

A future of the co-operation between Orienteering Federations in Europe (OFE) and the European Working Group (EWG)?

In last past months, the EWG has dealt with the question about the remits of this group and remits of the OFE (Orienteering Federations in Europe) Annual Meeting.

Until now, we have been working under the following rules, see: <http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Working-Rules-for-the-OFE2.pdf>

As stated in the paragraph 1 of these rules, the purpose of the co-operation between the European federations is:

- *by delegation of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) to ensure the organisation of European Championships for different age classes in orienteering disciplines recognised by the IOF;*
- *to prepare rules for the European Championships;*
- *to promote regional co-operation for the further development of the sport in Europe*

However, as it seems now, Senior European Championships rules and appointments of organizers are very much determined by decisions of respective commissions (FOC, MTBOC, SkiOC, and bit less of TOC), because these events are a part of World Cup. The EWG cannot e.g. appoint Event Advisers for these events as it is done by the Commissions.

The EWG seems not to have a full control over these events due to such strong involvement of the Commissions. The logical outcome should be that respective Commissions should take all responsibilities for decisions regarding these events (appointments of organizers, appointment of SEA, decisions on competition rules, assessment of events, recommendations for future organizers, etc.).

Regarding European Youth Championships in SkiO and MTBO and European Junior Championships in MTBO, these events are usually joint events with senior/master (in some cases with junior world) championships, so the OFE formally decide about these championships but the real power is again with the respective Commissions.

In reality, only the EYOC is left in remits of the OFE. But now with the new Commission for Regional and Youth Development (RYDC), a part of the EWG is thinking that a logical step is to pass responsibilities for these youth championships to this new Commission or to the FootO Commission (similarly as the FOC decides e.g. on JWOC).

Therefore we would like to discuss with you, representatives of the Orienteering Federations in Europe, a possibility to change the working rules and pass responsibilities for European championships to respective discipline commissions (and/or RYDC) and keep the only purpose of co-operation between the OFE *“to promote regional co-operation for the further development of the sport in Europe”* in co-operation with and under the auspice of the Commission for Regional and Youth Development which should give us clear remits and tasks.

As this proposal has not been supported by the majority of the EWG members, we come up with this open letter to start up discussion at the OFE Annual Meeting and, if possible, to make a decision about the future course of the EWG and OFE co-operation.

The EWG will, of course, continue working on co-operation between European federations and look for new ideas and projects.

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