

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Agueda, Portugal

Date: 27-28 July 2016

Participants:

Sandor Talas (ST) – chairman (HUN)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
André Hermet (AH) – member (FRA)
Ludomir Parfianowicz (LP) – member (POL)
Jiri Vransky (JV) – member (CZE)
Emily Benham (EB) – Chair, Athletes' Commission
Hans Jørgen Kvåle (HJK) – IOF Marketing Manager

Excused:

Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)
Magnus Wallenborg (MW) – member (SWE)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 27 July 2016.

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved.

3 Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the last meeting in January 2016 were approved.

4 Matters arising and decisions taken since the last meeting

4.1 WMTBOC 2019 and World Cup 2018 decisions

World Cup 2018: The Council followed the recommendation of the MTBOC and appointed HUN and POR as organisers of the first resp. third World Cup Round.

HUN was also appointed as organiser of the WMMTBOC in 2018.

WMTBOC 2019: DEN and HUN applied.

(Notes after the meeting: HUN withdrew its application. The General Assembly in August appointed DEN as organiser of the 2019 WMTBOC.)

4.2 **MTBO IOF Competition Review – second consultation**

Proposed program (in italics = new):

- WMTBOC / JWMTBOC: annually with 3 individual interval-start competitions (Sprint, Middle and Long), *1 Mass start competition* and 1 relay
- EMTBOC: contested as an embedded part of one round of the World Cup, with *up to 3* European Championships competitions contested *annually*
- WMMTBOC: annually, consisting of 3 individual interval-start competitions (Sprint, Middle and Long) and *1 Mass start competition*

(Notes after the meeting: The General Assembly approved the proposal.)

4.3 **World Cup 2016 program modification**

The MTBOC suggested to make Mass Start an official World Cup race and to use it as an on-event qualification for the Long distance at WMTBOC 2016. The Council did not approve this proposal, which was supported by the WMTBOC 2016 organisers, the SEA and the AC.

4.4 **Date clash of WMTBOC and WOC 2018**

In April the Council approved the revised dates for WOC and WTOC 2018 in Latvia. The event dates will be 4-11 August 2018. This means that WOC/WTOC and WMTBOC, whose dates had been approved before, will be held on the same dates, which is not in line with IOF policy (see 5.3 in last minutes).

- 4.5 The ESB approved the rules deviation request from the organisers of the **WMMTBOC 2016 in LTU**, allowing the use of mass-start as the starting method for the long distance competition. The request had been supported by the MTBOC.

5 International event calendar

5.1 **Potential applications for the World Championships 2020**

Application deadline is end of December 2016. HUN and 1-2 other federations might apply.

5.2 **Potential applications for World Cup rounds / European Championships 2019**

Application deadline is end of December 2016. Applications can be expected from 2-3 federations.

5.3 **Potential applications for WMMTBOC 2019**

Application deadline is end of December 2016. Applications can be expected from 2 federations.

5.4 **Plans for 2019 – 2022**

Potential countries who are interested in organising an event were discussed. It is expected that a list of 5-6 countries may apply for major IOF events.

5.5 Status of current upcoming events

5.5.1 World Championships 2017 and 2018

- The preparations for the World Championships 2017 in LTU are a little behind schedule as part of the organising team is identical with the organisers of the World Cup 2016. The SEA will make her next visit in October 2016.
- World Championships 2018 in AUT: The SEA has made his first visit and Bulletin 1 has been published.

5.5.2 World Cup Rounds 2016 - 2017

- LTU 2016: Bulletin 3 is being finalised.
- AUT 2017: Bulletin 1/2 has been published.
- FRA 2017: According to the SEA the terrains will not be exactly the same as listed in the application.

5.5.3 World Ranking Events 2017: Application deadline is 30 September 2016. Eventor is the official channel to apply.

5.5.4 World Masters Series 2017: The Masters Working Group will suggest a program. It has to be approved by the MTBOC.

5.5.5 World Cup Rounds 2018 preliminary dates – to be confirmed

15-17 June WCup in HUN

4-12 Aug WMTBOC in AUT

20-23 or 27-30 Sept WCup in POR

For the 1st and 3rd World Cup Rounds SEAs will have to be identified.

6 Event advising and quality

6.1 Evaluation of the 2016 international events

The first World Cup Round in France showed potential for improvement with regard to information, visibility and arena production. The feedback received from the athletes can be found on the website of the MTBOC under <http://www.mtbo-commission.com/event-evaluation.html>.

6.2 EA Newsletter

The newsletter to EAs planned for spring 2016 could not yet be produced due to lack of time.

6.3 EA Clinics:

The next Event Adviser and Organiser Clinic is planned to take place in Fontainebleau, France, from 26-27 November 2016.

6.4 Injury and accident database

The MTBO Commission has launched an Injury and accident database to collect data on injuries that happened at MTBO competitions. The objective is to collect the information related to the accident for the benefit of understanding risks associated with MTBO competitions, and to improve safety as much as reasonable. Athletes that experienced noteworthy injuries are requested to fill in a form. Its link is available from the MTBO Commission's website under <http://www.mtbo-commission.com/various.html>.

7 Rules and mapping standards

7.1 ISMTBOM review

The new mapping standard is under testing. Possible ways of accommodating colour-blind athletes are to be investigated.

7.2 Revision of IOF rules

R14 was discontinued. David Rosen will align the language for all disciplines.

7.3 Rule change proposals

- Abolish ban on GPS devices using breadcrumb display, but no real map. It will simplify matters and not harm fairness.
- Embargoed areas: Rule (phrasing of text) and timing should be specified. It needs to be discussed with the Rules Commission.
- Quarantine rules to be clarified and spelled out in the Competition Rules.
- Start order of teams at relay to be changed to allow first teams of each nation to start before second teams.
- Start draw/start order at WREs: There should be some guidance for MTBO organisers on how to handle the start order at WREs. Proposal: A clean draw is the standard for WREs, but if the number of participants justifies it, organisers (in agreement with the EA) may opt for a World Cup style seeded draw.
- New rule proposal: Riding off the map is forbidden.

8 Strategic development

8.1 Strategic plan

Part of the MTBOC met on Wednesday evening, 27 July, to discuss broader strategic questions, but there was not sufficient time to prepare a document. The MTBOC is looking for possibilities to have some standardised online coverage for major events that is useful to the orienteering community. HJK will find out the cost for online coverage.

8.2 Working Groups / development questions

There are several more or less active MTBO Working Groups. Need to clarify how these working groups are managed, what does the MTBOC expect from them, who within the MTBOC is responsible for which working group and what is expected from this commission member.

- 8.2.1 Map Working Group (responsible = JV): Thanks to EB the Map Working Group has been very active and has produced the new mapping standard.
- 8.2.2 Masters Working Group (ST): The event program 2017 and possible rules will have to be agreed on.
- 8.2.3 Medical Working Group: not active at the moment
- 8.2.4 Environment Working Group: Access to the outdoors and protecting the nature is also important in MTBO. ST to identify suitable lead person for this group and responsible MTBOC member.
- 8.2.5 A new Youth Working Group under the responsibility of AH will be set up. Its aim is to organise 2-3 international training camps per year.

- 8.3 **Development project - First MTBO Event:** UH, together with 2-3 other people, will start working on the planned guide "How to organise a first MTBO event".
- 8.4 **Broader geographic base**
- 8.4.1 North American development: EB could go over to do some mapping in 2017.
- 8.4.2 Rest of the World: Turkey appears to have great potential
- 8.5 **Media / Social Media presence**
- It is decided to focus on good post race analysis published as soon as possible (almost live coverage) rather than better compiled summaries published with delay.

9 MTBO documents and support materials

- 9.1 The **MTBO flyer** is still pending. This flyer is meant to promote MTBO in countries and regions where MTBO is not yet widely known or not known at all, and it can be translated into the local language.
- 9.2 The **EA's handbook** is in the process of being updated (UH). The paragraph about doping needs the input of the IOF Office.
- 9.3 The **Organisers' Guidelines** date from 2012 and need an update. UH will try to look at them.
- 9.4 **Guidelines mass start and relay**
- EB wrote guidelines on mass start and relay competitions. They will be published on the IOF website and the website of the MTBOC.
- 9.5 **Templates for bulletins:** UH is working on them.
- 9.6 For **athletes new to MTBO** it would be helpful to have some guidance on the most important MTBO-specific characteristics such as equipment, navigation etc. Lead person to be identified.

10 AOB

JV presented an analysis of WRE participation .The changes in the WRE-system didn't have a big impact on the number of participants, i.e. no significant decrease in the number of participants could be noted after the introduction of the new system.

11 Next meeting

The next meeting is planned to be held together with the joint IOF meeting from 20-22 January 2017.

The meeting closed at 4 pm on Thursday.

Sandor Talas
Chairman

Ursula Häusermann
Commission member