

Rules Group

8th March 2008

Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the meeting of
Rules Group
on Saturday 8th March 2008
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham,
commencing at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

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

08/01 Apologies:

Paul Taylor (NEOA)

EW agreed to take the Minutes but asked that another member of Rules Group volunteers to take the Minutes of the 21st June 2008 meeting as he would be incapacitated for up to three months following a three-part surgical operation scheduled for 16th June.

ACTION: EW

08/02 Minutes 24th November 2007:

Agreed

08/03 Actions Arising:

07/41 Event Officials - BE reported that he had added material to the British Orienteering website and that any comments regarding further material should be sent to him.

07/56 Harvester Relays and name for 'Small Club' Trophy - no suggestions had been received so it was agreed to keep existing name.

07/68 Event Structure Review - BE had represented the views of Rules Group to Events Committee, and through them to Council and Management Committee (also see Agenda item 08/05).

07/69 British Sprint Championships Guideline - on Agenda as item 08/06.

07/70 British Middle Distance Championships - on Agenda as item 08/07. EW has reported back to NOC re BSPC and LEI re BMDC as requested.

07/08 JK Sprint Guideline - on Agenda as item 08/08.

07/72 New Rule 4 re Role of Event Officials - this is to replace existing Rule 4 on publication of the revised Rules.

07/73 Road Crossings – a revised version of Guidance is available and is to be discussed as Agenda item 08/09.

07/74 Revision of Appendices - on Agenda as item 08/10

07/76 Speed Ratios and Winning Times – the revised tables are to be discussed prior to insertion into the relevant Guidelines.

07/77 Results adjustment by use of split times - on Agenda as item 08/11.

07/80 British Night Championships 2008 - BE had passed on information to Event Officials

and the event had proceeded satisfactorily.

07/83 Control Visibility - the statement drawn up by EW was accepted with one amendment - 'normally from a distance of 10 metres' was replaced with 'normally from 10% of the distance from the nearest viable attack point'. The statement is to be inserted in the relevant section of Appendix B' Course Planning'. **ACTION: CD**

07/84 Grade 1 Controller Applications from Kevin King and Richard Towler - on Agenda as item 08/13.

08/04 Matters arising not elsewhere on Agenda:

None.

08/05 Update on Event Review Structure:

Following the submissions from Rules Group amongst others, Events Committee had held detailed discussions based on a paper by Lyn West entitled 'Event Structure Review - The Way Forward' at their meeting on 23rd February 2008. Rules Group has been tasked to produce suitable Guidelines for all Levels and types of events plus amending the Rules and the Appendices as required and in relation to the following 10 recommendations from Events Committee:

The Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The structure should be reduced to three levels of event: National, Regional, Local.

Recommendation 2: Further debate on the timing of BOC and the relationship to BRC is needed.

Recommendation 3: BSPC, BMDC & BNC should exist as National level events in the fixtures calendar.

Recommendation 4: The Sprint should become a formal part of JK although not included in overall scoring. The rest of the weekend should remain as it is.

Recommendation 5: The number of National events should be reduced to 4 or 5 per annum and form Area Championships (Scottish, Northern, Midland, Southern and possibly Welsh). The increased weighting for ranking points should be reintroduced.

Recommendation 6: The quality of competition at Area Championships should be improved by encouraging greater participation through use of these events for UK Cup and FCC and a higher weighting in the ranking system.

Recommendation 7: The Masters Cup should be based on 3 x JK, 4 x British Championships and all Area Championships with scoring in line with UK Cup and FCC.

Recommendation 8: All events at Regional level should have courses designated by colour. The current colour structure should be expanded slightly from 8 to 10 courses to give a greater range and choice.

Recommendation 9: At any Regional level event, age class competitions and awards should be permitted within the colour coded course structure.

Recommendation 10: A single ranking list should be produced based on all National level events and designated Regional level events. A simple system of producing ranking points from raw event data needs to be developed.

The members of Rules Group discussed at length the ten recommendations as follows:-

The Event Levels:

The three Event Levels – National, Regional, Local – will represent both the quality of the event and the quality of the competition at the event. This will be independent of whether it is a 'Long', 'Middle Distance', 'Sprint', 'Relay' or 'Night' Event.

Level 1 Events:

Level 1 'National' Events will include the British Orienteering Championships, the British Relay

Championships, the British Night Championships, the British Sprint Championships, the British Middle Distance Championships, the JK and a minimum of three and up to six Area Championships (Northern, Midlands, Southern, plus Scottish, Welsh and Irish if the latter Areas (Associations) make a decision to host such an event) plus the Final of the annual Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Competition.

Level 1 Events will generally have a Guideline for each specific Event, and there is an expectation that all of the Level 1 Events will be prestige Orienteering Foot-O events with appropriate high quality terrain, mapping, facilities, organisation, planning and controlling. Also, common factors for the individual events will be competition for all IOF age classes and that the results for all classes will have a higher weighting in the National Rankings scheme.

Level 1 Events will be overseen by the newly formed Major Events Group, chaired by Mike Forrest of BOK, and there will be close liaison with the Chair of the Fixtures Group to ensure that suitable dates are used. Elite Competitions Group will be encouraged to use Area Championships and other Level 1 events such as the JK Sprint as UK Cup and Future Champions Cup events where possible.

Three of the current 'National' events in the Major Events List for 2009 will probably be given new Level 1 'Area Championship' status following a review by Major Events Group and the Chairman of Fixtures Group. It is understood that the timing of BOC and BRC is also to be considered by Major Events Group as part of their remit to determine the overall strategy for major events within the UK.

Level 2 and 3 Events:

Level 2 'Regional' Events will be the best quality that can be achieved, but generally without the prestige of the Level 1 Events. Level 2 Events will be overseen by the Regional Association Committees who will have the responsibility for agreeing the events amongst the Clubs within the Region. The Regional Fixtures Secretaries will work with the Chair of Fixtures Group to minimise clashes of dates as far as possible within the British Orienteering Fixtures List.

The 'keyword' agreed by Rules Group for both Level 1 and Level 2 Events is that they are all seen to be 'Competitive'. Level 2 individual Events will be used for the Ranking scheme, but without the higher weighting of Level 1 Events.

Level 3 'Local' Events will encompass a wide range of events that each Club in the UK wishes to put on and with the 'keyword' being 'Participation'. Events could range from those with a range of Colour Coded Courses, similar to the current District Events, through to limited events with only two or three Colour Coded courses. Events could also be held for training, 'Come and Try It', be part of Regional, Summer or Winter Leagues, could be Score or Urban/Street O Events etc. Clubs will have the freedom to select the format of event to suit the needs of their membership and prospective participants.

It is proposed that for the Level 2 'Regional' Events and Level 3 'Local' Events there will be a Guideline for normal cross country events (i.e. not Middle or Sprint), a Guideline for 'Middle' events, a Guideline for 'Sprint' events, a Guideline for 'Urban' events etc. These Guidelines will not be over-prescriptive, but provide general advice to the Organisers and Planners.

A 'Colour Coded' system will generally be used for normal cross country events at both Level 2 and Level 3. Although it is recognised that this may not necessarily apply to the big Multi-Day events such as the Scottish 6 Days. etc.

An extended Colour Coded table, starting at White (TD1) and finishing at Black (TD5), will provide for a range of courses suitable for all ages and abilities. The decision as to which courses are provided at any event will be made by the organising club based on the purpose of the event and the number of competitors expected. These colour coded courses will also be mapped against age classes for those events that include an age class competition (e.g. a Regional event such as the SWOA Championships).

Controllers for all Levels of Event:

There was some concern expressed re the allocation and required Grade of Controllers for each Level of Event. It is recommended that every event should have a Controller appointed for quality, safety, risk assessment and insurance reasons. In these circumstances Level 1 Events will have a Grade 1 Controller (appointed by Major Events Group), Level 2 Events will have a Grade 2 Controller (appointed by Regional Committee) and Level 3 will have a Grade 3 Controller (appointed by Club Committee). Rules Group came to the conclusion that there would need to be some flexibility at Level 3 events e.g. a Sunday event with eight Colour Coded courses will almost certainly require a Controller performing traditional controlling duties such as inspecting every control site, whereas a series of mid-week events with three courses may just have an 'overseeing' Controller providing mentoring/checking/advising as appropriate for the event officials involved.

The Masters Cup:

It is believed that the formation of a Senior Competitions Group is imminent and that the revised format of the Masters Cup will be part of their remit with a Guideline also being required.

Ranking List:

The provision of a single Ranking List was supported by the members of Rules Group in line with recommendation 10 as this is fairly fundamental to the re-structuring. The objective is that competitors can run any course they want to at the new 'Regional' events and to encourage this they must be able to get ranking points for it.

If we still have the current Ranking system in place then organisers would have to decide which course, for example, the M50 ranking points would be based on and this would defeat the whole object of the exercise.

ACTION: BE to represent the views of Rules Group to the Board, to Events Committee, to Major Events Group and to Fixtures Group.

08/06 Sprint Championships Guideline:

CA was thanked for his continuing work on Sprint Championship Guideline S. It was agreed that CA would liaise with the Organisers and Planners of the all age group British Sprint Championships as and when such events are included in the Major Events Fixtures List for 2009 and 2010.

ACTION: CA

08/07 Middle Race Championships Guideline:

CA was thanked for producing the third draft of the Guideline and noted a small number of suggested amendments. He agreed to email the final draft to EW for forwarding to the Officials of the 2009 BMDC. It was agreed that CA would liaise with the Organiser and Planner of the all-age group British Middle Championships with regard to any questions that may arise prior to the staging of the event.

ACTION: CA and EW

08/08 JK Sprint Guideline:

DM was thanked for his work in the production of the JK Sprint Guideline for use at JK 2008. Discussion centred on the use of seeding for M/W Elite competitors and the possible need to provide a course for the 'seeded-out' competitors. DM agreed to make a small number of amendments to the current draft and then forward it to BE for publication on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: DM and BE

08/09 Road Crossings:

CD was thanked for his work on the 'Road Crossings' statement. It was agreed that the final document, after a small number of amendments were made, should be given 'Organisational Best Practice' document status thus providing advice to Event Officials and that the 'OPB - Road Crossings' document should be brought to the attention of members by an article in 'Focus' and also be available through a link on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: CD and BE

08/10 Review of Appendices:

NC was thanked for his work on Rule 9 and Appendix G re 'Complaints, Protests and Appeals'. A small number of amendments were made to the text and it was agreed that the revised Rule and Appendix were suitable for publication.

ACTION: NC and BE

NC and TS were thanked for their continuing work on Appendix I re 'Electronic Punching' and TS was thanked for his work on Appendix L re 'Selection Seeding and Start Lists'. NC agreed to make any further minor amendments to Appendix I as and when he received any final comments by email from the members of Rules Group. Following discussion on use of pre-allocated start times following competitor entry requests for Early, Middle or Late plus requests for parental split times, and the role of Elite Competitions Group re seeding at major events, TS agreed to amend the draft of Appendix L as required.

ACTION: NC and TS

08/11 Results adjustment by use of split times:

In the light of the IOF statement re non-removal of split times, and the requirement that results must be based on competitors' times for the whole of the course, it was agreed that this would therefore apply to all IOF Events held within the UK and to all new Level 1 'National' Events.

The members of Rules Group also agreed that the revised Appendix I on 'Electronic Punching' clearly identifies within Section 3 'Results Adjustment' (sub-sections 3.1 'Introduction', 3.2 'Voiding courses and adjusting results' and 3.3 'Conclusions') the serious consideration that needs to be given by the event Organiser and Controller at lower level events before any adjustment of results is considered to be appropriate.

ACTION: BE and NC

08/12 Control Visibility:

(see previous Agenda item 08/03)

08/13 Grade 1 Controller Applications held over from November 2007:

Following further consideration, it was agreed to approve the applications of Kevin King (FVO) and Richard Towler (LOC) and BE should request the Chief Executive write to them both with his congratulations. After discussion it was agreed that there was a need for independent quality assessments of the performance of applicants to be provided alongside the CVs. It was suggested that independent review of events of new Level 1 'National' and Level 2 'Regional' Events could be provided by the three persons appointed as the Jury, particularly if there was no 'Protest' arising at the event that required them to act as the 'Event Jury'. BE agreed to discuss this with Mike Forrest and the Major Events Group.

ACTION: BE and MH

08/14 Summary of Events Committee Meeting 23rd February 2008:

It was noted that classes for M/W85s would be required at BOC and JK 2009. These would compete on the same courses as the M/W80s.

08/15 IOF Rules Commission:

The main item from the report from David Rosen had already been discussed under item 08/11. There were no other items requiring action from Rules Group.

08/16 JK Sprint and control separation:

The dispensation re minimum distance of control separation is in place and will apply as per request at JK 2008.

08/17 BOC 2008 map scales:

Following a statement from BE and the consequent discussion, it was agreed that Rules Group would ask Map Group to produce a clear explanation of what map scales are expected for the different types of event - Long, Middle, Sprint, Relay - and, more importantly, what size lines and symbols should be used on these maps.

Rules Group interpretation of the current IOF Rules is quite clear in that a map with lines, line screens and symbol dimensions 50% greater than the ISOM specifications is recommended for older age groups (age classes 45 and above) where reading fine lines and small symbols may cause problems, and therefore request that such maps are provided at this year's British Championships.

ACTION: BE

08/18 Score Event Guideline:

The Guideline had been re-drafted by the originators following e-mail discussions with various members of Rules Group. It was agreed that it was a good guide to the organisation and planning of Score Events, though the inclusion of section 3.6.3 was queried. BE agreed to make this observation to the originators, and then arrange for publication of the Guideline on the British Orienteering web site.

ACTION: BE

08/19 Controller Age Limit:

The tabled document was discussed and it was agreed that the competence and ability of the Controller was more important than the actual age of the Controller. Any Controller must be able to meet the requirements for achieving Grade 3 by demonstrating suitable practical experience and attendance at an approved British Orienteering C3 Course. The appropriate Regional Committee must be satisfied that not only does the applicant meet the technical requirements expected, but also has the tact to influence the event officials when controlling an event, and the diplomacy to deal with any issues that arise.

ACTION: BE

08/20 Street 'O' Risk Assessment Document:

Following feedback from Neil Cameron and Mike Hamilton, together with the Officials of the recent Stockport Event, ST agreed to prepare a final draft of the 'Street 'O' Risk Assessment' document, and then to circulate it to the members of Rules Group by email prior to publication on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: ST

08/21 Support for IOF Advisor Training:

ST raised the matter of the level of financial support provided by British Orienteering for members who had been approved for attendance at IOF Event Advisor Training clinics. BE agreed to seek the views of the Major Events Committee and the Chief Executive on the matter and also to ascertain the current level of financial support available, prior to getting a policy statement to be made available for prospective IOF Event Advisors.

ACTION: BE

08/22 Grade 1 Controller Applications:

None had been received.

08/23 Any Other Business:

ST and EW raised the matter of British Orienteering Training Courses for Event Officials, the availability of up-to-date training materials, the arrangements for the appointment of Course Leaders and the booking of suitable venues, and the financial support available. BE agreed to discuss the matter with Development Manager Hilary Palmer.

ACTION: BE

08/24 Reporting and Actions:

EW agreed to produce an initial draft of the Minutes as quickly as possible because of the Fixtures Group meeting being held on 15th March 2008, and to circulate to members of Rules Group. Any amendments to be communicated to BE prior to re-drafting and final publication.

ACTION: EW

08/25 Dates and Locations of meetings in 2008:

21st June 2008 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, at 12.30 p.m.

22nd November 2008 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, at 12.30 p.m.