alternative 2, skip Sprint distance in EOC, taking away another day, ending up with 6 days.

Alternative 4:

In all alternatives, skip rest day.

Evaluation and recommendation by the WG:

- The WG recommends that the rest day in the middle of the competitions should be kept in all alternatives, otherwise the programme will be too heavy for the competitors as many of them will run all competitions. Also the organiser needs a rest day to recover from all stress during the competitions.
- The WG recommends that the Middle distance is organised as it is to day with Qualification one day and Final the next day, both competitions with interval start.
- The WG recommends that Sprint distance is kept as a competition in the EOC and organised in one day as today.
- The WC recommends that Long distance is organised as a mass start with forking, which means skipping the qualification and reducing the number of days by 1 one day. Alternatively, the Long distance could be organised with a small prologue in the morning and then a chasing start with forking/loops in the afternoon.

This means that if any changes should be made to the EOC format in the future, beginning with EOC 2010 or EOC 2012, we recommend Alternative 2, reducing the number of days by 1 down to 7. This is not “a big step for mankind”, but will reduce the financial burden for the teams and the work load for the organiser.

The WG is looking forward to have any comments to this recommendation or any other proposals. This should preferably be mailed to the WG via David May, e-mail address david@themays.org.uk before the meeting in Kiev so that the WG may be able to re-evaluate its recommendation.