

# Events Committee

## Minutes

### 9 June 2007



Meeting held on Saturday 9 June 2007 at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham

#### **1 Attendance, apologies and Chairman's opening remarks**

Lyn West (LW)	Chairman
Barry Elkington (BE)	Chairman, Rules group
Peter Guillaume (PG)	Chairman, Fixtures Group
Sue Marsden (SM)	Chairman, Junior Competitions
Michael Richardson (MR)	Major Events
Colin Spears (CS)	Chairman, Mapping Group
Mike Hamilton (MH)	Secretary

#### **Apologies**

John Palmer (JP)	Chairman, Elite Competitions
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#### **2 Declarations of Interest**

No additional declarations of interest were made.

#### **3 Minutes of Meeting of 10 February 2007**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 February were confirmed as a true record.

There were no matters arising that are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

#### **4 Notification of any other business**

It was agreed that the following items should be dealt with under Any Other Business:

- a) Progress on the web site
- b) The issue of the conflict of 2 events NGOC and POTO
- c) Peter Palmer and the small/large clubs decision required after the change to national and local membership
- d) Issue of map scales at major events
- e) Overprinting of maps and the use of magenta

#### **5 Review the action list from the previous meeting**

To receive an update on the actions resulting from previous meetings

1. British Orienteering to make some fliers flyers available for volunteers to distribute at UK Cities Series events – Flyers have not been produced, this requirement had not been communicated to Caroline Povey, however she is able to create some if required.
2. Fixtures Group members to be advised of the series and asked to 'spread the word' about the series – are other clubs interested in taking part? – PG asked members to spread the word.

3. A newsflash to be created to notify members of the British Sprint and Middle Championship situation regarding entry and British Champions – This matter was dealt with.
4. The guideline of £5k gross payment being the cut off point for mappers to be covered by British Orienteering Civil Liabilities is to be checked with the brokers – MH had confirmed that this was acceptable to the insurance brokers, mappers had been notified through Map Group
5. A list of Grade 1 Controllers that can be invited to the EOF Event Advisors Clinic to be compiled and sent to MH – Invites to the Event Advisors Clinic had been issued, 2 people attended the clinic
6. Venue for the Major Events Conference to be finalised – Final decision taken during this meeting
7. BE to respond to the member who raised a query regarding the possibility of using a large scale map – BE had corresponded and confirmed the situation
8. A workgroup to consider the Competition Structure is to be established – The Workgroup is now operating and a progress report produced for this meeting
9. Management Committee to be informed that environmental audits around events rarely take place unless at the request of the landowner – Management Committee were informed of the situation
10. Comments made about the Development Committee Review to be incorporated in the review notes – Comments have been incorporated into the review process and documents

Outstanding from previous meetings:

11. Senior Competitions Group, LW to consider who could chair the group and report back to the next EOps meeting on progress – Still under consideration
12. MG: Mapping forms MR1 & MR2 to be updated and formatted – Still requiring implementation; awaiting confirmation as to the cost of changing the database
13. MG: Mapping forms MR1s & MR2s to be updated and formatted and the changes required to the database assessed – as above
14. MG: Training courses policy to be drafted and circulated for comment – On going (MH)
15. MG: Mapping Advisors, a role definition and procedures be drafted – On going (CS)
16. MEG: Procedures for the removal of controllers from the list to be developed – This is now within the remit of Rules Group
17. Major Events Handbook to be considered by Rules Group – Updating of the Handbook continues (BE & Rules Group)
18. MH to draft the update of the ME Conference papers and pass to MR for review – On going (MH)
19. MH to arrange for a draft role description for event controllers – Awaiting agreement (MH)
20. MR to draft a set of procedures to deal with the appointment of controllers to major events – On going (MR)

## **6 Operational Group reports**

### **Home Internationals, Competition (Elite, Senior & Junior), Rules, Fixtures, Map, Major Events**

Points raised from the Group meeting were:

Junior Competitions Group: There has not been a meeting since the last Event Operations Meeting.

Elite Competitions Group: Major events issues were discussed but are addressed in agenda item 7

Fixtures Group: The following points were raised:

Event Fees: The new system is working and the table explaining the process has been circulated and is printed in the latest edition of Focus.

The Group felt that it would have been much better if orienteering used the same system as TCA and athletic clubs where the base fee was charged and then non-members paid a surcharge. Such a change should be considered in the future.

Fixtures Database: Concern that the new web site and associated databases will provide the same reports and other information search facilities that we have at present. NB Pat Martin has visited the National Office to discuss this with Mike Hamilton and it was agreed that the old and new will run in parallel for a period. It was also noted that there are still orienteering fixture secretaries with no internet access who still submit all their registration in writing which have to be entered by hand by Pat Martin.

Access: Clubs are having access issues. British Orienteering no longer has an environmental officer for clubs to refer to. Fixtures feel that British Orienteering should consider appointing someone to this role. MH asked PG to collate information on the specific instances when this has been an issue; evidence will be useful to evaluate the size of this issue. PG is to ask the regional representatives on Fixtures Group to feedback.

*Action: 1 PG to ask Fixtures Group members to provide examples of access issues being raised as a barrier to the use of orienteering areas (PG, next meeting)*

BOC/JK:

2008	JK- SEOA	BOC - SOA
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British School Champs still not resolved, 2 possible hosts, but both in the South, BSOA would prefer a North venue. This is now being organised by BKO

2009	JK – NEOA	BOC – SCOA
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2010	JK – SWOA	BOC – WMOA
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2011	JK – NIOA	BOC – YHOA
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2012	JK – SOA	BOC – NW
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Insurance: It was pointed out that there is a need to add an insurance disclaimer for on-line entries for insurance purposes; there are also other issues with some on-line entries systems regarding insurance ie overseas entrants

Mapping Group:

Robert Dove has been co-opted into the map group, specifically to sort out the appointment of Map Advisers to major events. There is a need to define the role of Map Advisers. PG will add Robert Dove to the list of people receiving major event information, this should help coordination.

Survey and Cartography courses; Map Group has been approached to run one or two courses in East Anglia; these should take place in early Autumn and one of them may be combined with annual mapping conference.

MH to meet with CS and if possible Mapping Group to gain a better understanding of the issues around map registration and the requirements for copies of maps to be sent to the national office. Mapping Group would like to consider a change to the request on the ER3 to ask for four copies of each of the maps used at the event.

*Action: 2 MH to meet with CS to gain a better understanding of the issues around map registration and the National Office procedures (CS/MH, asap)*

Appendix H: A revised version has been agreed by the Map Group and passed to the National Office and to Rules Group. It was agreed that it is advantageous not to use OS base maps if at all possible to avoid the copyright issues and particularly those associated with the placing of map extracts on the web.

*Action: 3 Mappers be asked to avoid using OS base maps where at all possible(CS, next meeting)*

Map Awards: The map awards for 2006 were agreed and the presentations were made at the AGM. Members felt the presentations had gone well.

Rules Group:

Agenda item 07/06: Rules Group paper on decision on time scale for embargoed areas (plus associated paper) – It was agreed that the Rules Group should be supported in a 12 month embargo for most events but a 24 month embargo for JK/BOC. (Paper attached)

*Action: 4 Events Committee to recommend the ratification of the new policy on embargo (LW, next Management meeting)*

Agenda item 07/07: Requirements for funding for training of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Controllers – Members agreed that the role of Controller needs to be given more authority. It had been agreed at Rules Group that there is a need for more courses for Grade 2 Controllers. Ideally it was felt that courses for Grade 2 should be centrally organised and held in Northern, Midland and Southern parts of UK with tutors found regionally and/or locally.

Agenda item 07/08: Drafting of Guideline T for British Sprint Championships – the newly drafted document is to be reviewed and will be implemented depending on the output of the Competition Structure Workgroup. After comments are received the final draft will then be circulated to members of Rules Group for their agreement prior to being made available on the 'Events Guidelines' section of the British Orienteering website when required.

Agenda item 07/09: Drafting of Guideline S for British Middle Distance Championships – It had been agreed that there is a need to monitor Middle Distance races being held both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe and by the end of 2007 for the formulation of a set of suitable age groups and course combinations. Charlie Adams will report back to the June 2007 meeting of Rules Group when a decision will be made on the drafting of a Guideline.

Agenda item 07/12: Promotion of Guidelines and Good Practice at Events – It had been agreed that there needs to be set in place a system of independent assessment and reporting back on events that will give examples of good practice and try to determine how to stop problems re-occurring. Initially, a list of 'Top 10 Concerns' will be compiled that is likely to include areas such as starts, maps, e-box and e-card problems, results etc. It was also agreed that a draft of Neil Crickmore's 'Standard Event Assessment Form' should be made available nationally for use by individuals nominated by the Regional Rules Group Representative to enable an independent assessment of Level 3 events to be made. Any further comments on the SEAF as currently drafted should be emailed to Neil Crickmore.

A yet-to-be-drafted pro forma should be considered for Event Controllers to complete either pre-event as a checklist of actions undertaken or as a subjective end-of-event assessment. A summary of the individual reports made on specific Level 3 events should be prepared by the Regional Rules Group Representative and sent to the Committee of the Club or Region responsible for the event. For Level 1 and 2 events the feedback, in the first instance, should be sent to the Major Events Co-ordinator and Committee for their consideration.

Agenda item 07/20: Proposed revision of Appendices A to L of the Rules of Orienteering

Rules Group has begun the process to completely review all Appendices A to L of the Rules of Orienteering, with the initial work to be undertaken by the June 2007 meeting at which each member of Rules Group who has volunteered to take responsibility for a specific Appendix will report back. The final drafts will be ready for the November 2007 meeting for formal adoption in order that the revised Appendices can then be issued on or before 1st January 2008 on the British Orienteering website. Members agreed that this review process should continue on an annual basis.

Agenda item 07/22: Possible use of sanctions against clubs not submitting appropriate Event Results to the Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator as soon as possible after the event has taken place – It had been agreed to use 'FOCUS' and the British Orienteering website to

actively encourage Clubs to send in all Event Results to the Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator as soon as possible after an event has taken place. A 'sanction' on Clubs not sending in Results within a designated time should be considered at some future date. It was also suggested that one possibility may be for each eligible Level 1, 2 and 3 event to be allocated a sequential number which would then make it easier to see which event or events had yet to submit results to the National Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator. Members of Event Operations felt that a 'name and shame' policy should be considered.

*Action: 5      Event organisers and clubs to be reminded that they have a responsibility to send in Results  
(BE/MH, asap)*

Agenda item 07/24: Use of GPS systems at orienteering competitions – Competitors are currently not permitted to use a GPS device as an aid to navigation at any competition registered with British Orienteering. However at this time Rules Group was unwilling to ban the carrying of a GPS device by an individual who wished to use it as an aid to personal post-event analysis. An item covering this should be placed in the next publication of Focus.

*Action: 6      Article to be written for the next edition of Focus on the use of GPS at orienteering events  
(BE, end July)*

LW stated that she wished added to the minute of the meeting thanks to BE and the Rules Group for the considerable work they have covered, it is significant and is often not appreciated by the membership.

Issues that have arisen this year include:

- British Middle Distance Championships: The prizes in the M/W20 classes were initially awarded to the wrong people and only corrected a few days later. This was primarily caused by the introduction of age classes into the event rather than just using them for the purpose of FCC scoring. However this, and subsequent events at the BOC/BRC weekend, did bring into focus the need to support the Organiser with some on the day assistance in this type of area to spot the problems before they occur.
- British Championships and British Relay Championships: On the individual day a control had been wrongly place. On the relay day a control was missing from the mini-relay course.
- Intention is that following the Rules Group meeting on June 23rd we will publish a clear statement as to what happened, and on the options available going forward.

After discussion it was agreed that the voiding courses should only take place in the most exceptional circumstance and should be avoided at almost all cost.

Definition of a Large and a Small Club: There are a number of events (Compass Sport Cup, Peter Palmer Relays, and possibly others) that use the definition of a Small Club as one with less than 100 British Orienteering members. After consideration of the impact of the new membership scheme on numbers of members, it was agreed that the definition of small and large clubs should remain as current (ie 100 members of British Orienteering including National and Local members) and that the Events committee should recommend this to Council.

*Action: 7      Events Committee to recommend to Council that the Large and Small Club definition remain the same as current ie clubs with more than 100 members of British Orienteering are 'large'  
(PG, next meeting)*

#### Major Events:

It is proving difficult to get names submitted for Controllers; these should be submitted at least one year prior to the event.

There is an issue re BOC in Scotland and the Controller; the Controller should be from out of region and members were in agreement that this rule should be maintained for a major event under the auspices of British Orienteering. MR was asked to talk to various

Controllers and if necessary to have a fall back position of asking Tony Thornley if he will do both.

South – SCOA, it was felt that if the area suggested for the assembly area is not in a suitable position for the planning of junior courses then the controller should be supported in his concern. It was agreed that another Controller should be asked to assess the area. It was recognised that this could potentially be a disaster for young orienteers.

The venue for the Major Events Conference was discussed and the choice of Birmingham endorsed although the cost is a concern.

The use of map trees at the JK next year was discussed but members felt that it would be a significant problem and must not be used.

## **7 Major Events – Organisational Responsibility**

A paper summarising the problems seen at this year's major events was discussed. The problems include:

- National Event 1 (Mole Valley): The wrong numbers of maps were printed for courses 2 and 3 due to one age class inadvertently being included on the wrong course when the number of maps required was calculated. This resulted in competitors having to wait for the maps from early finishers.
- National Event 2 (Lake District): Extra maps had been laser printed for some courses due to an increase in numbers entered since the original date of the event in 2006. They were only intended to be used as a last resort, but on one course were inadvertently used quite early on. The quality of the maps was poor and this meant that competitors given them were at a distinct disadvantage. This event also suffered from the courses being approximately 20% too short.
- British Middle Championships: Prizes were given to the wrong competitors as the M/W18 results were separated from the M/W20s despite them all running the same course to ensure the M/W18s were eligible for the Championships.
- JK Day 1: There were no results on the day for the Junior classes due to a breakdown in the start procedure used.
- JK Days 1 & 2: The event used litho printed maps, and several competitors received maps with a colour missing.
- British Championships: There was a wrongly placed control on the W21E / M21L course which was then moved mid race. On receipt of a complaint the organiser then made the decision to remove the leg split times. This decision was subsequently reversed (after the event) by the event jury.
- The 1:15,000 map was reduced from a 1:10,000 map and its legibility was generally thought to be unacceptable.
- British Relay Championships: A missing control on the mini-relay (stolen) resulted in a protest, although in this case the organiser made the decision not to remove the leg splits.

Members agreed that this discussion naturally lead into the discussion on the organisation of major events.

## **8 Progress Report from the Competition Structure Workgroup**

A paper highlighting the discussions of the workgroup to date was considered and after much discussion it was agreed that the following points should be discussed further by the working group and, if the workgroup agreed, at a later stage by the wider membership:

- a) A move towards a single British Orienteering event at Easter rather than 2 major events (JK and BOC) should be seriously considered; the single event could encompass the British Championship events Sprint, Middle and Long and might maintain the JK label ie 'The JK British Championships'. It was thought that the reduction to a single British Orienteering major event could achieve several benefits

including; enable resources to be placed into a single event that could be significantly enhanced; the event could be managed by a small group of people in the fashion of the Scottish 6-Day Event organisation; the use of Easter for the British Championship could be advantageous and enable more elite and non-elite orienteers to take part. The festival type events will still be able to be run alongside the Championship.

Issues were raised around the details of such an event however members felt it could work and the details ironed out as the idea is progressed.

Members agreed that this idea is worthy of further consideration however it was recognised that both JK and BOC are emotive subjects and a wider discussion is needed before the workgroup can put forward any recommendations.

- b) Below the Championship there should be 6 Regional Championships utilising National Events where possible, SOA, WOA, NIOA, North, Midlands, South
- c) The number of Regional events should be reduced. It seems that the number of entrants is the key issue with regard to putting on age class events below national level rather than the level of the event.
- d) Where the entry sizes permit colour coded course should be used for all other orienteering events; this should reduce the workloads on the volunteers organising such events and make better use of officials. The size of the events, the quality of the courses and the quality of officials should all enhance these events. The number of courses on offer would determine the category of the event (C3/4/5).
- e) A move to single ranking lists for men and women should be effected if possible.
- f) A Club Weekend to host CompassSport Cup/Trophy on Saturday and British Relay Championship on Sunday should be built into the fixture list and promoted into being a significant event.
- g) Members felt that adopting these recommendations will reduce the problems with differentiation between the event categories (C1 through C5) although it was recognised that there is a need for wider discussion with the membership.

*Action: 8 Events Committee to ask the Competition Structure Workgroup to consider the outcomes of the discussion to date and firm up on their views as to the recommendation and options that should be discussed with a wider forum (LW, asap)*

## **9 Issues Arising from the Development Committee Review**

Members were updated to the decision taken at Council to ratify the updated Terms of Reference of the committee and groups.

It was agreed that the Major Events Group should be implemented as a matter of urgency and LW asked members of the committee to make suggestions as to the people it will be appropriate to invite to join the group. It was stressed that the highest priority is getting effective people on the group rather than people who are representative of differing 'focus' groups.

*Action: 9 A Major Events Group to be established as a matter of urgency, Events Committee members to recommend to LW names of appropriate people who may be invited to join the Group (ALL, asap)*

## **10 Council, Management and Development Reports**

The minutes of the following meeting were considered:

Council 2 June

Management 21 February, 2 May

Development 18 April – see item 8

Pertinent items had been dealt with in agenda items, there are no outstanding issues.

## **11 Any Other Business**

- a) Web Site – MH provide a brief overview of the new web site and members had opportunity to look at the site. There is still no firm date for roll out however there is a meeting with the developers shortly when a firm date will be agreed.
- b) Conflict of events NGOC and POTO – NGOC will now put on a District event. Members supported PG's decision.
- c) Small & large clubs – Dealt with in item 6 under the Rules Group report
- d) Map scales at major events – There have been several queries regarding map scale; Mapping Group had determined it should continue as specified in ISOM2000; it is important that maps are surveyed at the appropriate standard and kept simple.
- e) Over printing colours – There is an issue with the overprinting in magenta which is a colour that cannot be seen well by many people; this matter is to be referred to the IOF and CS will speak to Erik Peckett and ask for this matter to be addressed.

## **12 Dates and Venues of Meetings**

Future meetings will be held in Birmingham commencing at 12:00 and on:

3 November

MH/LW to add dates for 2008 for members to agree by email

## **16:30 Chairman's closing remarks and close by 16:30 at latest**

LW thanked members for a stimulating meeting and closed at 16:40.



## Events Committee June 2007

### Action List

- Action: 1 PG to ask Fixtures Group members to provide examples of access issues being raised as a barrier to the use of orienteering areas (PG, next meeting)
- Action: 2 MH to meet with CS to gain a better understanding of the issues around map registration and the National Office procedures (CS/MH, asap)
- Action: 3 Mappers be asked to avoid using OS base maps where at all possible (CS, next meeting)
- Action: 4 Events Committee to recommend the ratification of the new policy on embargo (LW, next Management meeting)
- Action: 5 Event organisers and clubs to be reminded that they have a responsibility to send in Results (BE/MH, asap)
- Action: 6 Article to be written for the next edition of Focus on the use of GPS at orienteering events (BE, end July)
- Action: 7 Events Committee to recommend to Council that the Large and Small Club definition remain the same as current ie clubs with more than 100 members of British Orienteering are 'large' (PG, next meeting)
- Action: 8 Events Committee to ask the Competition Structure Workgroup to consider the outcomes of the discussion to date and firm up on their views as to the recommendation and options that should be discussed with a wider forum (LW, asap)
- Action: 9 A Major Events Group to be established as a matter of urgency, Events Committee members to recommend to LW names of appropriate people who may be invited to join the Group (ALL, asap)

### ACTIONS from previous meetings

Arising or continuing from previous meetings of Event Operations Committee.

Senior Competitions Group, LW to consider who could chair the group and report back to the next EOps meeting on progress	LW	
MG: Mapping forms MR1 & MR2 to be updated and formatted – Still requiring implementation; awaiting confirmation as to the cost of changing the database	CS	
MG: Training courses policy to be drafted and circulated for comment – On going (MH)	MH	
MG: Mapping Advisors, a role definition and procedures be drafted – On going (CS)	CS	
MEG: Procedures for the removal of controllers from the list to be developed – This is now within the remit of Rules Group	Rules Group	
Major Events Handbook to be considered by Rules Group – Updating of the Handbook continues (BE & Rules Group)	BE/Rules Group	

MH to draft the update of the ME Conference papers and pass to MR for review – On going (MH)	MH	
MH to arrange for a draft role description for event controllers – Awaiting agreement (MH)	MH	
MR to draft a set of procedures to deal with the appointment of controllers to major events – On going (MR)	MR	

## **Embargoed Areas and non-competitive runners - May 2007**

The subject of running / training on an area once it is known that it is intended to be used for an event has long been a topic for discussion. There are Rules and Guidelines regarding this, but they are open to interpretation and rely on the honesty of the individuals concerned. This document outlines the policy that Event Operations believe competitors should adhere to in order to maintain fair competition whilst at the same time allowing the maximum use of areas for events and training purposes without compromising our largest competitions.

### **Current Relevant Rules:**

- **Fairness:**
  - 1.5.1 - The spirit of fairness and good fellowship shall be the guiding principle in all aspects of the sport, including the interpretation of these Rules.
  - 1.5.2 - Competitors shall not seek to gain any unfair advantage over other competitors.
  - 1.5.5 - Any search for the competition course or inspection of the competition area before the race is forbidden.
- **Eligibility:**
  - 3.1.2 - At Level 3 Events and above, competitors shall declare themselves non-competitive if their acquaintance with the terrain would give them substantial advantage over other competitors. Nothing that occurred more than 24 months before the date of the event shall be taken into account.
  - IOF Rule 26.7 - The organiser shall bar from the competition any competitor who is so well acquainted with the terrain or the map that the competitor would have a substantial advantage over other competitors.

### **Current Relevant Guidelines:**

- **Regional Events:**
  - The area should not normally have been used for an open orienteering competition in the 12 months preceding the event.
- **National Events:**
  - The area should normally not have been used for an open orienteering competition in the 24 months preceding the event.

### **Changes Recommended and Approved by Rules Group**

#### **Rules:**

- **Eligibility:**
  - 3.1.2 - At all British Championship events (i.e. BOC, BRC, BNC, B Middle, B Sprint) and the JK, competitors shall declare themselves non-competitive if their acquaintance with the terrain would give them substantial advantage over other competitors. Nothing that occurred more than 24 months before the date of the event shall be taken into account.
  - 3.1.3 - At all other Level 2 (National) and Level 3 (Regional) Events, competitors shall declare themselves non-competitive if their acquaintance with the terrain would give them substantial advantage over other competitors. Nothing that occurred more than 12 months before the date of the event shall be taken into account.

#### **Guidelines:**

- **National Events:**
  - The area should normally not have been used for an open orienteering competition in the 12 months preceding the event.

### **How should these Rules and Guidelines be interpreted ?**

1) The Rules on Fairness cover anyone intentionally trying to gain an unfair advantage. In other words blatant cheating such as deliberately training on an area once it is known that it is to be used for a major event. Anyone behaving in such a manner will be disqualified.

- 2) The Rules on Eligibility only apply to Level 3 events and above, so include Regional and all the major events, but do not apply to District or Local events.
- 3) The reason for the 24 / 12 month Eligibility rule in Britain is so as not to penalise mappers, planners, controllers, etc. who may otherwise not take on roles which would bar them from an area for an unspecified period. (note: For a World Ranking Event (WRE) the IOF Rule applies and this has no time limit concerning when the advantage could have been gained. Furthermore, for a WRE action should be initiated by the event organiser by being pro-active in barring anyone who has such an advantage).
- 4) It is the responsibility of the competitor to decide whether or not they should declare themselves non-competitive. If they are in doubt then they can seek clarification prior to the event from the Chairman of Rules Group.
- 5) Any competitor who believes that someone has not declared themselves non-competitive when they should have done can make a complaint to the event Organiser. This will then follow the due process documented in the Rules.

So when does acquaintance with the terrain give substantial advantage over other competitors ?

#### Event Officials

- Mappers, Planners and Controllers clearly gain a substantial advantage through working in the terrain so should declare themselves 'non-competitive' if they enter an event within the 24 / 12 months of the event that they were responsible for.
- The status of the Organiser of an event will depend on their involvement in the forest. Often the Organiser works only up to the Start line and from the Finish line and will see no more of the forest than the average competitor. As such they need not necessarily declare themselves 'non-competitive' at subsequent events on the area.

#### Competitors at previous events

- For British Championship events and the JK the 24 months of not being used since a previous competition means that anything related to previous events on the area will fall outside the 24 month eligibility rule.
- For all other Level 2 (National) and Level 3 (Regional) Events the 12 months of not being used since a previous competition means that anything related to previous events on the area will fall outside the 12 month eligibility rule.
- It is the responsibility of the individual Clubs not to organise any type of event, even a Local event, within the time limitations indicated. If they do so then any of their members who take part in such an event should declare themselves non-competitive.
- Sometimes events do take place within the timelines stated by the Guideline, with the approval of British Orienteering Fixtures Group, often due to late changes to event locations or dates. If you take part in a registered open event under such circumstances then nothing gained as a competitor at that event will be considered as a limitation unless clearly stated at the time of that event. e.g. if an area is to be used later for a selection race then those wishing to take part in that selection race would not be eligible to do so if a restriction was made known at the time of the earlier event.
- Two open events in a multi-day event on the same area are deemed to give the same advantage for all competitors so do not present a problem.

#### Other uses of an area

- Areas used for regular running or training, using paths that criss-cross the area (not forgetting walking the dog!). Likewise living on the map. In both cases as a competitor you would have familiarity with the area which could be considered a substantial advantage. If you find yourself in this position volunteer to be the Planner.
- Competing in a cross country race on an area. e.g. Gloucester League races in the Forest of Dean. If this follows a pre-determined and marked course through the area with no navigation, no route choice and no map then this would generally be deemed acceptable.
- Events such as the Cannock Chase Trig Point Race and the Surrey Hill Race with some navigation, some route choice and possibly a map are acceptable if the degree of navigation is minimal and the route is entirely along footpaths.

- Areas used for GCSE PE assessments - participants probably have no choice of venue/area chosen for their coaching exercises and examination assessment, and will be specifically restricted to the exercises that they are asked to do. This is acceptable.
- Areas used for national, regional or locally organised club orienteering coaching sessions - the Club on whose area the coaching is taking place should be aware of the fixture plans for their areas and not allow an area to be used that will place the participants in a situation that requires them to declare themselves 'non-competitive' at a future event.

In summary, competitors should use their common sense and, particularly where important events such as selection races are involved, avoid putting themselves into the position where they could be judged to have gained an advantage. Furthermore, the responsibility for doing this lies with the competitor themselves.

#### What is an embargoed area and when does this come into effect ?

The purpose of an embargoed area is to give notice to prospective competitors of an area which it is intended to use for an event, in order that they can avoid accidentally putting themselves into the position of gaining a substantial advantage and therefore falling foul of Rules 3.1.2 & 3.1.3.

An area should be considered 'embargoed' once it is known that it is to be used, either through publication in the fixture list, event advertisements, or an official announcement through British Orienteering (e.g. publication in Focus).

Any activity on the area after this point would then be considered as attempting to gain an unfair advantage and the offender could be disqualified under Rule 1.5.5.

#### Note for discussion on the publication of details of areas embargoed for Major events

Once the location of a major event has been decided on and becomes public knowledge a formal notice should be placed somewhere on the British Orienteering web site and in Focus. We should develop a process for doing this.

Barry Elkington - Chairman, Rules Group