

# Athletes SkiO Commission meeting 14 Feb 2013

---

**Date:** 14 February 2013

**Place:** Smeceres Sils

**Present:** Christian Sporrey (SUI), Staffan Tunis (FIN), Hans Jørgen Kvåle (NOR). *Not present:* Eduard Khrennikov (RUS), Alison Crocker (USA), Olga Novikova (KAZ)

## § 1. Athletes Commissions (AC) work tasks

We are supposed to help SkiO Commission make decisions by informing them about the athletes view on their topics and ensure the competitions are held with a high level and are interesting and fair for the athletes.

AC will therefor try to influence in the new handbooks for organisers and event advisers. See some of the input we have for the handbooks further down.

The SkiO Commission are going to take a deep look into the rules for Ski Orienteering. AC should also do this and come with suggestions and our view on the rules SkiO Commission want to change. Our first thoughts to rules changes are further down and will be out main priority on our next meeting in Kazakhstan during the World Championships.

## § 2. World Ranking (WR)

IOF have put together a new WR working group that most likely will make big changes to today's WR rules and make all the orienteering disciplines more similar. AC will therefore not work anymore on this now, but hope to be involved when the adjustments to SkiO are going to be discussed.

## § 3. Test of a new discipline

AC have brought up for the SkiO Commission a suggestion to try a new and innovative discipline concept in one race in next years World Cup. AC have discussed Knock-out sprint, Chasing start and Labyrinth and think Chasing start are the most interesting concept. For the first try some known forking method should be used but in the future it might can be interesting to also try chasing start with the new "runners choice" forking method.

## § 4. Rules changes (suggestions to SOC)

*Below are the rules AC wants to change in the "Competition Rules for International Orienteering Federation (IOF) Ski Orienteering events" listed.*

3.2 and 3.3 WSOC and WCup organised annually (need more discussion)

4. NEW1. For organisers that want to organise major IOF competitions it should be a criteria to have an organiser plan that ensure quality of the event. Suggestion is that before a Nation or organiser can

apply for WCup they need to have organised WRE the year before and of they before organising WOC they have to organise WCup the year before(or last 4 years if overseas). Similar rules for JWOC

4. NEW2. Organisers of major IOF events (WOC, WCup, JWOC, ROC) shall to ensure quality of the event the year before their competition take part in an organiser clinic (organised by IOF in the summer or at a major IOF event the year prior).

4.2 With the applications for IOF events should a Bulletin 1 with embargoed are be attached. The Bulletin and embargoed are have to be published the same day as the selection of the event are made

6.10 The organising Federation may have two additional competitors as official WorldCup competitors in the individual competitions. These competitors shall start in the lowest ranked start group. The organising federation also may have 10 unofficial participants starting before the first WorldCup starter as national group. These competitors in the national group may not get WorldCup points.

8.5 Bulletin 3 shall include: Map Scale and Map Size

8.7 and 8.8 Bulletin 1 with embargoed area should be attached with the application

8.9 Bulletins for WREs should be possible to find at the IOF World Events Diary

9.2 Need to be specified if it means per day or at a whole championship

9. Maybe we should use world cup special rules as standard rules now?

12.1 Must start interval be the same? What if just the same for red group if necessary for media production?

12.5 The organiser and IOF Event Adviser should always be allowed to delay the start to make the competitions more fare (e.g. heavy snowfall) Individual, Mass-start and chasing-start

15.6 The competition map should fit on an A4 paper. If possible or needed the Event Adviser should give special allowance to change the map scale for map readability or to make the whole course fit on the A4 paper. IOF Event Adviser can also give permission to use other map sizes than A4, but this need to be specified in Bulletin 3. Most important are the map readability and it should always be considered when choosing map scale or size.

20. NEW If the organisers provide control cards the athlete should be allowed to change card if he detect any problems with the control card

21.6 GPS watches without map function may be used (as GPS loggers)

22. NEW For WSOC, WCup and JWOC sprint distance a start gate should be used for start timing

22. NEW In competitions with mass or chasing starts, a camera shall record the start. Early starts may be given penalties

22.5 At mass-start races the clock showing the start time shall not be visible for the athletes from the starting line.

22.9 and 22.10 For all distances the athletes shall receive the map 15 seconds before their start time.

22.14 The changeover may not be organised so incoming competitor collect the map

23. NEW For WSOC, WCup and JWOC sprint distance a light beam should be used for finish timing timing

25.4 Add Sprint Relay to World Champion titles awarded at WSOC

26.13 *"The organiser must void a race if circumstances have arisen which make the race significantly unfair"* This rule need to be clarified

26. NEW If circumstances makes the competition more fair because of organiser mistakes one control (split times from the leg prior and after the control) may be taken away from the competition time for all athletes. This means all athletes shall carry on the race if they detect organiser mistakes.

Appendix 2: If there are any changes to the Bulletin 4 these changes should be given in writing and speaking at the team leaders meeting

Appendix 4: Turning in controls should be avoided in course setting for all mass-start races as far as possible. Especially both in the beginning and the last common part.

Appendix 4: Maps should be preferably handed out to each athlete 15 sec before start from organisers (Requires 1 start personnel per 2 skiers). If not possible maps should be handed out 1-2 minutes before the start upside down on the competitors map holder and turned 15 sec before the start-

Appendix 4: The start in Mass-start events should be video recorded

Appendix 4: The placing of the punching units at the last control in Mass start races should make it possible for two athletes to punch at the same time and start the sprint side by side

Appendix 8: Track and course setting and distance order should be made so competitors participating in earlier distances at the same event advantages from knowing the terrain will become marginal

Appendix 9: Similar rules to WSOC, but with 6 participants and 2 relay and 3 sprint relay teams

*Athletes commission want to see the rule changes SOC are discussing and give our comment on these.*

## **§ 5. Suggestions for organisers and event advisers' handbooks**

- Event organising
  - Event office open 2 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> competition
  - Think through the distance order for less advantages from knowing the terrain

- Hand out changes in Bulletin 4 in paper at team leaders meeting
- Use 2 different terrains if possible
- Model event should be as similar to the competition terrain and the tracks as possible.
- Ceremonies and especially out in cold weather should be held as short as possible.
  - Maximum 30 minutes
- Start
  - The start point should not be visible from the start. That will have a big impact on later starters route choice
  - Either use start gates or strict start personal, physically holding the athletes shoulder and not let them start before their start
- Course
  - In mass start avoid turning in the control, especially the first part of the course and in the last common part
  - A use of 1 first control in mass start races is not preferable.
  - Labyrinth is an interesting variant to use when passing the stadium in for example sprint races
  - Be aware of dangerous control placing
    - In for example steep downhills in mass start races. Especially if some forkings are passing the control without punching
  - Sprint relay needs forking with one or two common controls
  - If only two loops are used in the women's mass start course as one-man relay it shall at least include two common controls.
- Maps
  - Important that the maps are drawn correct to ISSkiOM
  - Maps should be A4 size if possible
  - Most important on the map is the readability
    - When a long distance goes through a sprint and middle distance area the track network might be too tight to map properly on a 1:15000 map
    - Use as big scale as possible while the map fit A4 size
- Punching
  - A backup system is always required
  - To use two punching boxes at each control point is preferable
    - Will both be backup and make punching smoother with more athletes at the same time
    - Especially two units are needed in sprint relay and all common controls in mass start races
  - Touch-free punching system is preferred
  - It is important to fasten both touch-free and normal punching units properly. During a race athletes having problem to break will grip the punching unit and some athletes might even punch the units on purpose to make them fall over/down.
- Finish area
  - Must have several punching units at the last control with possibilities for more athletes to punch at the same time and start the sprint side by side
    - Punching units on both side of the track as a minimum

- The sprint must be long and straight enough so it is possible for a faster athlete to overtake.
- Change over in relays should be done with the touch method, not over a fence
- Complains – Errors
  - If there should appear mistakes made by the organiser and/or Event Adviser that break the rules or make the competition unfair it is important to find solutions that can make the competition as fair as possible. If this not is possible the worst case scenario is to cancel the event.
    - AC suggest a rule change that makes it possible to draw off one control from the course (split time to the control and next) if there are some organiser mistake (ex. wrong control placement or wrong forking etc.) if this makes the results more fair
    - This makes it very important that the organisers and Event Advisers do their job properly and check all controls, forkings and map drawing.

AC would like to read through the handbooks and give comments on them before they get published.

## **§ 6. Further suggestions to development of the sport (to SOC)**

- Organiser clinics for coming organisers in the summer or at an IOF event the prior season
- One head organising committee for SOT
- Doping tests should not be told in advance. AC will write a report on this to IOF.
- Start gates and light beam at finish line shall be used in sprint distances.

## **§ 7. Comments on the European Championship in Latvia**

*It will be written a report directly to the organiser and event adviser and future org. and*

In general AC thinks the competitions in Latvia were very successfully organised. The competitions were fair and very interesting for the athletes.

AC will point out that the last part of all mass start competitions (included relay) should have a common last part and turning in controls should be avoided. We would also have liked if the organiser had used the GPS tracking more than they did. We know the organisers made a choice here, but we think it is important to consider showing our sport than hiding it

If some athletes are having something they would like to bring up for organisers and event advisers that will improve future competitions AC would like to hear these.

## **§ 8. Next meeting and work forward**

Our next meeting will be in Kazakhstan. Preliminary we say in the evening after the sprint relay

Until this meeting we need to think through what rule changes we want for the coming season and which suggestions we got for the organisers and event advisers handbook. We also want other athletes opinion here!

All rule changes we want for next season need to be sent to Hans Jørgen by **26<sup>th</sup> of February** and he need to forward them to SOC this day.

**Topics from chairman to next meeting**

- Annual World Championships and World Cup?
- Last minute comments on suggested rule changes
- Suggestions for rule changes in ISSkiOM
- Further development on our suggestions to Event organiser and adviser handbooks

Behind the keyboard

Hans Jørgen Kvåle