

Rules Group

7th March 2009

Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the meeting of
Rules Group
held on Saturday 7th March 2009
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham,
commencing at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

Barry Elkington	(WMOA) – Chairman
Andrew Cordle	(EAOA)
Ernie Williams	(EMOA)
Neil Crickmore	(SEOA)
Charles Daniel	(SWOA)
Charlie Adams	(YHOA)
David May	(WOA)

Apologies:

Simon Thompson	(NWOA)
Terry Smith	(SCOA)

09/01 Apologies, Courtesies, Minute Taking.

Barry Elkington welcomed those in attendance, proffered apologies for absence, and Ernie Williams volunteered to take the Minutes. David May raised the Terms of Reference of the Group dated April 2008, noting that a non-voting member should be appointed as Secretary, a staff member as determined by the Chief Executive and agreed by the Chairman, in order to take the Minutes. Barry Elkington agreed to discuss the matter with Mike Hamilton.

ACTION: BE

09/02 Minutes of Rules Group meeting held on 22nd November 2008.

An addition was made to Item 08/72 as it had been agreed that in Rule 9.3.2 the stipulation that £5 shall accompany a formal written protest be deleted.

09/03 Report on Actions.

(i) Item 08/60: Event Guidelines and Event Rules to be re-sequenced and available for 2010:

It was agreed that following the complete revision of the Event Guidelines and the new Event Rules that arrangements will be made after the end of June 2009 for them to be placed on the British Orienteering website for full implementation on 1st January 2010. As far as is known there is currently no review or feedback via consultation planned prior to the implementation date and that it is the responsibility of Rules Group to identify specific issues regarding the implementation of the Rules.

ACTION: BE

(ii) Item 08/60: Non-provision of M/W10 and M/W12 courses at the 2009 British Middle Distance Age Class Championships.

Courses for these classes are now included in this event.

(iii) Item 08/60: Award of trophies and medals to winners of particular age classes at

British Championships Events.

It has been agreed that trophies shall be awarded to the winners of the Elite, 'A' and 'L' classes (but not the M/W18L, M/W20L and M/W21L if there are 'Elite' classes), and medals to the first three finishers in these same classes. Mementoes may also be presented. Also agreed is that trophies and medals shall not be awarded to the leading competitors in the 'B' and 'S' classes at British Championships events, although mementoes may be presented to these classes. Following an enquiry by Ernie Williams on behalf of the Organisers regarding the provision of trophies for British Sprint Age Class Championships and British Middle Distance Age Class Championships, it has been confirmed that at these 2009 Championships only medals will be made available by British Orienteering for the first three in each M/W10 to M/W85 class.

(iv) Item 08/72: Four page Summary of the Rules for members.

Andrew Cordle had forwarded these to the Chief Executive as requested. It was agreed that these should be made available to all members, preferably by inclusion in a mailing rather than just being made available for download on the website.

(v) Item 08/78: JK Relay and Class changes for 2010.

Information had been forwarded to the Chair of Major Events Group and to the Organiser of JK 2010. Following discussion on JK 2009 JK and the 2009 British Relay Championships it was agreed to recommend that there is a need to try to seed the top six Clubs in order to ensure as much variation as possible in the combination of courses and legs i.e. 'gaffling' or 'forking' competitors.

(vi) Item 08/79: Events Jury to act as Event Assessors.

It has been confirmed that Mike Forrest as Chair of Major Events Group is to investigate independent methods of assessment for major events.

(vii) Item 08/80: Road Crossings.

Currently an on-going task of Charles Daniel. Barry Elkington is to send a copy of the draft document to Paul Taunton (NGOC) for the Southern Championships being held in the Forest Of Dean in 2010.

Action: CD and BE.

(viii) Item 08/82: IOF – Event Adviser Renewals.

Barry Elkington reported that the Action had been completed and that Mike Forrest (MEG) and John Palmer (ICG) had agreed how and when an 'Elite Adviser' shall be appointed for World Ranking Events held in the UK. They had also agreed that there is a need for checking re practical ability and knowledge relevant to the level of event prior to re-accreditation.

(ix) Item 08/84: Grade 1 Controller Application.

David May reported that he had yet to receive a letter of congratulation confirming his appointment as a Grade 1 Controller.

ACTION: BE

09/04 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.

(i) Item 08/85: Provision of only IOF Pictorial Control Descriptions at Events:

Following an enquiry by Ernie Williams it was stated that there had been no decision on this item and that it will require Committees and Groups to discuss if any changes to the current arrangements are to be made.

Reports from other Committees:

09/05 Review of Events Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2009.

Following a very lengthy discussion on the role of Events Committee in the implementation of the new three Level Event Structure, it is the belief that many orienteers would prefer a four Level Event Structure consisting of Level 1 offering Championships of the highest quality of competition and organisation; Level 2 offering Events with quality competition and with Grade 2 Controllers; Level 3 with participation / competitive events with a Grade 3 Controller; and

Level 4 Events at a local level for participation and with Controller input as decided by the organising club (but to include ensuring that risk assessment had been undertaken). It was, however, agreed that Rules Group needed to take a pragmatic approach as the Board of Directors and Events Committee were fully committed to the three Level Event Structure.

Rules Group therefore agreed to confirm the following points with the Board of Directors, Events Committees and the Regional Associations:

- a) that all events needed to be defined by the quality of the competition as well as the available facilities.
- b) that all participation events at Level 3 need to be 'signed off' by a Controller with at least a Grade 3 qualification as meeting British Orienteering requirements re risk assessments and health and safety.
- c) that there is an urgent need for C2 courses to be held at Regional Association level for current Grade 3 Controllers wishing to be formally trained and gaining a Grade 2 Controller qualification, together with O3, P3 and C3 courses to be held as often as is deemed necessary by Regional Associations or Clubs;
- d) that all Regional Associations, working with their constituent Clubs, should have an appropriate number of Level 2 Events (agreed at National Fixtures Group) in their annual fixtures lists. These events should provide a variety of quality competition. e.g. a Regional series of League/Galoppen Events, Regional Long Distance, Middle Distance and Sprint Events including Championships, Multi-Day Events, etc.
- e) that all Level 1 and Level 2 Events shall be 'Ranking Events' linked to the proposed 'Single Ranking Scheme'.

Barry Elkington agreed to brief Events Committee on the recommendations.

ACTION: BE and the members of Rules Group

09/06 IOF Rules Commission Report.

David Rosen was thanked for his report on the latest IOF Rules Commission meeting dated 24th-25th January and it was agreed that the following should be incorporated into the Rules after receiving the final agreed wording from the IOF:

"The minimum control separation in Sprint Races (map scale 1:5000) will be reduced to 15m (or 30m if the features appear similar)."

It was also agreed that the BOF Rules should incorporate a revised form of wording to allow a competitor to use the back-up if he/she believes the unit is not working.

(IOF Rule '20.5 If one unit is not working, or appears not be working, a competitor must use the backup provided and will be disqualified if no punch is recorded.')

The IOF rules are also being amended to stop people carrying GPS equipment which could be used as navigational aids. This is because the IOF believe It is not acceptable in IOF events to rely on the competitor not using it. Hence the IOF Rule will automatically take precedence over the BOF Rule for any IOF Event held within the UK. (e.g. a World ranking Event). There is no proposal to change the current BOF Rule, which only bans their use as a navigational aid.

The item regarding the mapping of crossable and uncrossable features was noted:

The Rules Commission have suggested that the next version of ISOM should resolve the current ambiguity about uncrossable features – whether you are not allowed to cross them or whether you are strongly advised not to cross them.

Rules Group agreed to await any further developments on this matter from IOF.

Update on Event Structure review:

09/07 How do we communicate changes such as the event re-structuring to the clubs? The major issue is how we obtain consistency within a level, e.g. Event Quality, Controllers, Embargoes, etc.

Discussion centred on the need for good communications to Associations, Clubs, Event Officials and individual members not only via the website, which may contain the material but

where it is not always clearly and easily available, but also by the use of specifically targeted information mail-shots and emails to Controllers, Mappers, Fixtures Secretaries etc. as well as to Association and Club Chairman and Secretaries.

It was recommended by Rules Group that British Orienteering arrange a Club Conference in the Autumn of 2009 in order that a clear presentation be made to those attending of what will have happened regarding the new Event Structure and the Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Event Guidelines to the date of the Conference and what is scheduled to happen before and during 2010.

ACTION: BE

09/08 Presentation of course names at Regional Events.

It was agreed that although shown in a table in the new Event Guideline as twelve courses from White to Black, twelve courses are not mandatory. A smaller number of courses similar to the more traditional eight of White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green, Blue, Brown and Black might be more appropriate for a small entry.

If, with pre-entry at larger events, it was found that more courses would be needed then splitting these courses by age classes as appropriate would resolve the problem. The larger the event the more times the basic course would be split. For example, when age classes are being used then a sub-division of an age grouping on, for example, Course 4 M55/M60 (Blue) onto two separate courses, will be appropriate at the largest events.

Rules Updates:

09/09 Timetable for publication of new Rules, Appendices, Event Rules, Guidelines.

It was agreed to wait until the 2009 Major Events timetabled up to mid-May, some with new or revised Event Guidelines (to be re-named Event Rules), have taken place, and then to request any comments regarding amendments from the Event Officials who will have had the experience of putting the Guidelines into practice. Following this, Rules Group will make a final review and agree any revisions at the next meeting in June and then aim for publication of the final versions by the end of July for implementation on 1st January 2010. The aim is also to produce the final versions of the Rules, update some Appendices, and provide generic Event Guidelines for publication at the end of July alongside the new set of Event Rules.

It was agreed to produce a new order for the listing of Event Rules (see Agenda Items 09/11 to 09/19) and to be aware that any references to the current incentive schemes could well need revising depending on decisions to be made in the future. It was noted that there is an expectation that the host Association and/or Club of Level 1 Events will adhere to all aspects of the new Event Rules and that if there should be a need to seek any amendment or alteration then an application in writing will need to be made to Major Events Group and/or Rules Group.

09/10 Refund of Entry Fees when an event is cancelled.

Following problems with refunds being requested in connection with a City Race, it was confirmed that any refund is at the discretion of the Organiser.

It was also agreed that suitable wording needed to be decided upon at the next meeting of Rules Group and inserted into section 2.3 of the Rules relating to 'Financial responsibility' for an event.

ACTION: BE

Guideline Updates and Event Rules:

09/11 Number and labelling of Guidelines (new Event Rules documents).

The following was agreed for the ordering of the new set of Event Rules:

Event Rules A: British Elite Orienteering Championships (Long Distance)

Event Rules B: British Orienteering Championships (Long Distance)

Event Rules C: British Middle Distance Elite Championships

Event Rules D: British Middle Distance Age Class Championships

Event Rules E: British Sprint Elite Championships

Event Rules F: British Sprint Age Class Championships

Event Rules G: British Relay Championships

Event Rules H: British Night Championships

Event Rules I: Jan Kjellström Sprint Event

Event Rules J: Jan Kjellström Individual Cross Country Events

Event Rules K: Jan Kjellström Relays

Event Rules L: Area Championships

The exact event titles are still to be confirmed.

e.g. Should it be: "British Sprint Age Class Championships" or "British Age Class Sprint Championships" ?

ACTION: BE

09/12 New Event Rules A, B and G: British Elite Orienteering Championships, British Individual Championships and British Relay Championships.

The need for seeding of top relay teams and use of gaffling techniques was discussed earlier as 09/03 (v) Item 08/78.

09/13 New Event Rules C and D: British Middle Distance Elite Championships and British Middle Distance Age Class Championships.

Amendments had been made by Charlie Adams to the current British Middle Distance Age Class Championships Event Guideline following consultations with the Event Officials of the 2009 Championships. Charlie also agreed to make any final amendments required after the Events in May 2009 prior to publication on the British Orienteering website in mid-2009.

ACTION: CA

09/14 New Event Rules E and F: British Sprint Elite Championships and British Sprint Age Class Championships.

Amendments had been made by Charlie Adams to the current British Sprint Age Class Championships Event Guideline following consultations with the Event Officials of the 2009 Championships. Charlie also agreed to make any final amendments required after the Events in April and May 2009 prior to publication on the British Orienteering website in mid-2009.

ACTION: CA

Discussions are on-going re the combining of the Elite Sprint and Age Class Sprint Championships. The details of why and how they should or should not be combined needs to be agreed by all relevant Committees and Groups.

ACTION: BE

09/15 New Event Rules H: British Night Championships.

Charles Daniel is revising the current Event Guideline to turn it into Event Rules suitable for publication in mid-2009.

ACTION: CD

09/16 New Event Rules I: JK Sprint.

The current draft is being revised as and where necessary by David May.

ACTION: DM

09/17 New Event Rules J: JK Individual.

The current draft is being revised as and where necessary by David May and will be published on the British Orienteering website alongside the other new Event Rules in mid-2009.

ACTION: DM

09/18 New Event Rules K: JK Relay.

The current draft is being revised as and where necessary by Barry Elkington and will be published on the British Orienteering website alongside the other new Event Rules in mid-2009.

ACTION: BE

09/19 New Event Rules L: Area Championships.

Following a short discussion it was agreed by a majority of Rules Group that the section 'Eligibility for Area Championships' on page 1 remain as printed:

'Eligibility for the English Area Championship titles awarded at these events is defined by the Association shown on the competitor's membership card:

Southern = SWOA, SCOA, SEOA

Midland = WMOA, EMOA, EAOA

Northern = NEOA, YHOA, NWOA

In the years when they are Level 1 (National) Events, eligibility criteria for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Championships is as defined by the relevant National Association.'

It was agreed that this Event Rule would be published after checking by David May and Barry Elkington of the Course Length ratios as part of the table on pages 6 and 7 and the checking of the expected winning times of the top competitors as shown in part (c) of the 'Notes' on page 7. There was also a need, following a previous ruling, for M85 and W85 to be added to the 'Classes' listed in Course 13 of the table alongside M/W75 and M/W80, and also to all other Championships tables in the Event Rules.

ACTION: DM and BE

Provision of Elite courses at all Level 1 events including the Area Championships:

It was agreed that as the Area Championships were Level 1 events, aimed at providing high quality competition, then Elite classes for competitors at M/W18, M/W20 and M/W21 shall always be offered.

ACTION: DM and BE

09/20 Requirement to update any other specific Event Guidelines/Event Rules.

Barry Elkington agreed to re-label the following Event Guidelines as Event Rules:

Guideline I: The Harvester Relays

Guideline L: Peter Palmer Junior Team Relay

Guideline N: Compass Sport Cup & Trophy

Guideline O: Yvette Baker Trophy

Guideline P: British Schools Score Championships

Guideline Q: British Schools Championships

Guideline R: Future Champions Cup

Guideline V: Junior Inter Regional Championships

ACTION: BE

09/21 Cross Country Events - Levels 2 & 3. (Guideline B).

It was agreed that a new Event Guideline B is required which is to be titled 'Regional Cross Country Events' and which will be very broadly based on the current draft Event Guideline B 'Regional and Local Cross Country Events' but with the references to the Level 3 Events removed. In particular Section 5, which will then provide the basis of a new short Event

Guideline for Level 3 Cross Country Events listing the basic requirements such as Permissions, Registration, Health and Safety and Risk Assessments, together with the need for a qualified Controller to 'sign off' the event (see previous Agenda Item 09/05 c).

ACTION: BE

09/21 Generic Event Guidelines - Sprint, Middle, Urban, Score, others?

Sprint: Currently being drafted by David May. Discussion centred on the possible integration of the 'Urban' generic Guideline currently being drafted by Simon Thompson with the 'Sprint' generic Guideline. David May agreed to discuss this with Simon Thompson. The importance of clear and concise advice re safety of competitors when competing in urban areas was discussed and the points made were noted by David May for possible incorporation into the generic Guideline

ACTION: DM and ST

Middle: Currently being drafted by Charlie Adams.

ACTION: CA

Score: Minor updates to the existing Guideline are being drafted by Neil Crickmore.

ACTION: NC

Appendix updates and reviews:

09/23 Appendix B - Course Planning.

Charles Daniel is currently working on this Appendix. Members of Rules Group stressed the need for all Planners at all levels of Events to use Appendix B in conjunction with Graham Nilsen's updated (2006) 'Course Planning Guide' which is downloadable from the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: CD

09/24 Appendix C - Event Officials.

Simon Thompson is currently working on this Appendix. Barry Elkington agreed to check progress with Simon Thompson.

ACTION: ST and BE

09/25 Appendix K - Ranking Scheme.

David May is currently involved in discussions about this Appendix and the proposed single Ranking Scheme.

ACTION: DM

09/25 Appendix L - Seeding and Start Times.

Terry Smith is currently working on this Appendix and had raised a number of points in an email to the members of Rules Group. Discussion centred on the possible need for a 'Red Start Block' for the top twenty seeded competitors with 3 or 4 minute start intervals. Barry Elkington stated that he would contact Terry Smith and discuss the final draft of the Appendix with him.

ACTION: TS and BE

09/27 Embargo of land use prior to major events – a decision required regarding turning current advice document into an Appendix.

Barry Elkington reported that it is his intention to turn the current document on 'Embargoes' into a full Appendix and to then make it available on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: BE

09/28 Other Appendices - update on any major issues and timetable for production in light of the Event Structure Review:

It was agreed that the following Appendices had been completed and should be made

available on the British Orienteering website as soon as possible:

Appendix F – Environmental Good Practice

Appendix G – Protests, Juries and Appeals

Appendix I – Electronic Punching

ACTION: BE

Appendix A – Control Descriptions.

This Appendix is linked to the 'Control Descriptions' documentation of IOF.

Appendix D – Doping Control.

The contents of this Appendix is the responsibility of the Chief Executive / Board of Directors.

Appendix E – Event Safety.

No report.

Appendix H – Mapping.

The contents of this Appendix is the responsibility of Map Group.

Appendix J – The Badge Scheme.

It was agreed that there is a need for a 'Colour Coded Incentive Award Scheme' Appendix to be incorporated into a future revision of the currently available Appendix J. Barry Elkington agreed to contact Ed Nicholas, Chair of the Development Committee, who are in the process of discussing the Colour Coded and Badge Incentive Schemes available in orienteering.

ACTION: BE

Appendix M - Neighbouring Club Alliances in UK Relay League competitions.

No changes required.

Items from previous meeting requiring further discussion:

09/29 Road Crossings - final version of document.

This item was covered earlier on the Agenda under 09/03(vii) Item 08/80.

Matters raised by or through Association Representatives:

09/30 Controller's advice on SI and EMIT - David Rosen articles.

David Rosen is in discussion with EMIT UK regarding advice for Clubs and Controllers and is awaiting response to a number of questions. There is already available on the BOF website a document by David Rosen entitled 'Sportident Advice for Event Advisers and Controllers' dated 18th September 2008.

09/31 Shadowing of juniors - when and where is this acceptable, and how should they be treated in the results?

Following discussion on problems that had occurred at the recent British Championships, it was agreed that although shadowing, or participants taking part as a pair, at Level 3 Events is unlikely to cause any difficulties, there is a need for any competitor at a Level 2 Event who is 'shadowed' by a non-competitive parent or guardian to have this declared at Registration and to appear as such in the Results. It was also agreed that there should be no shadowing at a Level 1 Event on any of the 'Championship' courses but that, wherever possible, there should be White, Yellow and Orange courses offered with the availability of pre-entry.

In the case of the parent who had made a written protest having shadowed his son on the M10B course at the British Championships and who then found that his son was shown as 'Disqualified' in the Results, it was agreed that David May, on behalf of Rules Group, would contact the Organiser and Controller of the event to discuss the problem. David would also respond to the parent indicating the response of Rules Group to his letter of protest, and to also remind him that, having already competed on a Championship course, he had, although probably inadvertently, broken Rule 7.2.14 as "*Competitors who have finished are not entitled to re-enter the competition area*".

ACTION: DM

09/32 Update on Event Officials Training Materials – Report from Katy Stubbs.

Katy Stubbs was thanked for her detailed report re her updating of the Course Materials for Event Officials. O3, P3 and C3 Course Materials on CD-Rom are available upon request from National Office for those Associations wishing to hold courses in the near future. Katy Stubbs has also volunteered to further update the Course Materials when all of the Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Event Guidelines are complete and available to members. There are also future plans for the Course Materials to be available on the British Orienteering website for 'Individual Learning' opportunities. Members of Rules Group were agreed on the importance of good training, mentoring and advice to be available in order to raise and maintain standards of organising, planning and controlling, and expressed the hope that all Regional Associations would be prepared to organise training courses for new and existing Event Officials using available 'Volunteer Development Funding'.

09/33 Grade 1 Controller Applications.

None had been received.

09/34 Any Other Business.

(a) Communications with Board and staff members and between Committees and Groups.

Rules Group fully supported the suggestion that there should be a Conference of all British Orienteering Committees and Groups organised by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Board of Directors, in order to discuss and agree a coherent strategy of who is responsible for what, and who reports to whom, establishing channels for comment, feedback and report, together with the opportunity to make 'In progress' reports of current developments and future plans.

ACTION: BE

(b) 'Controller of Controllers' and 'Event Officials Co-ordinators'.

Barry Elkington and other members of the Group expressed their concern over the lack of updating of information on file of new Controllers and existing Controllers who had been upgraded. It was agreed that there was a need not only for each Association to keep their records up to date but also for an appointment to be made known to the National Office in order that the details of all grades of Controller can be kept under regular review.

Rules Group would thereby welcome the appointment of a 'Controller of Controllers' who would be responsible for overseeing and keeping under review the Grade 1, 2 and 3 Controllers within the UK, together with co-ordinating Training Courses and liaising with Major Events Group re Grade 1 Controllers for Level 1 Events. The members of Rules Group agreed that they would try to identify a suitable person or persons before the next meeting.

Rules Group would like to encourage Clubs and Regions to appoint 'Event Officials Co-ordinators' if they have not already done so, with one of their major tasks being the identification of members of suitable experience to attend O3, P3 and C3 Training Courses, and to encourage members already qualified at Grade 3 Level to upgrade to Grade 2 and Grade 1 by attending the appropriate Courses and Conferences, together with maintaining links between neighbouring Clubs and the Regional Association.

ACTION: Members of Rules Group

09/35 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2009.

Due to the scheduling of the Harvester weekend, and there being no other suitable Saturdays, it was suggested that the next meeting be held on Sunday 28th June 2009 if this was acceptable to the majority of members and a suitable Birmingham city centre hotel could be found.

ACTION: BE

The final meeting of the year is scheduled for:
Saturday 28th November 2009 Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.