

Start allocation method for IOF World Ski Orienteering Championships, Regional Ski Orienteering Championships and World Cup

Valid from November 2013

As a complement to the COMPETITION RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION (IOF) SKI ORIENTEERING EVENTS section 12, these special rules shall be applied to the World Ski Orienteering Championships (WSOC), Regional Ski Orienteering Championships (ROC) and the World Cup (WCup) (rule 12.18).

1. For each individual competition (i.e. distance) on WSOC, ROC and WCup, the best 20 entered (based on the most recent available IOF World Ranking List) and present for that distance are allocated to the red group. Red group places are individual and are allocated for each individual WSOC /ROC/WCup competition by the following criteria:

1a). Within the red group the 10 best, based on the standing of the IOF World Ranking List, are drawn as the last starters. The IOF Ski Orienteering Commission may not provide any "wild cards" into this group.

1b). Places 11-20 based on the standing of the IOF World Ranking List are drawn as the second-last starters. The IOF Ski Orienteering Commission may provide one "wild card" to add a further top athlete without sufficient number of ranking points into this group.

1c). Within each of the two sub-groups within the red group, the start order shall be drawn at random and not subject to rule 12.8. Competitors from the same Federation may start consecutively.

2. In WSOC, if the last World Champion for the distance is entered for the competition, but is not among the 20 best in the World Ranking list (among those entered for the competition), he/she will be placed in the second best red group. In ROC, if the last Regional Champion for the distance is entered for the competition but is not among the 20 best in the World Ranking list (among those entered for the competition), he/she will be placed in the second best red group. In WCup if the last overall World Cup winner is entered for the competition, but is not among the 20 best in the World Ranking list (among those entered for the competition), he/she will be placed in the second best red group.

3. In case of ties in the last placing when applying criteria 1, all competitors sharing the placing are qualified. If there are no ties, the maximum numbers in the red group are:

- Last group 10
- Second last group 12 (incl. one wild card and the current Champion). Where several events are combined and the champions are different, this number will be increased to 13.

4. For the rest of the entered athletes the starting order shall be drawn at random within starting groups subject to rule 12.8. The number of such unrestricted starting groups will be decided by the IOF Event Adviser with respect to the total number of competitors entered for the race.

5. The World Ranking list is updated before the next competition (if possible).

6. Competitors allocated to the red group cannot change to another starting group.

7. The red group normally starts last and in the above given order, but in the case of specific (e.g. weather) circumstances the IOF Event Adviser may decide differently.

8. The start interval (rule 12.17) can be increased if the producer finds this necessary in order to make attractive TV broadcasts and similar coverage from a competition. This type of decision must be made by the IOF Event Adviser in close consultation with the organiser and the production company. It is very important to

have a strong focus on that the competitions are fair so that the best athletes win and no coincidences or external circumstances determine the results. Normally, the starting interval in rule 12.17 is to be followed.