

BRITISH ORIENTEERING FEDERATION
ELITE COMPETITIONS GROUP



**INFORMATION IN THESE MINUTES IS PROVISIONAL;
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE OVER THE
VARIOUS SERIES AND SELECTION RACES IN DUE COURSE.**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday June 16th 2008 at 169
Musters Road, West Bridgford**

Present: John Palmer (Chair), Dave Peel (Senior Lead Coach), Peter Guillaume (Fixtures), Jon Cross (Senior Selection Advisor), Pauline Olivant (FCC Coordinator), Mark Saunders (UK Relay Coordinator/British Seeding), Barry Elkington (Rules Group), Hilary Palmer (Coaching), Derek Allison (Performance Director), Dave Harrison (IC Chair/JK Seeding) and Gareth Candy (GB Junior Squad)

Apologies: None

John reported that the British Orienteering meeting guidelines had been published and that our meetings must now follow these guidelines. Previous meetings and business transacted in the past by email had largely followed these guidelines. **Action JP/DA**

1. Minutes of the 2007 meeting

The minutes were approved.

2. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

Peter Guillaume reported that he had received more information about international events and activities. Copies of the Junior and Senior Programmes 2009 are to be sent to Peter for information. **Action DA**

3. Review of 2008.

UK Cup

The UK Cup had received positive feedback.
Ed Nash's UK Cup website had been excellent.

FCC

The races had gone well. There was a request for the start time blocks for the final to be publicised to enable parents to request start times in the open event to allow them to spectate. **Action PO**

It was recognised and accepted that it was possible to score highly on poorly attended events and that scoring 3 from 7 meant that qualifying for the final can be achieved attending the JK only; although these were the hardest rounds to achieve good scores.

JK junior elite classes.

The 17-20 elite classes had been a success; the races were a good opportunity for these runners to race against the seniors. Regional Junior Squad Co-ordinators need to direct less able younger competitors towards the 18L Class.

For the new Area Championships it was recommended to Rules Group that the classes available should be 17-18S, 17-20L and 19-20S.

Action BE/Rules Group

There is a general requirement for Squad Coordinators to advise competitors on the correct class to enter for the rounds. This process to be started at the JIRC and followed up at the Coordinators seminar in September at Tebay.

Action PO/DA

JK Open Relay Classes

We had previously decided to discuss the success of the reduction in course lengths for the open relay. Numbers had increased and the experiment had been regarded as a success. Discussion then followed to make further recommendations to Rules Group to encourage bigger fields enabling neighbouring clubs to compete directly against each other.

Action JP/Rules Group

The massed start MUST include all teams that run the same courses; although this was one of the features of the event; the 2008 organisers hadn't followed this.

For 2009 it was recommended that the men's open be reduced to 3 legs to bring it into line with other relay events. It was also recommended that the open relay change to have one long leg and two shorter legs.

It was suggested that the Short Open be abandoned.

Further it was suggested that the 120's class also be included in the open relay.

Action JP/Rules Group

British Elite Sprint/Middle

The races had been good quality and had a good level of entries although there had been some presentation issues.

British Elite Long Culbin

The issue of the map scale was discussed. It was agreed that any area can be mapped at 1:15,000 if the survey and symbol size are both right. There was a requirement for veteran competitors for larger scale maps to enable them to be clearer to read but NOT more detailed.

It was agreed to endorse the following and communicate this to map and rules groups.

Action JP/Map Group/Major Events

Map scales for cross country events

Area surveyed at 1:7,500

	18-40	16- & 45+
Long	1:15,000, normal size symbols	1:10,000, enlarged symbols
Middle	1:10,000, enlarged symbols	1:10,000, enlarged symbols

Relay	1:10,000, enlarged symbols	1:10,000, enlarged symbols
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Map scales for Sprint events

Area surveyed at 1:2,000

	18-40	16- & 45+
Sprint	1:5,000, or 1:4,000, normal size symbols	1:4,000, or 1:3,000, enlarged symbols

Note that it is acceptable for the larger map scale to be used for a Short class when this is run on the same course as the Long class of an older age group.

WOC Selection Weekend

There had been issues with the map quality and the ambiguity of the fence crossing requirements on the map on the Long race. The planner and controller had requested and acted upon advice on the elite course planning.

It was felt that the map advisor MUST check the quality of the map survey particularly when its quality had been questioned following its previous use for a JK. Map Group to be informed. **Action JP/Map Group/Major Events**

There was also a question of the Controller and IOF Elite Event Advisor being the same person. It was recommended that they be different in the future. Rules group to be informed. **Action JP/Rules Group/Major Events**

UK Relay League

There was disappointment with the Scottish relays when the teams didn't run the same combination of courses. It was recommended that the Scottish Relays and the Harvester are added to the Major events list and covered by the Major Events Group. **Action JP/Rules Group**

Major Events

There was a general discussion about the presentation/atmosphere side of British Championships and other major events. Part of the deal in hosting such events is to have appropriate terrain, car park and arena; the finish must be in the arena. These requirements are to be communicated to the Major Events group for the controller's guidelines and to Grade 1 Controllers at the major events conference. **Action JP/DA/Major Events**

4. Elite Fixture List for 2009

It was agreed that the British Elite Long would be in conjunction with BOC on 14th March in the New Forest. **It was recognised that the elite entry level may not be as high due to the timing of the event.**

The British Elite Sprint Championships would be on 9th May at Nottingham.

There was a discussion about the expanding of the Sprint Event to include all age classes; there were issues of fairness that Rules Group had considered without determining a solution. Future British Elite Sprint /Middle races must continue to focus on the elite. The sprint is an opportunity for other orienteers to run against the Elite. The events must be kept simple with few classes to reduce the chances of mistakes. The 2009 sprint race will

again be open (not an all age class British Sprint Championships) although token prizes may be awarded for age class 'winners'.

Action JP/Major Events

The British Middle Distance Elite and Age Group Championships would be on 10th May in Leicestershire. It was reported that there wouldn't be a new survey of the area and this was a concern as a number of people present perceived there being a need for the new survey. Major events group to be informed of concerns.

Action JP/Major Events

UK Cup 2009

It was agreed that the following nine races would comprise the 2009 series:

March 14	BOC	New Forest	Long
April 10	JK	North East	Sprint
April 11	JK	North East	Middle
April 12	JK	North East	Long
May 9	British Elite Sprint Champs	Nottingham	Sprint
May 10	British Middle Elite and Age Group Champs	Leicester	Middle
July 3	WOC selection races	TBC	Sprint
July 4	WOC selection races	TBC	Middle
July 5	WOC selection races	TBC	Long

Notes:

It was decided not to include the British Night Championships.

WOC selection race venues are yet to be confirmed. The Sprint race will take place on the afternoon/early evening of the Friday. No permissions have been sorted out yet. Areas to be identified and embargoed as soon as possible preferably by the end of July.

Action DP/DA

Future Champions Cup

It was agreed that the following races would comprise the 2009 series:

February 21	JOK Chasing Sprint	TBC	Sprint
February 22	Southern Championships	Slough	Long
March 14	BOC	New Forest	Long
April 10	JK	North East	Sprint
April 11	JK	North East	Middle
April 12	JK	North East	Long
April 19	Northern Championships	Graythwaite	Long

It was recognised that the Graythwaite event clashed with the World School Championships.

The JK would include an elite class for the 17-20's with the Saturday being a Middle distance race, running with 21's. The 18's Trophy's being awarded to the best placed 18's in the 17-20 Elite Class. Those running the M/W18L & 20L would be eligible for 'lower' FCC points. Barry to inform the JK organisers.

Action BE

It was also recognised that some people may be seeded out of their class at the JK; it was agreed that if this happened at only one event a year it was acceptable.

The FCC Final would be held in the Forest of Dean over the weekend of 2nd/3rd May.

World Ranking Events 2009

The 2009 WRE's will be JK Middle, JK Long and one race from the WOC Selection Race weekend to be decided.

Action DP/PG

It was important that the Major Events Groups made it clear that financial requirements for the event lie with the event organisers and not with the ECSG.

Action JP/Major Events

UK Relay Series 2009

This would consist of the British, JK, Scottish and the Harvester.

JWOC Selection Races

It was agreed that these would be at the Future Champions Cup Final over the weekend May 2nd/3rd in the Forest of Dean.

Senior Home Internationals.

Will be held in Northern Ireland in October.

5 Qualifications and Eligibility.

Advice was available to the FCC organisers over the seeding of the junior age classes.

Action PO

Dave Harrison tabled the paper developed through the spring to cover UK Cup and WRE held in the UK. Following further discussion a draft was agreed and will be appended to the minutes and published on the British Orienteering website.

Action DH/DA

British Elite Long, Middle and Sprint selection and seeding.

Mark Saunders agreed to continue.

JK selection and seeding.

Jon Cross agreed to take over the seeding for the JK. Dave Harrison was thanked for his contribution to this over many years.

UK Relays League

No problems had been experienced with team declarations.

It was emphasised that foreign teams can score in the UK Relay League in the same way as foreign individuals in the UK Cup.

Most of the top teams had been given the same gaffles throughout the British Championships Relays. If the appropriate gaffling had been used this should not be a problem but consideration for the Relays to be seeded

should also be made. This suggestion to be made to Major Events Group along with a suggestion that Major Relay events should also have an Elite Event Advisor.

Action JP/Major Events

Mark Saunders to write up the rules/guidelines for publication.

Action MS

6. Implementation

Elite Advisers are available for all UK Cup and FCC events. Peter to continue to contact clubs involved to offer seeding and advice.

Action PG

Major Events Panel

Major events group had now been constituted and is bedding down with Mike Forrest as the Chair. Dave Peel is to be the ECG representative. Meetings will be held by email and will report to Events Committee. The committee will be responsible for the JK, British (Long, Middle, Sprint and Nights) and Area Championships. The committee will concentrate on ensuring that appropriate controllers are in place in 2009 with a formal franchise agreements being set up for 2010 and onwards.

The relationship between and areas of responsibility of ECG, International Committee and Events Committee were briefly discussed. The current open discussions between the chairs of the groups meant that there were no problems.

Major events Conference

Consideration should be given to someone putting the case for using the Elite advisors at the British Orienteering Major Events Conference.

Action DA

Publicity.

Ed Nash was thanked for his work and he be asked if he will continue to run the excellent UK Cup website.

Action JP

Mark Saunders agreed to continue to run the Relay League website.

Action MS

7. Plans for 2010 onwards

BOC 2010 was scheduled for WMOA on Cannock Chase; this would be acceptable as a venue for BEOC.

Any Other Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is planned for June 2009.

ELITE COMPETITIONS SEEDING AND SELECTION GUIDELINES

Introduction

The aim of this guideline is to provide the methodology by which UK Cup and World Ranking Events in the UK will be seeded and start times allocated. Where the entry exceeds the start times available this allows excess competitors to be seeded out on a consistent basis and it ensures a fair start list without the start list being the same for all events.

Seeder

The Elite Competitions Group is responsible for the seeding and allocation of start times in Elite competitions. For each competition the ECG will designate an individual as the “Seeder”. The decision of the designated Seeder is final.

Seeding and Creation of Start Lists

Seeding Process

1. Competitors should be ranked in order of their latest UK Cup or FCC ranking (as applicable) [early season competitions will use the final order from the previous year's competition]. Competition information should specify in advance which year's ranking will be used.
2. International competitors, including BOF members based overseas, should be inserted at a point appropriate to their IOF ranking.
3. Any competitors supplying significant alternative information as to their competitive standard will be inserted at the Seeder's discretion. [See “Additional Information” below]
4. For junior (18-20) elite classes, particularly in the case of 18s where no previous FCC history is available, the views of the selectors will also be taken into account
5. Competitors in the completed list ranked beyond the course capacity will be seeded onto the next available course, appropriate for their age class as agreed with the competitor e.g. M/W21L, M/W35L

Process for allocating Start Times

1. The total start list (after the removal of “seeded out” competitors) should be split into five groups, i.e.
 - Group 5 contains all competitors ranked $3n+1$ to $4n$ in the seeded list
 - Group 4 contains all competitors ranked $2n+1$ to $3n$ in the seeded list
 - Group 3 contains all competitors ranked $n+1$ to $2n$ in the seeded list
 - Group 2 contains all competitors ranked $(n/2 + 1)$ to n in the seeded list

- Group 1 contains all competitors ranked 1 to $(n/2 + 1)$ in the seeded list, where $n = (\text{number of competitors in seeded list})/4$
2. The starting order within each group should then be drawn at random
 3. Where possible two spare start times should be allocated at random within each Group, and a spare start time is allocated between each Group. These allow for errors, omissions and late entries. (This should only be done when spare start time capacity exists). The Seeder should use their discretion to ensure that within in a group there are neither two blank start times in succession nor an athlete with a blank start time both before and after them.
 4. Normally Group 5 starts first; Group 1 starts last, however if conditions around a particular race dictate otherwise then the group starting order can be changed at the Seeder's discretion.
 5. An athlete may request a start time in a lower ranked group than that to which they are entitled (e.g. in order to allow for a split start time). They may not request one in a higher ranked group.
 6. For each event the start times and start time intervals may be different, depending on number of entries and type of race. However, for a WRE a consistent start interval should be used throughout the start list [IOF Rule 12.14 says that normally this should be 3 minutes for Long, 2 minutes for Middle and 1 minute for Sprint]

Special Conditions

JK Middle and Long

1. Unless otherwise agreed with the JK organisers the total start period for Days 2 and 3 will be 4 hours.
2. The start interval on Day 2 (Middle) will be 2 minutes.
3. The start interval on Day 3 (Long) will be 3 minutes.
4. In the Middle Race 21s and 18-20s will run the same course in a combined start list.
5. The standard start interval allows for 121 places to be available in the Middle Race and 81 places to be available in the Long Race (Day 3). In practice (given relative class sizes) this means that, unless the organisers extend the total start period, the maximum size of the M/W21E field is 81 and that there are 40 guaranteed places on M/W18-20E.
6. For the Middle Races the seeded start groups will be ordered as follows:
 - Group 10: M/W18-20 Group 5
 - Group 9: M/W18-20 Group 4
 - Group 8: M/W21 Group 5
 - Group 7: M/W21 Group 4
 - Group 6: M/W18-20 Group 3
 - Group 5: M/W18-20 Group 2
 - Group 4: M/W18-20 Group 1
 - Group 3: M/W21 Group 3
 - Group 2: M/W21 Group 2
 - Group 1: M/W21 Group 1

Group 10 starts first and Group 1 last.

7. For the Long Races the start order will be the reverse order of the results from the Middle race i.e. the course leader starts last. Competitors who did not complete the Middle race will start first with the following priority: DQ, DNF, DNS i.e. competitors who didn't start the Middle race will be the first starters.

JK Sprint

1. The total start period will be at the organiser's direction.
2. The start interval will be one minute.
3. The 21Es and 18-20Es will run the same course in a combined start list.
4. The seeded start groups will be ordered as follows:
 - a. Group 10: M/W18-20 Group 5
 - b. Group 9: M/W18-20 Group 4
 - c. Group 8: M/W21 Group 5
 - d. Group 7: M/W21 Group 4
 - e. Group 6: M/W18-20 Group 3
 - f. Group 5: M/W18-20 Group 2
 - g. Group 4: M/W18-20 Group 1
 - h. Group 3: M/W21 Group 3
 - i. Group 2: M/W21 Group 2
 - j. Group 1: M/W21 Group 1

Group 10 starts first and Group 1 last.

5. The JK Sprint Guidelines combine the W18/20/21 Elite race with the Women's Open race. In conjunction with the Organisers the Seeder therefore has the discretion to decide how many athletes to include in a seeded block and how to position this block in the overall start period.

BEOC - Classic

1. Unless otherwise agreed with the organisers the total start period will be 4 hours.
2. The start interval will be 3 minutes.
3. Unless the organisers extend the total start period, the maximum size of any Elite class is 81

BEOC - Middle

1. The start interval will be 2 minutes.
2. For 18s to 21s the seeded start groups will be ordered as follows:
 - Group 10: M/W18-20 Group 5
 - Group 9: M/W18-20 Group 4
 - Group 8: M/W21 Group 5
 - Group 7: M/W21 Group 4

- Group 6: M/W18-20 Group 3
- Group 5: M/W18-20 Group 2
- Group 4: M/W18-20 Group 1
- Group 3: M/W21 Group 3
- Group 2: M/W21 Group 2
- Group 1: M/W21 Group 1

Group 10 starts first and Group 1 last.

3. This competition may include older and younger age classes as well. Depending on the age group categories being applied by the organisers, Competitors will be grouped by those age categories. For example Group 11 M35/M40, Group 12 M45/50, Group 13 M55+. Where a competitor in an older age class has UK Cup points which would warrant them being placed in the 21 group 1, 2 or 3 this will take precedence over the group which might be allocated based on their age class.

BEOC - Sprint

1. British Sprints will normally comprise a number of heats followed by a final. Qualification and start times for the final are based on the results in the heats. Seeding is therefore only required for the heats. As well as determining start times, seeding of the heats is used to try to allocate entrants across the heats so that all heats are of approximately the same strength.
2. For 18s to 21s the seeded start groups will be ordered as follows:
 - Group 10: M/W18-20 Group 5
 - Group 9: M/W18-20 Group 4
 - Group 8: M/W21 Group 5
 - Group 7: M/W21 Group 4
 - Group 6: M/W18-20 Group 3
 - Group 5: M/W18-20 Group 2
 - Group 4: M/W18-20 Group 1
 - Group 3: M/W21 Group 3
 - Group 2: M/W21 Group 2
 - Group 1: M/W21 Group 1
3. To try and ensure balanced groups amongst the top competitors Group 1 will be sub-divided into X sub-groups where $X = (\text{no. of heats}/2)$. Two competitors from each sub-group will then be randomly allocated to each heat.
4. For all other seeding groups competitors will be randomly assigned to a heat such that there is an approximately even number of competitors from each group in each heat.
5. As with the Middle races, the Sprint race will attract entrants from age classes other than 18 to 21. Depending on what categories have been assigned by the organisers, these competitors will be assigned higher groups (i.e. later starting groups) and assigned evenly across the heats.
6. Where a competitor in an older age class has UK Cup points which would warrant them being placed in the 21 group 1, 2 or 3 this will take

precedence over the group which might be allocated based on their age class.

WOC Selection Races

The general criteria detailed above will be used to draw up the start lists but the final decision on the start lists will be at the discretion of the Performance Coach and the Advisory Selection Panel.

Additional Information

Any additional information supplied by an athlete to support their Elite entry should meet the following criteria:

- It should be supplied in writing before the final closing date for the competition, information received after the final closing date will not be considered.
- The information should be objective and based on recent (i.e. within the last year) results in Elite competitions at National and International level or positions in non-UK ranking systems.
- Particularly for athletes returning from injury/illness results from non-recent Elite races may be supported by recent fitness indicators (e.g. 10K time).
- Subjective information e.g. “athlete x has trained hard over the winter” will be considered non-admissible and ignored.

The event entry details should make these criteria as clear as possible.

Notice to entrants

Where this guideline is to be applied a clear statements should be included in entry information (both in paper and electronic format) and in any final details. This is particularly important where there is likelihood that competitors may be seeded onto other courses.

Note for Entry Details (adapt as necessary):

“Entries for the Elite classes are restricted by the available start interval. In the event of the entry exceeding the number of available start times seeding based on UK Cup; IOF and Future Champions Cup rankings will be applied. Athletes with doubts about their qualification should provide additional evidence of their eligibility to compete in the Elite races. Any additional evidence should be objective and based on results/non-UK ranking. Only information supplied in advance of the final closing date will be considered. Athletes seeded out of the Elite class will automatically be placed on next available course e.g. M21L.

Elite start times will be based on UK Cup; IOF and Future Champions Cup rankings, with top competitors starting last, competitors will not be able to request a later start time.”

Note for the Final Details (adapt as necessary):

“Elite start times are based on seeded groups. Competitors have been grouped based on UK Cup, IOF and Future Champions Cup rankings, with the group containing the top competitors starting last. Start times within each group have been drawn at random.”