

Minutes – Foot Orienteering Commission – Meeting 4–16

Place: Hotel Viru, Tallinn, Estonia

Meeting schedule: Saturday, 6th August – 14:00-19:00 EET
 Sunday 7th August – 14:00-19:00 EET
 Monday 8th August – 15:00-18:30 EET

Participants:	Áron Less (AL)	Chairman
	Kilian Imhof (KI)	Member
	Maria Krafft Helgesson (MKH)	Member
	Helge Lang Pedersen (HLP)	Member
	David May (DM)	Member
	Janne Salmi (JJS)	Member
	Unni Strand Karlsen (USK)	Member
	Blair Trewin (BT)	Member – through Skype
Invitations:	Mike Dowling (MD)	FOC's IOF Council contact person
	Tom Hollowell (TH)	IOF Secretary General / CEO
	David Rosen (DR)	IOF Rules Commission Chair
	Nik Suter (NS)	FOC's IOF Council contact person
Absent:	Tomáš Dlabaja	FOC Member
	Vincent Frey (VF)	FOC Member

OPENING

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| 1 | Opening
AL opened the meeting. | AL |
| 2 | Follow up of Minutes FOC 3-16
All follow-up topics are discussed under the various agenda items below. | AL |

TO NOTE DECISIONS / ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE THE FOC MEETING 3-16

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| 3 | Council & ESB decisions | AL |
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1. Rule deviation request regarding the use of start vests instead of start bibs in WOC 2017 Estonia:

TH: You should have received the news that this RDR was rejected. We need to have a working group to look at this.

2. WOC 2020 organiser. Denmark is the only applicant and FOC recommends in the corresponding assessment report to approve Denmark as organisers of WOC 2020.

TH: Approved and OK.

3. JWOC 2019 organiser appointment. Denmark is the only applicant and FOC recommends in the corresponding assessment report to approve Denmark as organisers of JWOC 2019.

TH: Approved and OK.

4. EYOC 2018 organiser appointment. Two bids received from Bulgaria and Czech Republic. FOC felt that the Czech application was fractionally better than the Bulgarian one – both on an objective and subjective scale. Still, the “losing” applicant should be encouraged to come back and apply for EYOC 2019.

TH: BUL was rewarded since they had applied with the same concept several times previously. Feedback has been given to CZE and the applicants say they will bid again for 2019.

5. WOC in the future – middle qualification.

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.

TH: All OK.

6. WOC in the future – long qualification.

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 having three automatic places for the host country.

TH: All OK.

7. WOC in the future – new sprint format

TH: Jørn Sundby has started working on this, needs to be followed by FOC.

8. South American Orienteering Championships rules.

TH: Council has approved this. David Wästlund is following up.

9. Fixed programme for WOC. FOC would like to develop a fixed programme for WOC, so it is the same from year to year. Nowadays it's the applicant who can basically decide on the order of the events. Planning will be easier from when WOC is split.

TH: Agree, although this has not been discussed in Council. I propose FOC should come up with a proposal for Council discussion.

10. SEA proposals: WOC 2019: Lars Forsberg (SWE), JWOC 2019: Hannu Pyy (FIN)

TH: Both are approved.

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

FOCUS ON KEY OUTCOMES – STRATEGIC PLANNING

4 WOC

AL, KI

- **WOC 2016, Sweden:** Status report. No new SEA report available. WOC is just two weeks away. Everything seems to be on track.
- **WOC 2017, Estonia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Rule deviation request with regards to number bibs rejected. Dates are 30 June - 7 July, 2017. Bulletin 2 was published in July 2016.
- **WOC 2018, Latvia:** Status report. No new SEA report available. Dates are now 4-11 August 2018, just one week after O-Ringen / World Cup ends. FOC recommended that the national controllers are appointed asap. Latvia currently has very few IOF Event Advisers, so using people from abroad should also be considered.
- **WOC 2019, Norway:** Sarpsborg, Østfold was appointed as organiser by Council. Proposed dates are 13-17 August. Preparation is already well underway. Lars Forsberg was appointed as Assistant SEA.
- **WOC 2020:** One application received from Denmark (Vejle, Kolding, Fredericia). General Assembly to make the decision in August.
- **WOC in the future.** General Assembly will make a decision on Council's proposals. In the meanwhile, FOC has to continue steering the development of the third Sprint WOC discipline. Discussion.
 - 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 organised globally at high technical quality.

FOC should set a timetable and testing plan.

The subject was discussed in detail based on the proposal from JJS. The conclusions from the discussion are reflected in the updated version of the discussion paper, which is appended to the Minutes. It was agreed that AL and TH will decide who should be in charge of

the test project. Action: AL.

5 World Cup

JJS, BT

- **World Cup 2016: status report**
- **World Cup 2017: status report**
 - Round 1 (WCup 1-4): Finland. New SEA report available.
 - 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. New SEA report available.
 - 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.
 - **Special Rules for both the Individual and the Relay World Cup are available from BT. A few changes were agreed upon. BT to update and send the document to DR for review. After that AL to send the final document to ESB for final approval. DR expressed interest in merging the two set of Special Rules into one document. BT and DR will discuss further. Action: BT.**
- **World Cup in the future:** The 2018 World Cup will consist of 3 rounds. The first round will be held in Switzerland at the European Orienteering Championships May 5-13, 2018. The second round will be O-Ringen Höga Kusten July 21-27 and the third and final round will be held in Østfold, Norway, preliminarily at the end of August 2018. The final round in Norway will be pre-WOC 2019.

From 2019 and onwards the intention is that the World Cup will be held with 3 fixed rounds, one of them being O-Ringen.

All 2018 parties/organisers have agreed to TV productions and investments will be made in athlete service, prize money, etc. IOF now needs to begin working on establishing the exact program, an SEA team, etc. together with FOC. One specific issue to address is that O-Ringen will be only 2 weeks prior to WOC so a special competition program will need to be set to maximize WCup participation while lessening physical stress prior to WOC.

The subject was discussed in detail. The result was a document containing a long term plan for the World Cup, which is appended to these Minutes. The document includes a short explanation of the thoughts behind the plan. AL will discuss the time schedule for further dialogue with IOF Council, coaches, athletes and future organisers with IOF Office. **Action: AL & IOF Office.**

It is the plan to have a permanent team consisting of an SEA, Assistant SEA and IT SEA to monitor that the World Cup will develop in the intended direction.

It was agreed that TH will establish a contact to enable a meeting between JJS, BT and Henrik Boström from O-Ringen during the WOC week. MKH will also participate with her knowledge of O-Ringen.

6 JWOC

HLP

- **JWOC 2016: Switzerland.** FOC rep report available. JWOC 2016 can be considered as a very successful event.
- **JWOC 2017: Finland.** No new SEA report available. **It seems that the SEA plans more visits than usual. Action HLP to make sure that the travel budget is kept within the limits.**
- **JWOC 2018: Hungary.** Bulletin 1 was published. Jari Kymäläinen takes over SEA duties from AL in September.
- **JWOC 2019: Denmark.** Silkeborg was awarded JWOC 2019 in the last Council meeting.
- HLP shared a thought from the speaker at JWOC 2016 to use some kind of seeding in the start list for the Long Final. AL had asked the coaches about this two years ago and they were very clear that they did not like such an idea.

7 WMOC

DM, BT

- **WMOC 2016: Estonia.** Update.
- **WMOC (WMG) 2017: New Zealand.** Status report. New SEA report available. Rule deviation request received to have 1:7.500 scale maps for older classes in the long distance and to use digital printing. **FOC supports 1:7.500 map scales only in M/W 60+ classes (instead of M/W 50+).** FOC does not support the request to use digital printing instead of offset printing and suggested that printing might be outsourced to Europe if costs remain an issue.
- **WMOC 2018 Denmark:** Status report. No new SEA report received. The SEAs have been in contact with the organisers and planned their first visit for mid July. **The SEA report was received just before the**

FOC meeting. No problems identified so far.

- **WMOC 2019 Latvia:** SEA nominations below. The Latvians have agreed that the first week of August will be acceptable and now have to decide whether to start on the 3rd or the 4th.
- **WMOC 2021:** assuming the WMG/WMOC connection is continued, WMOC 2021 will be combined with WMG and will go to Kansai in Japan during May
- **WMOC programme review:** It was discussed with TH how to balance the Competition Review Project statement about Middle distance with FOC's preference of taking the result of the 2016 WMOC participant survey into account when making the final decision. It was agreed to propose to add a comment to the presentation at the General Assembly saying something like "the final decision of introducing a Middle Championships in WMOC is subject to whether it is deemed possible to find a solution that is in line with the preferences indicated by the WMOC participants". DM will contact TH to discuss a wording that can be proposed to Mike Dowling.
- The relations between WMGA and WMOC from 2021 onwards was discussed.

8 Regional Senior Championships (ROCs)

BT

- **North American Orienteering Championships 2016,** 23-25 September 2016, Hanover, NH, USA. Update.
- **Asian Orienteering Championships 2016,** 27 July – 2 August 2016, Chai-Yi & Tai-nan, Chinese Taipei. Update.
- **South American Orienteering Championships 2016,** 27-30 October, Valparaiso, Chile. Update.
- **Oceania Orienteering Championships 2017,** 14-17 April 2017, Auckland region, New Zealand. Update.
- **European Orienteering Championships,** 5th to 13th May 2018, Ticino, Switzerland. Programme now approved by Council. FOC recommends using qualification methods to reflect the new WOC model. Rules to be discussed. FOC have received an indication that the organisers might want to change the order of the events. The procedure is that they discuss this with the SEA. If the proposal is supported by the SEA, it is forwarded to FOC who will decide. FOC can take no action until a request is received from the SEA.
- **NAOC 2018:** Canada (Yukon), most probably around 17-22 August 2018. Based on current WOC dates.
- **ASOC 2018:** Most probably in Hong Kong.
- **SAOC 2018:** Uruguay to organise? Decision: October 2016.

- **OOC 2019:** an application from Australia is expected, probably from Victoria or Canberra. [Date is expected to be late September – early October](#)
- **EOC in the future.** We should wait for the General Assembly decision on the Competition Review Project.

9 The World Games

AL

- **TWG 2017 POL:** status report. Preparation have now speeded up after the World Cup. The organiser is well aware of the expectations. 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

- 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. [This should be handled after WOC, but before the October Council meeting. AL asked TH so that ESB can approve rule changes.](#)
- EYOC Rules should be changed in the end of the year to enable 1:10.000 map scales for Long distance competitions. This is handled after WOC.
- Jan Kocbach’s suggestion for rule change regarding wearing GPS-watches.
 - [The majority of FOC is in favour of this rule change which is also supported by Athletes Commission. A minority view was that this would “open a can of worms” and could lead to widespread abuse. AL will pass the FOC point of view to Council. In 21.4 “WMOC” is added in the margin to clarify that the potential rule change should not apply to WMOC. The exact wording of the proposal is developed by DR.](#)
- David Rosen’s comments on the rules that changed after the 2015 season were discussed.
- FOC discussed if keeping distribution of runners in qualification heats secret is necessary
 - FOC recommends to remove secrecy in WOC
 - FOC recommends to remove secrecy in JWOC and extend the start interval in MQ to 3 minutes.
 - **Action DR to develop final wording proposals.**

[FOC discussed the Protocol Guide Section 6.3: FOC supports the proposal from the Athletes Commission to have 6 relay teams on the podium in](#)

flower- and prize-giving ceremonies. Action HLP to write to David Wästlund about this.

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).
 - Clinic in 2016: EA Clinic in BRA, 30 September – 2 October.
 - High Level Event Seminar 2017. Preliminary dates are 4-5 February 2017. The planned venue is Warsaw. Advertisement should start by WOC 2016. Planning starts during WOC. Action: AL.
- 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. No proposal was received for the meeting.
- 12 Liaising with FootO Athletes Commission (FOAC)** AL
- Update.
- FOAC have sent their checklist for organisers. FOC agrees it is a valuable document. AL volunteered to comment the document with the purpose of identifying what changes in Rules and Guidelines may follow from their ideas. Action: AL.
- 13 Coaches Reference Group (CRG) – “Entourage reference group”** JJS
- There has not been a lot of activity recently from either sides.
- A meeting with the coaches is planned for Wednesday during the WOC week. JJS has made the invitation via the facebook group and will ask David Wästlund to assist in sending information to the coaches registered in Eventor for WOC 2016. Action: JJS.
- FOC discussed the possibility of formalising the CRG into an “Entourage Reference Group”. This initiative rests with IOF Council. FOC has no current actions in this matter.

YOUTH PROMOTION

- 14 Regional Youth Championships** TD, VF
- EYOC 2016: Poland. The event had several organisational problems. AL provided more information on site.
 - EYOC 2017: Slovakia. Bulletin 1 published. AL took part in the pre-event. Preparations are on track.

- EYOC 2018: Bulgaria appointed by Council.

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.
- HLP mentioned an initiative with the joint intention to raise the profile for SEAs and combine the event guidelines and SEA Guideline in a way that will eventually provide the SEAs with better checklists of how to monitor the events and report progress back to FOC. HLP will discuss the subject further with USK and MKH during the WOC week. Action: HLP

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 update was presented.](#)

OTHER MATTERS

19 AOB AL

Nothing to report.

20 Next meetings all

- Informal meeting during WOC after the General Assembly. No agenda will be sent out. We will attempt to provide possibility for Skype access too. Exact timing is 19:30 – 21:00 on Friday evening (26/08). Meeting point: The lobby of the Laholmen Hotel.
- FOC meeting 5-16 in Hungary (Eger or Budapest) on the last weekend of October. AL responsible for the organisation. [Arrival on 28/10 afternoon, departure on 30/10 afternoon. AL to provide further information by 31/08.](#)

Legend:

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

HLP & AL 19/08/2016