

IOF – Outside of Europe Nations Meeting

Meeting Notes

Grand Alpha Palmiers Hotel

Lausanne

Switzerland

18 July 2012

Attendance

Brian Porteous	GBR	- chair
Michael Dowling	AUS	
Blair Trewin	AUS	
Robert Spry	AUS	
Charlotte McNaughton	CAN	
Dominic Yue	HKG	
Irina Chsheglova	KAZ	
Ronaldo André Castelo dos Santos de Almeida	BRA	
Francesco Buselli	ARG	
José Fernando 'Fercho' Gomez Rueda	COL	
Garry Morrison	RSA	- notes

Introduction

By way of introduction outside of Europe nations were congratulated for recent notable performances by their athletes on the world stage:

NZL – Gold Medal in men middle distance at JWOC

CAN – Bronze Medal in women long distance at JWOC

RSA – first-ever qualification for an A final at WOC (men sprint)

1 & 2) Regional Priorities & Supporting Regional Development

Summary of IOF's Regional Priorities was given.

Regional Championships being held in Asia, Oceania and North America. Not yet being held in Africa and South America.

Towards the Olympic goal, IOF requires more member nations, and for the current crop of provisional members to make the transition to full membership.

One of the evaluation criteria of IOC is the number of countries hosting a national championship for both Seniors and Juniors.

An activity plan may be to take the sub-Regional working group concept that is working well in SE Europe and apply that in Asia and possibly South America.

3) Events Outside Europe

It is a priority for the IOF to encourage more international events outside Europe. This is required to demonstrate the global nature of our sport. Upcoming outside Europe events are:

- World Cup in NZL at the beginning of 2013. First one of the season and compulsory for final ranking.
- World SkiO Championships 2013 in KAZ
- World Games in Cali, Colombia 2013
- WMOC 2014 in BRA

There are difficulties with such remote events attracting a large number of participating nations, e.g. the World SkiO Championships in KAZ.

The IOF has available limited funds to assist with travel in situations where a less-experienced nation gets support from more experienced ones. Examples include:

- Sweden providing technical assistance to China with a joint bid for a WOC.
- Japan providing technical assistance to South Korea for Asian Champs.
- Whole technical team for the World Games in Colombia is being supported.

To further support these initiatives, the IOF needs to bring in more money into the sport. The income from members is at its limit. Hence the only way to increase funding is to secure TV coverage of an enhanced product.

The IOF is trying to secure wider TV coverage & sponsorship. They are pursuing Eurosport contacts. Eurosport has the possibility of a wider distribution network.

4) IOF O-Ringen Academy

This is ongoing. Most recent edition had 39 participants from 13 countries.

Members are encouraged to send participants.

Also encourage athletes to attend as they will gain access to coaches.

The IOF is also willing to support other development activities like Development Clinics, Event Adviser clinics and Mapping clinics.

Another noteworthy initiative is the WOC partnership clinics run in France in 2011 and in Switzerland in 2012.

Hong Kong noted some challenges facing nations distant from Europe:

- It is a challenge not having suitable terrain.
- The expense of sending large teams overseas for competition and training opportunities.

One suggestion would be to invite elite runners to visit during the off-season to train with local elite.

5) IOF General Assembly agenda

There was some discussion around the voting procedures around the proposed changes to the WOC format.

The drivers for change are to reduce the organisational burden of hosting a WOC, hence the common thread to eliminate qualification. There is a concern about how new qualification criteria will disadvantage small nations. It was noted that the decisions made at the GA would be in principle decisions. Exact details of any qualification criteria would be worked out subsequently.

Another driver is for the event to become more compelling to TV.

At the same time there is an aim to ensure the global nature of the sport.

The details of the voting procedure for the various office bearers were also discussed.

6) Regional Championships status

Asia – will be in China in 2012. The aim is to invite provisional members in the hope that it will encourage them towards full membership.

North America – event will be in October, 1.5 hrs from New York city. These champs alternate between Canada and the USA. They are hoping Barbados will attend.

Oceania – this is well-established with New Zealand and Australia. No other nations in the foreseeable future. Odd case of New Caledonia, which is deemed to be part of Europe – falling under the French umbrella. They are working on aligning Oceania foot O rules with those of the IOF.

South America – distances are a challenge. Thus far all have been in Brazil. There is the Mercosur cup, which is a sub-regional event.

Africa – SA is in the early phase of discussions to adapt one of its events to be a Regional championship. Only problem is that with the exception of small-scale activity in Moçambique there are no other neighbouring countries that do orienteering.

7) National Championships status

This is a requirement for full membership & is the counting measure monitored by the IOC.

IOF is exploring getting orienteering to be part of more multi-sport games. This is part of the strategy to gain greater exposure. Examples include:

- Universiad (FISU).
- World Military Games (CISM) – now included.

8) Other Matters

There was a discussion around the challenge of ensuring that our WRE's attract sufficient ranked runners to ensure that the local elites gain world ranking points. There is a challenge around the threshold of 600 points.

Brian to raise the possibility of a system that enables runners from outside-Europe, newcomer and small nations to gain ranking points.

Australia mentioned highly tentative notion that they may consider bidding for WOC towards the end of the decade.

It was noted that two Asian countries were considering bidding for WMOC in 2016 and that they would explore coordination of their bid.

World Games status update – it was mentioned that a review and update of the various work-streams would occur in September.

South Africa noted that even with the qualification of a continental representative they may not be allowed to send athletes due to the strict qualification criteria of their national sports confederation.