

## Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 3–15

**Place:** Park Hotel Halden, Norway

**Date:** Wednesday, 3 June 1700 CET – Thursday, 4 June 1700 CET

**Participants:**

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Áron Less (AL)            | Chairman                        |
| Göran Andersson (GA)      | Member                          |
| Kilian Imhof (KI)         | Member                          |
| Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP) | Member                          |
| David May (DM)            | Member                          |
| Janne Salmi (JS)          | Member                          |
| Unni Strand Karlsen (USK) | Member                          |
| Blair Trewin (BT)         | Member – remotely through Skype |
| Tom Hollowell (TH)        | IOF Secretary General / CEO     |

**Apology:** Vincent Frey Member – remotely through Skype

### OPENING

**1 Opening** AL

AL opened the meeting. He especially welcomed Tom Hollowell for participating.

**2 Follow up of Minutes FOC 1-15 & FOC 2-15** AL

- #9 (1-15): FOC decided to prepare a questionnaire to all Federations on what IOF High Level Events they plan to apply for in the near future. This has not been done due to a possible radical change to the Competition Programme.
- #15 (2-15): New JWOC and WRE Guidelines were published on the IOF website.

### TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 5-14

**3 Council decisions** AL

- EOC Sprint Relay World Cup 2016 – Council did not approve the proposal. Based upon the feedback from the FootO AC that they did not approve of the proposal if this is “only” a World Cup race, and the fact that the OFE meeting in Italy rejected the proposal for the Sprint Relay to be a medal race at EOC, the Council did not feel that they could support the proposal. Council feels that the overall programme of EOC needs to be set first.
- JWOC 2018 – As there is no other application than the one from Hungary, FOC should evaluate this bid. Decision can be made at or prior to the next Council meeting.
- Qualification Rules for The World Games – Council did not approve the proposed rules. They assess that the proposed rules are not in line with the criteria set by

the World Games organisation. More focus should be on having our best individual athletes there, whereas the proposal favoured relay team performance. Council was afraid that not enough qualifying spots were available to individual athletes. The Council would like a new proposal which allocates more spots to individual performers, fewer to national teams.

- Rules deviation request/programme change WOC 2016 – Council did not approve the lengthening of WOC by one day.
- Approval of SI Air+ - Was given final approval by Council.
- Review of the IOF Protocol Guide – This is related to the Athletes' Commission's request, supported by FOC and the Secretary General. Council did not approve a review of the Protocol Guide. They feel the flexibility the AC is looking for is provided in connection with Flower Ceremonies.
- Evaluation of World Rankings – Council did not approve of a review. Their point is that the new system was actually only introduced one year ago and we need to give it more time for anomalies to work themselves out of the system. A review after 3 years was discussed.
- Sanctions on the EA for the Israel WRE. Council decided to act as proposed by the FOC. The EA's accreditation will be suspended for a 2-year period and information will go to the Israeli Federation about the rules infraction. However, the results from the event stand.
- World Ranking Scheme rules changes – The proposed text allowing additional classes to be ranked with the 21 WRE classes if they are running the same course was not approved by Council. Their point is that the status of the WRE classes should be strengthened. Having become aware that this practice in fact has been going on, against the rules, Council furthermore asked the Office to look at any current and upcoming events where this is an issue, and resolve them.

At the end of the Council decision agenda item, TH informed about the changes that are currently taking place in the IOF office. The move to Karlstad and the hiring of new staff is well underway and will be communicated separately.

#### 4 ESB decisions

AL

- **29 April 2015:** The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Christine Brown (AUS) to be the Senior Event Adviser (SEA) for the 2017 Oceania Championships in New Zealand
- **29 April 2015:** The ESB unanimously approved the FOC's proposal to appoint Chi Sing Clement CHAN (HKG) to be the SEA at the Asian Orienteering Championships 2016 in Chinese Taipei.

### FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

#### 5 WOC

AL, KI

- **WOC 2015, GBR:** Status report. New SEA Report available from Jørn Sundby received just before the FOC meeting. SPORTident Air+ is now an approved punching system and according to Bulletin 3, all WOC races will use touch-free punching for the first time in history. No full live TV-coverage from the Long Distance event, so the start interval will be 3 minutes there. TH informed that TV-rights are sold to more than 10 countries.

- **WOC 2016, SWE:** Status report. No new SEA Report available. The IOF Council did not approve the changing of the programme, so it will stay within 8 days as planned originally. Pre-WOC is taking place the weekend after our meeting. Most FOC members will attend these World Cup events.
- **WOC 2017, EST:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Dates are 1-7 July, 2017.
- **WOC 2018, LAT:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Dates are 27 July – 5 August.
- **WOC 2019 application process.** The WOC application deadline was extended until June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **WOC in the future.** The IOF will have an Extraordinary General Assembly in Inverness. The IOF Council proposes organising the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) with alternating years as a “forest WOC” and a “Sprint/Urban WOC”.

A subgroup chaired by KI to be formed – including members from outside FOC – to work with subjects related to the organisation of the split WOC. The work should not start until the proposal is approved. Special tasks will be to define

- a single qualification format for the forest WOC
- a third discipline for the Sprint WOC

At our January meeting, FOC decided to prepare a questionnaire to all Federations on what IOF High Level Events they plan to apply for in the near future. This has not been carried out due to the possible radical change to the IOF Competition Programme.

- **Special Rules for WOC Qualification.** Orienteering Australia asked the IOF to revise these rules to allow same conditions for the newly promoted countries to each division. AL presented a new proposal, which was approved by FOC. AL to follow up with Council, including communication of the new rules.

## 6 World Cup

BT, JS

- **World Cup 2015:** status report.
  - New SEA Report available from NOR.
- **World Cup 2016:** status report
  - SEA report from CZE available.
  - EOC Sprint Relay World Cup 2016 – Council did not approve the proposal. Based upon the feedback from the FootO AC that they did not approve of the proposal if this is “only” a World Cup race, and the fact that the OFE meeting in Italy rejected the proposal for the Sprint Relay to be a medal race at EOC, the Council did not feel that they could support the proposal. Council feels that the overall programme of EOC needs to be set first.
  - First draft of Special Rules was discussed. If there will only be three Sprint Relay WCup rounds in 2016, the present rules can be reused. If EOC is added at a later stage, the rules might be changed. The pair start for the Swiss Long Distance event is considered a good idea. The starting sequence change of Round 2 in 2015 is not going to be copied in 2016. The red groups will start last again in 2016. BT will prepare a new proposal for meeting 4-15.

- **World Cup 2017:** status report
  - Applications received from FIN and SUI. TH informed that Council wants to make an effort to preserve the World Cup. An open tender to find a commercial partner will be held – but World Cup 2017 will most probably not be part of the tender. From 2018 the result of an open tender should be used.
- The European Working Group appointed Switzerland (Ticino) as the organiser of EOC 2018. The date for the event is the second week of May.

7 JWOC

HLP, AL

- **JWOC 2015, NOR:** status report, no new SEA Report available. There is still some snow in the terrains in Rauland. Otherwise, preparations are on track. EMIT Touch Free punching will be used for the Sprint event. [PMN: a successful SEA visit was completed right after this FOC meeting.]
- **JWOC 2016, SUI:** status report, no new SEA Report available. The first SEA visit took place in the middle of May. HLP to follow-up with the SEA for a report.
- **JWOC 2017, FIN:** status report, no new SEA Report available. Brigitte Grüniger-Huber to visit Tampere just before Jukola. Assistant SEA is proposed.
- **JWOC 2018:** One application received from Hungary. HLP and BT made a bid evaluation and presented it to FOC.

8 WMOC

DM, BT

- **WMOC 2015 SWE:** Jørgen Holmboe's April visit report was circulated separately. Everything seems to be on track. FOC noted the known rule changes regarding map collection and map scale.  
  
Numbers are currently just over 3000 and the final total is expected to be about 3200.
- **WMOC 2016 EST:** SEA Jari Kymäläinen (FIN) has circulated his recent update (dated 31st May 2015).  
  
Since then the website has been improved at <http://www.wmoc2016.ee/> and Bulletin 1 is released but not linked from the website.  
  
All seems to be on track at present and entries begin on July 1st.
- **WMOC (WMOG) 2017 NZL:** SEA Nick Dent (AUS) circulated his visit report earlier. The competition programme is taking shape well and the races look good.  
  
An "Orienteering Oversight Committee" is steering preparations at the moment but there appears to be no Event Director yet and a National Controller is also not appointed.  
  
The organisers plan to launch the WMOC at Gothenburg and Inverness this summer but they need to complete the Event Plan before that.  
  
There is a proposal for an assistant SEA from FOC.
- **WMOC 2018 applications received.** Information from DM. Shortlist.  
  
DM to assess and visit shortlisted candidates DEN & SVK in May-June. DM to make an assessment report for FOC Meeting 4-15.
- **WMOC 2019 application process.** Latvia was asked to apply formally by 30 April. The application was received. DM to make an assessment visit in July and make a report by FOC meeting 4-15.

9            **ROCs** BT

- **European Orienteering Championships**, 21-28 May 2016, Czech Republic
- **North American Orienteering Championships**, 23-25 September 2016, Hanover, NH, USA.
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2016**, 27 July – 2 August 2016, Chai-Yi & Tainan, Chinese Taipei.
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships 2017**, New Zealand. Oceania 2017 will take place in NZL over the Easter weekend (one week before WMOC). Concern is expressed over the capacity of NZL to organise two events of this size in rapid succession.
- Next ROC will be in 11 months. The new IOF Commission on Regional and Youth Development should also work in this area. In this phase of development, official Regional Championships can not be held in Africa or in South America, as the sport is not practised on a high level in enough countries.
- **EOC 2018 – Switzerland 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May**

KI presented the proposed programme by SUI, which was supported by FOC. The details about how to handle qualification can be decided later on when we know more about the qualification rules for future WOCs. The OFE meeting will decide about this proposal during WOC.

10           **The World Games** AL, KI

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report, no new SEA Report available.  
It is planned that the Sprint will be held in the town centre, with the Middle being primarily a forest race with an in-town finish. SEA is Daniel Leibundgut, who needs an assistant. Jerzy Antonowicz is the event director for TWG 2017 in orienteering. The event dates are 20–30 July 2017.
- **Qualification Rules for The World Games** – Council did not approve the proposed rules. They assess that the proposed rules are not in line with the criteria set by the World Games organisation. More focus should be on having our best individual athletes there, whereas the proposal favoured relay team performance. Council was afraid that not enough qualifying spots were available to individual athletes. The Council would like a new proposal which allocates more spots to individual performers, fewer to national teams. Discussion based on FOC's proposal. **AL revised the rules based on the recommendations from the meeting and sends it for Council approval.**
- **TWG 2021:** will be held in Birmingham, AL, USA. The whole sports programme will be evaluated after TWG 2017. **TH informed that an enthusiastic orienteering club and good terrain is available near Birmingham.**

**FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – RULES**

11           **Rules** USK, DM

- **Schedule for Rule Changes.** Any major rule changes involving matters of principle should be presented to the IOF Council in time for their August meeting with an accompanying justification. That will leave time for such changes to be discussed with the relevant Commission before the October meeting.
- **Rule 5.6.** FOC proposes a clarification of this rule: “Should a class have too many entries, it may be split into ranked, similar length courses based on the competitors’ previous performances with the best competitors entered to the top ranked course, etc.” The old rules said “Should a class have too many entries, it

may be split into parallel classes based on the competitors' previous performances."

- **Rule 8.13.** FOC proposes to add a bullet point for which punching system is to be used in Bulletin 2. This is common sense and is current practice anyway.
- **Rule 9.6.** Entries giving the number of competitors of each gender, the number of relay teams, the number of team officials and the team manager's name, address, e-mail address and phone/fax numbers shall reach the organiser no later than 2 months before the event. This rule should stay as it is.
- **Rule 9.7.** Each competitor's name and gender and the names of the team officials shall reach the organiser no later than 10 days before the event. Changes may be made to the team until 12 noon on the day before the event. FOC proposes to reduce the number of days to be only 5 days – that should still be enough for the IT department.
- **Rule 12.17.** FOC proposes that these permanent rule deviation requests should be integrated into the rules: if – and only if – this a requirement to secure full live TV-production from the respective event, the WOC organiser can use a 2 or a 3 minute start interval for the Long Distance and a 1.5 or a 2 minute start interval for the Middle Distance.
- **Rule 22.9.** Managing of late starts, Rules Commission's proposal was supported at the January meeting.
- **Additional items:**
  - FOC noted recent problems with EMIT Touch Free punching at the British Sprint Championships. David Rosen proposed that, where Emit touch-free is used, controls must be sited a minimum of 50m apart. FOC did not support this, arguing that technology should not determine course planning philosophy and, if something has to change, it should be the technology and not the orienteering.
  - FOC agreed to have templates for Bulletins and other central documents in the guidelines. DM agreed to strip down sample existing Bulletins to produce the templates required and send them to the Office.
  - Letter from GA to revise ISSOM. The standard is now in place for 8 years and during this period of time there have been a lot of development in Sprint orienteering. FOC acknowledged the frustration in still having to use an 8 year old standard when it is clear that interpretation of some symbols by many orienteers is a source of problems. For example, there is a lack of consistency between ISSOM and ISOM symbols, and there is guidance about how to map various features which some people know but which is not officially published.

It was proposed that the MC Chairman is invited to one of FOC's Inverness meetings to discuss the map scale and ISSOM revision issues.

- **Action points:**
  - AL to call for two separate meetings between FOC and Map Commission and Rules Commission chairmen during WOC 2015.
  - USK to develop a list with all FOC rule change proposals and send it to Rules Commission in time for the August Council meetings.
  - USK to develop a list with FOC's ISOM/ISSOM change requests and keep it updated.

## FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – EVENT QUALITY AND ADVISING

### 12 Event Advising

USK, VF,  
HLP

Plan for EA Clinics:

- Preliminary FOC extra meeting programme during WOC 2015:
  - Open FOC-meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 17:00-19:00. Focus on Commission work. Target group: organisers, event advisers, coaches, other interested parties. AL & GA responsible for the organisation.
  - Seminar on Middle and Long Distance competitions (course setting). Target group: course setters, event advisers, other interested parties. VF, HLP & USK responsible for the organisation.
  - The joint invitation is now available on the IOF website.
- HLES in Riga (February 2016). FOC and LOF are the main organising bodies. **AL to liaise with the Latvian organisers during the FOC meeting in Riga. Preliminary dates are 6-7 February 2016.**
- Clinic in 2016: EA clinic in DEN in conjunction with Danish Spring.
- SEA appointment proposals:
  - Assistant SEA for WMOC 2017 – Greg Hawthorne (AUS)
  - Assistant SEA for WCup 2016 and TWG 2017 in Poland – Adam Zitka (CZE)
  - Assistant SEA for JWOC 2017 – Száva Zsigmond (HUN)
  - SEA for EOC 2018 – Janos Manarin (ITA). An assistant will also be needed.
  - **AL to follow up with TH about the appointments.**
- SEAs are still not indicated on the EA list (with an asterisk) on the IOF website. **USK to liaise with Henrik Skoglund about this.**

### 13 Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission

KI

KI reported from the meeting with the 6 athletes in the Athletes' Commission:

- TH informed AC about the proposal for the new WOC programme
- an Athletes' Licence system will be created
- AC would like to see 2 minute start interval in all Middle Distance races and 3 minute start intervals in all Long Distance races
- AC would like to keep the winning time for the women's long distance event as it is now – it will be better for the younger runners. They would like to have winning times closer to 80 minutes though
- AC would like to see the Red Group to always start last
- The athletes feel that some organisers do not know the rules. Embargo rules are new every time. HLES could have a presentation about what is allowed and what is not allowed. Could be relevant information to give to the athletes as well. A checklist for event quality will be proposed.

JS proposes to make a questionnaire for coaches and runners about the event programme in the future (World Cup and World Championships).

### 14 Coaches Reference Group

JS

To ensure higher event quality (especially athlete representation) AL proposed to create a Coaches Working Group as an Advisory Group to FOC. JS formed a group of 4 coaches

whom he should liaise with about World Cup event dates, World Cup and WOC Special Rules and any other business. [The group is JS, Radek Novotný \(CZE\), Patrik Thoma \(SUI\), Kenneth Buch \(NOR\) and Tom Quayle \(AUS\). JS plans to meet with the coaches during WOC. Maybe in connection with the open FOC meeting.](#)

## YOUTH PROMOTION

**15 Youth Promotion** VF, GA, BT

Extended remit. Special tasks for 2015 are:

- to identify international youth games where orienteering may be included
- in cooperation with RYDC (Regional & Youth Development Commission) start to organise as soon as possible the academies in connection with WOC
- support RYDC and encourage IOF regions to conduct regional youth/junior competitions

VF to develop working procedures within the sub-group for the FOC meeting 3-15.

[The subject is postponed until a meeting 4-15.](#)

## EVENT DEVELOPMENT

**16 Prior Knowledge and Embargoes** BT

BT's discussion paper on prior knowledge and embargoes in the era of modern technology was published on the IOF website. [FOC agreed to get back to the paper at our next meeting. In the meantime, we will send our comments and ideas to BT, who is asked to collect the comments for the meeting.](#)

**17 Guidelines** GA, KI, BT

Update & discussion:

- **WOC Guidelines:** Updating is needed with the new qualification formats and the introduction of the Sprint Relay. FOC currently has no capacity to make the updates and seeks help from the IOF Office.
- **WCup Guidelines:** David Rosen has reviewed the current WCup guidelines and stated that they are not ready for publishing.
  - FOC decided that WOC and WCup Guidelines should be separate documents and that AL would find someone to update the WCup Guidelines. This has not happened.
  - BT and JS is asked to establish a plan for updating the World Cup Guidelines. Discussion during FOC meeting 4-15.
- **JWOC Guidelines:** New update was published in May 2015.
- **WMOC Guidelines:** New update was published in January 2015.
- **WRE Guidelines:** New update was published in May 2015.
- **Sprint Relay Guidelines:** was published in February 2015.
- The currently used guidelines are sometimes too long and hard to read. GA to develop a new concept for more useful guidelines for FOC meeting 3-15.

FOC had a discussion on how to make the guidelines more easy to read – with more



figures, pictures. GA proposed a web book structure with “Rules – Guidelines – Illustration”. **GA to provide examples for the next meeting.**

## VISIBILITY OF ORIENTEERING

- 18 Visibility of orienteering** GA, JS
- This is a new remit from Council. **GA to present an agenda for FOC meeting 4-15.** GA to liaise with IOF Office about ideas. No progress since the last meeting.
- 19 WRE** VF, DM
- For Council decisions from their last meeting (April 2015) see item no. 3. No other issues were discussed.

## OTHER MATTERS

- 20 Communication platform for FOC discussions** HLP
- In the short run e-mail will be used. The member in charge of the discussion indicates a deadline for comments and after that, the member in charge writes a conclusion to conclude the hearing. If not indicated, AL communicates the results to the discussion.
- Since TH has informed that a discussion forum facility will be part of the Office 365 suite to be introduced by the IOF office. FOC will not continue with the introduction of another system.
- 21 Next meetings – FOC 4-15, FOC 5-15 & FOC 1-16** all
- FOC meeting 4-15: during WOC in Inverness (GBR). **Meeting plan is now sufficiently changed:**
    - 2/8 (Sunday): 10:00 – 14:00 (WMOC evaluation until 12:00, other topics afterwards). **Changed!** Sprint final from 16:51.
    - 2/8 (Sunday): 20:00 – 22:00. **Changed!**
    - 3/8 (Monday): 20:00-22:00 (after the Open Forum)
    - 4/8 (Tuesday): 08:00 – 11:00. **Changed!** Middle Distance from 11:54.
    - 5/8 (Wednesday): **No meeting – this is also a change.** Relay ends at 17:50.
    - 6/8 (Thursday): 13:00 – 15:00, **after the ExGA and the Presidents’ Conference. This is also a change.**
    - 7/8 (Friday): 8:00-10:00 (only if needed). Long Distance from 10:00.
    - **AL to address the IOF Office to get status on previous request to find meeting facilities for the FOC meetings in Inverness (best would be in Craigmonie Hotel Inverness).**
  - FOC meeting 5-15: **10-11 October, in Riga (LAT).** DM to report back with a contact person there. **AL is responsible for organising the meeting.** Council meeting is most probably 16-17 October.
  - Joint Council – Commissions meeting (FOC meeting 1-16): 15-16 January 2016, probably in Frankfurt or Copenhagen. **Meeting should be scheduled in order to allow arrival Friday in the morning.**

### Legend:

- black (normal) letters: original text from the agenda
- blue text: text added during the meeting
- red text: action items