

Summary of Foot Orienteering Commission (FOC) Minutes

Tuusula, Finland, 16-18 January 2004

1. Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC)

The Commission sympathised with the visa problems being experienced by the Russian organisers of JWOC 2004 and thanked them for their full co-operation in handing over to the new hosts in Poland. Progress with the 2005, 2006 and 2007 events was reviewed and appropriate feedback will be given in due course as a result.

The proposal to include a Sprint race within the event programme will be discussed further in the period up to and including JWOC 2004 in Poland. The Commission drew up four alternative programme options, all including the Sprint discipline, which will form the basis for discussion with Federations and team leaders in the coming months. A final decision regarding the inclusion of Sprint is expected from Council in September and the earliest it could be included will be 2006.

Guidelines for the JWOC are in preparation and should be available by the summer.

2. World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC)

Reports and updates on all WMOCs from 2004 to 2007 were received. In general, good progress is being made by all organisers, the only issue being the need to clarify the role of the National Controller and the aim to have consistent mapping styles where there is more than one mapper involved.

The WMOC Guidelines were discussed in detail. Updates and amendments will be incorporated into the 2004 edition, due for publication in February.

3. World Ranking Events (WRE)

The Commission noted with approval that, at the time of the meeting, the 2004 calendar included some 83 IOF Ranking events. FOC also proposed strengthening the status of the Rankings by awarding annual team and individual prizes. Other measures related to application fees and the timing of applications will be developed further at the next meeting.

The WRE Guidelines were discussed in detail. Updates and amendments will be incorporated into the 2004 edition, due for publication in February. One particular inclusion will be the clarification of the role of the event controller.

4. Regional Development

The IOF is committed to promoting the sport around the world but has only limited resources. However, there are some initiatives going on, such as annual clinics at O-Ringen, which can be built on for the future. It could also be that Federations could be of mutual benefit. Areas of need to be identified clearly.

In order to target resources with maximum effect, FOC will send a questionnaire to all Federations to identify their needs and to find out what they might be able to offer too.

5. Marathon Orienteering

With the guidance of the Marathon Working Group, the Commission is looking at how best to establish the World Marathon Trophy in a way which will include all forms of long distance orienteering. A re-draft of the Chairman's discussion paper will be presented to the next meeting.

6. Next meeting

14th -16th May 2004 in Halden (Norway).