

Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 3–16

Place: Hotel Slovan, Jeseník, Czech Republic

Meeting schedule: Friday, 27th May – 08:00-12:00 CET
Saturday 28th May – 16:00-21:00 CET
Sunday 29th May – 09:00-15:15 CET

Participants:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Áron Less (AL) | Chairman |
| Tomáš Dlabaja (TD) | Member |
| Vincent Frey (VF) | Member – through Skype |
| Maria Krafft Helgesson (MKH) | Member |
| Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP) | Member |
| David May (DM) | Member – through Skype (Friday) |
| Janne Salmi (JJS) | Member |
| Unni Strand Karlsen (USK) | Member – through Skype |
| Blair Trewin (BT) | Member – through Skype (Sunday) |

Apology: Kilian Imhof Member

Invitations:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nik Suter (NS) | FOC's IOF Council contact person |
| Jørn Sundby (JS) | WOC 2016-2018 SEA |
| David Wästlund (DW) | IOF Sports Administrator |

OPENING

- 1 Opening** AL
AL opens the meeting. He reflected on what happened during EOC 2016 so far.
- 2 Follow up of Minutes FOC 2-16** AL
All follow-up topics are discussed under the various agenda items below.

TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 2-16

- 3 Council & ESB decisions** AL

- 10 February 2016: The ESB unanimously approved the rules deviation request from the organisers of AsOC 2016 (TPE) for using ISSOM 1:5 000 map for the Relay event to be held on July 31, 2016. FOC had recommended approval and MC had recommended not approving the request.

All other topics are discussed under the various agenda items below.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

4 WOC

AL, JS

- **WOC 2016, Sweden:** Status report. No new SEA report available. SEA visits are taking place almost every month, next visit is scheduled in two weeks to approve bulletin 3. [A lot of testing is done. Courses are almost ready. The final details in map making are currently in focus.](#)
- **WOC 2017, Estonia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Rule deviation request with regards to number bibs. Dates are 30 June - 7 July, 2017. Bulletin 2 expected in July 2016.
 - [Rule deviation request concerning number bibs: organiser proposes to use vests instead. FOC recommends to ESB to approve the use of the proposed number bibs if the use of this kind of bib in future WOCs and World Cups is made compulsory from start 2017. FOC also recommends to let the athletes try out the exact same design during Suunto Games in autumn 2016 to get used to the one size format.](#)
 - [FOC recommends to communicate the use of the start vests in bulletin 2 for WOC 2017 - and to future WOC and World Cup organisers. AL to inform ESB.](#)
- **WOC 2018, Latvia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Dates are now approved by Council as 4-11 August 2018, which means there is a collision with WMTBOC. The date for WOC was changed because of access difficulties with regards to forest terrains. The Latvian Orienteering Federation is creating an event company to be in charge of all the planned events in the country for the next years.
 - [FOC recommends that the national controllers are appointed asap. Latvia currently has very few IOF Event Advisers, so using people from abroad should also be considered. There is an EA Clinic in Tallinn in August 2016, if new Latvian EAs are considered to be used for the job.](#)

- **WOC 2019, Norway:** Sarpsborg, Østfold was appointed as organiser by Council. Dates are 13-17 August. Preparation is already well underway.
 - FOC recommends to the ESB to approve Lars Forsberg Sweden as Assistant SEA. AL to inform ESB.
- **WOC 2020:** One application received from Denmark (Vejle, Kolding, Fredericia). AL, together with JS and Tom Hollowell performed an evaluation visit on 19-20 May. AL presented the assessment to FOC. FOC recommends in the corresponding assessment report to approve Denmark as organiser of WOC 2020. General Assembly to make the decision in August. AL to inform Council.
- **WOC in the future.** Council discussed feedback from FOC:

FOC had made a proposal regarding the format of the qualification competitions for the Middle distance. Council supported this proposal with one comment; a quality criterion should be added for nations who do not qualify directly but shall have one starting spot in the final, e.g. that any qualifying time from that nation would need to be within an additional 100% of the longest heat time to be allowed to run the final. FOC supports the proposal of a 100% cut off time. AL to inform Council. BT sends the amended proposal to Tom Hollowell (TH).

FOC had made a proposal regarding the methodology for Long distance qualification. Council supported this proposal, however asked that host country qualifying places be clarified. FOC recommends to have three automatic places for the host country. AL to inform Council. BT sends the amended proposal to TH.

FOC had also prepared an analysis document about the future new Sprint WOC format. Based upon this analysis Council agreed upon the following:

- The new format should be some form of knock-out format where knock-out is defined to mean a competition with a series of elimination rounds and a first-to-finish final round.
- Council agreed that the exact design of the competition should be determined only when further testing is done on variations of possible knock-out formats as was proposed in the FOC analysis.
- Following discussion Council voted to determine that the knock-out format should be investigated on an unrestricted basis

- Nonetheless, Council agreed that any new proposed format would need to be tested in accordance with the remit for the new sprint format and the decision of the ExGA in 2015. I.e. that any new format would need to be proven to not add significant cost for member federations and organisers, and be able to be organised globally at high technical quality.

TH will discuss with FOC a timetable and testing plan for the evaluation of the knock-out sprint formats for presentation at the next Council meeting.

FOC recommends JS to be appointed project manager for it. AL to contact TH. Further information about the project (for internal FOC use) is available by courtesy of HLP.

5 World Cup

JJS, BT

- **World Cup 2016: status report**
- **World Cup 2017: status report**
 - Round 1 (WCup 1-4): FIN has agreed to have four competitions between 25th-28th May (Ascension Day week).
 - Sprint Relay
 - SQ + SF on the same day
 - Middle distance
 - Long distance with a chasing start based on both Sprint and Middle results
 - Round 2: WOC 2017 (WCup 5-9) EST – 30 June - 7 July 2017.
 - Round 3 (WCup 10-12): Latvia.
 - Middle distance in Cēsis – Friday 25th August
 - Forest relay in Cēsis – Saturday 26th August
 - Sprint Q+F in Cēsis – Sunday 27th August
 - Round 4 (WCup 13-15): 29 September – 1 October in Grindelwald. Friday: Long distance; Saturday: Middle distance; Sunday: Sprint Relay.
 - BT presented the first draft of the Special Rules.
 - FOC made the following recommendations about the World Cup 2017 Special Rules:
 - (a) Relay World Cup point allocation
 - Sprint Relay: Winner 100 points etc.
 - Forest Relay: Winner is allocated 100 points for men and 100 points for women
 - Number of teams allowed: In World Cup competitions, Federations are allowed to enter a maximum of 4 sprint relay teams and 3 forest relay teams.
 - (b) Mixed team rules: All accredited runners are allowed into mixed team. They should not be included in the results list.

- (c) Since WOC is part of World Cup, it makes sense to allow one event not to count, but the counting rules should be harmonised with the plans for WCup 2018.
- (d) Start order in LAT:
 - Round 10 – Middle: Reverse World ranking order, 2 min interval is the starting point.
 - Round 12 Sprint Qualification: Start order based on discussion with David Rosen about what scenarios we can handle easily
 - In both cases BT negotiates with the organisers
- **BT to update the special rules. BT then sends the draft Special Rules for review by the Coaches Reference Group on Facebook.**

- **World Cup in the future:** Update received by FOC.
- **Embargoes in World Cup races.** DW presented a template on how to standardise the embargoing of competition areas and the corresponding communication. FOC supports the use of the template.

6 JWOC HLP

- **JWOC 2016: Switzerland.** The assistant SEA and SEA changed roles in the autumn 2015. Last visit was in May 2016. SEA report assessed. Preparations are on track.
- **JWOC 2017: Finland.** New SEA report from February 2016.
- **JWOC 2018: Hungary.** Venue is Kecskemét, Central Hungary, terrain is pretty flat sand dunes with a lot of small contour and vegetation details. Jari Kymäläinen is the SEA, but he prioritises WMOC in Tallinn until August. AL supervises JWOC until Jari is available. Preparations are on track. Event Plan close to signing. Bulletin 1 will be published in July 2016.
- **JWOC 2019:** One application. Application from Denmark assessed by TD. Council to make the organiser appointment asap. FOC supports Denmark’s application and recommends Council to appoint them as organisers of JWOC 2019. **AL to communicate this to Council.**

TD

7 WMOC DM, BT

- **WMOC 2016: Estonia.** Status report. Jari Kymäläinen (FIN, SEA) completed his final controlling visit 5 days ago and submitted his report just before the meeting. Much technical work was done on finalising maps and courses and there appear to be few remaining issues to deal with. Bulletin 2 is in preparation and will be published without the start lists which will be available later on as a separate document.

One difference from previous years is that the Sprint Final will require all competitors being in the competition centre one hour before the first start. Very difficult to control, but also main routes allowed will be illustrated. To date, there are 3359 entries from 40 different countries and the final entry could be around 3500. NB this is better than Sweden's 3101 last year, but not as good as Germany's 4280 in 2012.

- **WMOC (WMOG) 2017: New Zealand.** Status report. No new SEA report received. SEA Nick Dent (AUS) now recovered from his heart attack and is back in action. Work on courses and maps has been progressing during the last few months with the two Sprint terrains causing the biggest problems (arena and start not yet finalised for Final, planned building works affecting the Qualification). All seems on track regarding Long events. Next SEA visit is early next month (June 7 – 10). There are likely to be requests for 1:7500 scale maps for older classes and to have digital printing in due course.
- **WMOC 2018 Denmark:** Status report. No new SEA report received. Tony Thornley (GBR) has been appointed as SEA and Steve McKinley (GBR) as his assistant. They have been in contact with the organisers and plan their first visit for mid July.
- **WMOC 2019 Latvia:** It is still early to be considering an SEA recommendation but FOC should discuss this in the summer.
- **WMOC programme review:** DM produced a first draft of a description of alternative models with the purpose of having a questionnaire after WMOC 2016 collecting the points of view of the participants there. [FOC recommended to test an additional scenario with just one long qualification competition.](#) [HLP volunteered to send a proposal to DM.](#)

8 Regional Senior Championships (ROCs)

BT

- **European Orienteering Championships, 21-28 May 2016, Jeseník, Czech Republic.** [Challenges with the timing systems and map quality were discussed.](#)
- **North American Orienteering Championships, 23-25 September 2016, Hanover, NH, USA.** [Possible RDR expected to use 1:10.000 scale maps for the long distance.](#)
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2016, 27 July – 2 August 2016, Chai-Yi & Tai-nan, Chinese Taipei.** [No update.](#)
- **South American Orienteering Championships 2016, 27-30 October, Valparaiso, Chile.** [Council approved the current EA to be the SEA.](#) [Rules recommended for Council approval \(AL\).](#)
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships 2017, 14-17 April 2017, Auckland region, New Zealand.** [Some concerns in the SEA report,](#)

which are now being handled.

- **European Orienteering Championships**, 5th to 13th May 2018, Ticino, Switzerland. Programme now approved by Council. FOC recommends to use qualification methods to reflect the new WOC model.
 - AL recommended not to have B-finals, but let competitors compete in the spectator races instead.
 - TV-coverage is currently not planned from the Middle and Long finals. AL to inform TH about this.
- **NAOC 2018:** Canada (Yukon) is expected to host the event in August 2018.
- **ASOC 2018:** the Asian Working Group looks for an organiser in 2016.
- **SAOC 2018:** Uruguay to organise? Decision: October 2016.
- **OOC 2019:** an application from Australia is expected, probably from Victoria or Canberra.
- **EOC in the future** Council meeting: “MD presented a discussion and consultation paper which was being prepared regarding the future of the EOC and other regional championships in light of ExGA decision regarding WOC and the overall FootO programme consultations. The discussion paper outlined 3 alternatives for consideration, 1) alternating EOC on a cycle opposite to WOC, 2) a biennial EOC with a simplified programme and 3) embedding EOC competitions within the World Cup programme. Council agreed that alternative 1 was preferred, with the following comments:
 - WOC and EOC should not be included in the World Cup as a principle.
 - The FootO season with this overall proposal would contain 5 international competition periods, 3 WC rounds, WOC and Regional Championships.
 - There should be flexibility for other IOF regions to determine their Regional Championships programmes.
 - MD would now prepare an additional brief consultation paper to be sent out to European member federations regarding the EOC proposal.”
 - FOC finds it unlikely that the nations will have the physical and financial capabilities to participate in 5 IOF event rounds in a year.
 - FOC supports Council’s proposal to alternate EOC on a cycle opposite to WOC. FOC also discussed that this new setup should start only in 2020, unless we can find a very experienced organiser for 2019 (Urban EOC). AL to communicate this to Council.

9 The World Games

AL

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report, no new SEA Report available. AL visited Wroclaw in relation to the World Cup and spoke to key persons. Preparations are on track. AL expressed several small concerns and the organiser will look into them. World Cup was a successful rehearsal, things are looking better than when TWG was staged outside Europe.

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – RULES

10 Rules

USK,
DM

- At their recent GA in Sweden a decision had been made to have equal winning times for men's and women's classes. In addition, the decision had included that SOFT should work towards having the same decided internationally. Council seeks FOC's view on this.

FOC discussed the proposal. Theoretically FOC sympathises with the idea to have equal winning times for men and women, but does not support the Swedish proposal for practical reasons:

- longer women's winning times would create less excitement in TV-productions with the gaps getting even bigger
 - longer women's winning times will attract fewer athletes to participate in Long distance events thus will slowly kill the format
 - if winning times should be harmonised, FOC would propose to shorten the men's winning times to the level where women's winning times currently are
 - FOC supports Ida Bobach's statement, that equality is not about course lengths but about equal attention and recognition. **AL to forward the comments to Council.**
- David Rosen pointed out that a set of rules reflecting the new WOC regime should be produced. Does not need to be started until after the IOF General Assembly in August. The new rules should be in effect from 1st January 2017. **USK to handle this.**
 - EYOC Rules should be changed in the end of the year to enable 1:10.000 map scales for Long distance competitions. **USK to handle this.**
 - JJS suggested to look into the possibilities to make it easier to enable digitally printed maps for World Ranking sprint events. **In principle FOC feels that technology has reached a stage where encouraging digital printing should be done. FOC recommends that Map Commission works on the details about how sufficient quality can/should be assured. AL to inform Map Commission.**

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – EVENT QUALITY AND ADVISING

- 11 Event Advising** USK,
VF,
HLP
- Plan for EA Clinics:
- Clinic in 2016: EA Clinic in EST, 9 August (WMOC 2016 rest day).
 - HLP has volunteered to assist DR in doing the presentations on the day, but expects DR to prepare the presentations and contact HLP about expectations. **USK to inform DR.**
 - Clinic in 2016: EA Clinic in BRA, 30 September – 2 October.
 - A request for a coaching clinic from Malaysia has been received. This is not within the remits of FOC, but RYDC.
 - High Level Event Seminar 2017. Preliminary dates are 4-5 February 2017. The plan is to make this event affordable for as many as possible. AL has already asked a price quote from POL and CZE. **Date and airport location should be agreed by USK, AL and HLP for the next meeting.** Advertisement should start by WOC 2016.
- SEA nominations.
- FOC discussed if there should be more distinction between Event Advisers (like SEA) on the basis of what kind of IOF events they advised for. **VF volunteered to make a proposal for FOC Meeting 4-16.**
- 12 Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission (FOAC)** AL
- FOAC looked into the issue of equal winning times between men and women, suggested by the Swedish Orienteering Federation. **FOC thanks FOAC for their support on this.**
- 13 Coaches Reference Group (CRG) – “Entourage reference group”** JJS
- There has not been a lot of activity recently from either sides.**
- YOUTH PROMOTION**
- 14 Regional Youth Championships** TD, VF
- EYOC 2016: Poland. **Preparations are on track.** AL
 - EYOC 2017: Slovakia. Visit report and Event Plan available. Preparations are on track.
 - EYOC 2018: Bulgaria and Czech Republic applied. **VF assessed these two bids. BUL and CZE presented their bids to FOC. Both applications were suitable, but FOC picked one applicant to recommend for Council. The other applicant should be encouraged to apply for EYOC 2019. VF to update the assessment proposal and send to AL asap. AL to forward the proposal to Council.** AL, VF
AL, BT

- Guidelines for Regional Youth Championships (made by RYDC) were discussed and approved.

15 Youth Promotion

VF, BT

Extended remit. No progress has been made. Special tasks for 2016:

- in cooperation with RYDC 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.

EVENT DEVELOPMENT

16 Guidelines

BT

- **WOC Manual:** Updating is needed with the new qualification formats and the introduction of the Sprint Relay. Jørn Sundby is responsible for the update. Clive Allen also offered proofreading. Deadline: end of 2016.
- **WCup Guidelines:** It was agreed to postpone this update until after the WOC Guidelines are updated. And then establish a group with recent WCup organisers involved.
- **JWOC Guidelines:** Updated March 2016.
- **WMOC Guidelines:** Updated January 2016.
- **WRE Guidelines:** Updated January 2016.
- **Sprint Relay Guidelines:** was published in February 2015.

VISIBILITY OF ORIENTEERING

17 Visibility of orienteering

JJS

- FOC should have this in mind in every decision.
- We must keep our ambition to increase the visibility to an audience who are not already orienteers.

18 WRE

VF, DM

Nothing to report.

From our Meeting Minutes 5-15:

- DM proposed to have EA evaluations written from organisers in each WRE and uploaded to Eventor. [No progress made.](#)

OTHER MATTERS

19 AOB

AL

- JS's letter to AL: "I assume there might be some discussions

regarding embargo of cities. As you know, I am strongly in favour of a full, strict embargo also for sprint races. I think the experiences from the last WOCs and athletes feedback show this clearly. I hope we can agree on this, but if not we should leave the discussion for the formal appointment.

I think that starting with 2020 we need to make some clear rules in regard to embargo of sprint areas. Either we go for full embargo (with possible exception of some major roads and streets if practically necessary)- or we leave all sprint areas open. In the last case it will be up to each organiser to build the terrain, as the terrain needs to be changed a lot to create a challenging competition.

Touch free punching also gives some new aspects to sprint orienteering. I think the whole sprint concepts should go through a major discussion how we want it to look in the future. The IOF should decide how this disciplines should develop. Right now it is too vague, IMO.”

FOC recommends to have the sprint discipline development included in the project that JS is proposed to manage. Action waits for IOF decision if JS is tasked to become project manager.

- New model of Major Event Entries and a discussion around that. FOC recognised the great work to clarify the process. FOC stressed the importance of providing assistance for the weakest nations to meet deadlines etc. – since it is of great importance to Council that also smaller countries participate in IOF High Level Events. USK and DR will revise the rules according to the new process.
- FOC discussed the concept of WOC Clinics that are organised by WOC organisers to support runners from developing member countries. From the IOF side, this is managed by RYDC. FOC agreed that TD will talk to the new RYDC chair about such clinics, whether it is possible to support these nations with coaches. JJS will write a memo for TD on this.

20 Next meetings

all

- FOC meeting 4-16 during WMOC in Tallinn (possible to run WMOC):
 - JS responsible for the organisation (accommodation and meeting room)
 - Meetings (planned): Saturday 6/8: 13:30-20:00; Sunday 7/8 14:00-20:00; Monday 8/8 14:00-18:00
 - meeting place is Hotel Viru.
- FOC meeting 5-16 in Hungary (Eger or Budapest) on the last weekend of October. AL responsible for the organisation. Arrival on 29/10, departure on 31/10. AL to make a detailed programme proposal for FOC meeting 4/16..

Legend:

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

AL 18/05/2016, HLP 29/05/2016, AL 30/05/2016