

Procedure for allocating start slots for WMTBOC Long Distance competitions

At the request of the MTBO Commission the IOF Council has decided to remove the qualification event from the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships programme and to replace it by an allocation of start slots to Federations.

The allocation system is based on previous World Championship results and on the World Ranking. A mix of these two rankings is chosen so as to minimise the disadvantages inherent in each and also to promote the World Ranking. Particular conditions are granted to Federations outside Europe (*point 4 below*) in consideration of the fact that they may not be able to attend WMTBOC every year and that they have more difficulty in obtaining high World Ranking places. The system will be applied beginning from the 2013 WMTBOC in Estonia.

The objective is to allocate no more than 60 starting slots for the nations in each gender class (not counting slots for the reigning World Champions). However, for the sake of simplicity, if there are no more than 66 pre-entries for Long Distance, all pre-entered riders will have a start slot within the limit of a maximum of 6 slots per nation.

If the number of pre-entries for Long Distance in a gender class exceeds 66 (within the limit of 6 per nation), the maximum number of start slots that a nation can have is reduced to 5. If the number of pre-entries then still exceeds 60 the allocation procedure below will be used.

The allocation principles

Number of nation slots:

- Every participating Federation automatically has 1 start slot for the gender class for which it has entered competitors.
- The organising Federation has a maximum of 5 start slots per gender class automatically.
- The maximum number of start slots for any one Federation is 5 per gender class.

Personal slots:

- The reigning Long Distance World Champion*
- The reigning Long distance Junior World Champion*

*If they are members of their Federation's senior team.

The allocation procedure

- 1) Each participating federation is allocated one automatic start slot.
- 2) The organising Federation automatically has 5 start slots per gender class.
- 3) Start slots are added for each European Federation on the basis of the first 15 finishers in the long distance event at the previous WMTBOC (in year N-1) within the limit of the maximum of 5 start slots.
- 4) Start slots are added for each Federation outside Europe on the basis of the first 30 finishers in the long distance event at the WMTBOC in the year N-1 or N-2, whichever of these two gives the higher number, within the limit of the maximum of 5 start slots.
- 5) Following the allocation of start slots in steps 1-4 above, a maximum of 60 start slots is made up from the World Ranking list as it stands three months before the day of the WMTBOC long distance final. The riders who have gained start slots for their Federation on the basis of previous WMTBOCs will not be considered when allocating start slots based on the World Ranking.
- 6) In addition to the allocated start slots, the reigning Long distance World Champions and the reigning Long distance Junior World Champions may be entered by their Federations provided they are members of their Federation's senior team.
- 7) No further allocation of start slots is made if a Federation does not take up its start slots or if the figure of 60 (plus 2 champions) is not reached. An exception to this can be made by the organiser only in case of a late pre-entry; the Federation concerned would then be allocated one start slot.

Procedure for informing the pre-entered Federations:

The start slots are allocated to all pre-entered Federations 2 months prior to the beginning of the WMTBOC in year N and are published at the same time as Bulletin n°3.