

Rules Group
17th March 2007
Report to Event Operations



Meeting of
RULES GROUP
held on Saturday 17th March 2007 at the Carrs Lane Church Centre,
Birmingham.

Event Operations is asked to NOTE:

Agenda item 07/06: Rules Group paper on decision on time scale for embargoed areas (plus associated paper)

Agenda item 07/07: Requirements for funding for training of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Controllers

Agenda item 07/08: Drafting of Guideline T for British Sprint Championships

Agenda item 07/09: Drafting of Guideline S for British Middle Distance Championships

Agenda item 07/12: Promotion of Guidelines and Good Practice at Events

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

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

Agenda item 07/24: Use of GPS systems at orienteering competitions

Rules Group
17th March 2007
Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the meeting of
Rules Group
on Saturday 17th March 2007
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham
at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

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

ITEM		ACTION
07/01	Apologies, Courtesies, and Minute Taking: Apologies were received from Andrew Cordle (EAOA) and Paul Taylor (NEOA). Ernie Williams agreed to take the Minutes on behalf of the Group and to distribute them by email to the Chairman, for approval and forwarding to Amy Sarkies at British Orienteering National Office. Members present agreed that all communication and tabled papers are to be distributed via email.	EW BE
07/02	Minutes of Rules Group meeting held on 11th November 2006: 06/11 Philip Gristwood: Is currently Chairman of the English Orienteering Council and not as stated "also has responsibility for the co-ordination of Home Internationals". 06/27 BOF membership: Agreed to delete last section of b) "and that entries and results systems will need to be programmed to filter out LBM's". 06/42 Seeding and Start Times at Major Events: Agreed to leave this item till June 2007 Meeting. Any views are to be emailed to Terry Smith. (see also item 07/20) 06/42 and 06/43 2007 Meeting Dates: Date of first meeting in 2007 is 17 th March and not 10 th March.	

With these amendments the Minutes of the Rules Group meeting on 11th November 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the business undertaken by those present.

07/03 Actions:

Noted.

07/04 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda:

There were no items brought forward for discussion.

Items from previous meeting requiring further discussion:

07/05 Guidance on Event Refunds

Neil Cameron (Chairman of British Orienteering) has produced a guidance statement for all clubs to use with four levels of refund defined therein. Rules Group thought that the contents of the document as drafted would incur more work and possible hassle for Organisers and Entries Secretaries so the guidance document was not supported at this time. However an article will go in Focus asking event organisers to state their position on refunds.

BE

07/06 Embargoes on areas and publication of embargoed areas etc:

It was agreed, after lengthy discussion, to simplify the Rule on embargoed areas. All British Championship events (i.e. BOC, BRC, BNC, B Middle, B Sprint) and the JK should not be used for 24 months before the event, and the area would be embargoed for that period. This would mean that mappers and planners of any previous events on the area would be eligible to compete at these events.

**BE and
Event
Ops**

All other Level 2 (National) and Level 3 (Regional) Events should have an event area embargo of 12 months, which would apply to mappers and planners of previous events on the area as well as competitors. This would, for example, allow the planner of an event on an area one year to compete on that area 12 months later. (The current rule is 24 months).

Level 4 (District) and Level 5 (Local) Events will have no event area embargo.

All Clubs within British Orienteering will be asked to respect these embargoes by not holding any events of any Level, including Level 5 or training sessions, on event areas within the 12 or 24 months defined above. If there are any problems in complying with this then Clubs are asked to contact the Chairman of Rules Group.

07/07 Monitoring and training of Controllers and possible Development funds:

It was agreed that there is a need for more courses for Grade 2 Controllers as Regions are trying to provide Grade 3 courses and the Major Events Co-ordinator has the responsibility for organising the annual Major Events Conference that incorporates training and guidance for prospective Grade 1 Controllers. It was also agreed that ideally 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.

**BE and
MR**

- 07/08 British Sprint Championships Guideline T:**
 The newly drafted document is to be reviewed with the expectation that it will be officially operative for 2008. Upon return of any comments 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. **BE**
- 07/09 British Middle Race Championships Guideline S:**
 Following discussion on the likely demand from senior orienteers after the 2007 British Elite Middle Distance Championships being held as part of the 'Seaside Scramble Weekend' on 15th April 2007, it was agreed that there is a need to monitor Middle Distance races being held both in the UK and elsewhere in Europe and then to aim by the end of 2007 for the formulation of a set of suitable age groups and course combinations. Charlie Adams agreed to monitor and obtain feedback from the Organising Team and competitors at the 'Seaside Scramble Weekend' and then to report back to the June 2007 meeting of Rules Group when a decision will be made on the drafting of a Guideline. **CA**
- 07/10 Definitions of the Role of the Organiser, Planner and Controller:**
 A new Rule 4 has been drafted by Andrew Cordle and will be finalised at the June meeting of Rules Group and any comments from Rules Group members are to be emailed to Andrew Cordle for his consideration. **AC and All**
- 07/11 Major Events Handbook:** Helen Errington, Co-ordinator of JK 2008, has agreed to review the existing documents and produce a consolidated document for Rules Group to approve pre-publication. **BE and HE**
- 07/12 Promotion of Guidelines and good practice. How do we encourage event officials to adhere to the Guidelines, e.g. course lengths? How do we review events and feed back comments when things go wrong, e.g. poor map printing?**
 Following a lengthy discussion it was 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' should be compiled that is likely to include areas such as starts, maps, e-box and e-card problems, results etc. **BE**
 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. **NC**
 Another (yet-to-be-drafted) pro forma should also be considered for the Event Controller 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 then 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.

07/13 Road Crossings:

This is an on-going matter that will be discussed further at the June 2007 meeting, particularly as JK 2007 will have a significant timed road crossing for a number of the courses.

CD

Reports from Event Operations Committee Meeting held on 10th February 2007 plus Rules Group report to Event Operations:

07/14 Map scales and eyesight:

Following an application from an orienteer with significant sight problems for the provision of a larger scale map than that intended to be used at the event, i.e. at 1:5,000 rather than at 1:10,000, it was agreed that this could be done, but that the competitor must accept that he or she shall be 'Non-competitive'. The ability to read the map at the scale provided is directly relevant to the performance of a competitor and is an essential part of the sport of orienteering.

07/15 Any other Event Operations items requiring further explanation or discussion:

City Centre races are being arranged by interested Clubs and a UK City Series is being actively promoted by Stewart Caithness.

Changes to the structure of major events such as the JK are taking place. Specifically the change from the traditional Good Friday informal Training Day to include an official Day 1 Sprint Race as well. Comments on this should be made post-event to Barry Elkington for forwarding to Lyn West (Event Operations).

BE

07/16 IOF Rules Commission Report, January 2007, Helsinki:

Barry Elkington explained that there was no formal relationship between Rules Group and BOF members such as David Rosen and David May who are on IOF Commissions, Committees and Groups. Although part funded by BOF they are accountable to the IOF. However, it is very useful that reports are being made to Rules Group by David Rosen on a regular basis. A document on the topic of 'Fairness in International Competition' which contained a number of very worthwhile points was discussed and it was agreed that the document provided a sound basis for the principles of, and guidance for, 'Fairness' within the sport in the UK.

It was noted that Simon Errington and Philip Gristwood are to attend an IOF Event Advisors Clinic in Zurich on 30th March and 1st April 2007.

Matters raised by or through Association Representatives:

07/17 Removing leg splits:

It was agreed that there was no change to the advice given at the previous meeting.

07/18 Providing results in a C3 (age Classes) format for C4 District Events:

It had been agreed that EMOA would trial the suggestion that two sets of results – one in course finishing order and one in age classes per course – be produced at District events and published on Club websites in the first instance but this had yet to take place.

EW

- 07/19 A nationwide District Events League proposal from Steve Bones of LOG:**
 Rules Group suggested that it would be worthwhile for Steve Bones of LOG and the EMOA Committee to further explore the concept of a new Regional or National League based on District Events. **EW**
- 07/20 Review of existing Appendices to the Rules:**
 Rules Group has begun the process of a complete review of 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 (see list below) will report back and the final drafts are to be ready for the November 2007 meeting for formal adoption in order that the revised Appendices are then ready for issue on or before 1st January 2008 on the British Orienteering website. **ALL**
- Appendix A: Control Descriptions - Barry Elkington to review re IOF Control Descriptions and UK variations **BE**
- Appendix B: Course Planning - Charles Daniel to review **CD**
- Appendix C: Event Officials - Simon Thompson to review **ST**
- Appendix D: Doping Control - Barry Elkington – to check with BOF management **BE**
- Appendix E: Event safety - Simon Thompson to review **ST**
- Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice - Ernie Williams to liaise with Roy Denney of EMOA who has been in contact with Brian Parker re this matter in the recent past – also need to check with Guideline **EW and RD**
- Appendix G: Protests, Juries and Appeals - Neil Crickmore to review **NC**
- Appendix H: Mapping - Barry Elkington to liaise with Colin Spears of Map Group **BE**
- Appendix I: Electronic Punching - Terry Smith and Neil Crickmore to revise whole document in light of current knowledge and practice **TS and NC**
- Appendix J: The Badge Scheme - Barry Elkington to review with Chris Boycott **BE**
- Appendix K: The Ranking Scheme - Charlie Adams to review and link with Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator and with David May **CA**
- Appendix L: Seeding and Selection - Terry Smith to continue his work on issues connected to Seeding and Selection **TS**
- Appendix M: Relay Alliances - to be moved from Event Guidelines and re-labelled **BE**
- 07/21 Results/timing options for when an e-card fails or is lost:**
 As Appendix I is currently under review (see item 07/20), this item should be covered by Terry Smith.
- 07/22 Sanctions on Clubs not submitting Regional Event results to the Rankings List:**
 It was agreed that there is a need via 'FOCUS' and the British Orienteering website for there to be active encouragement of Clubs so that all appropriate Event Results are sent to the Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator as soon as possible after the event has taken place. **BE**

A 'sanction' on Clubs not sending in Results within a designated time is to be considered at some future date but, in the meantime, it is recommended that the issue be discussed with Fixtures Group for their input.

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.

07/23 Reports from EBOR Event on 25th February 2007:

There had been a letter to Chief Executive, Mike Hamilton, regarding the Controller being from the same Club, and related to, the Organiser of an event. Two independent reports about the event had been requested and received, and both were very positive so no further action was needed.

07/24 Use of GPS systems whilst competing:

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. Item covering this to appear on the Event Officials page in Focus.

BE

07/25 Comparative running speeds – can they be updated?

Orienteers are to be asked, via FOCUS and the British Orienteering website, if there is anyone willing to undertake a 'research project' regarding the updating of comparative age class running speed data.

BE

07/26 Blank maps before the start lines at C4 and C5 events:

Following discussion this was supported by Rules Group. It is suggested to Clubs that at Level 4 and 5 events where overprinted maps are provided after the start they could provide blank maps for competitors to look at before the start as is done at Level 1, 2 and 3 Events.

BE

07/27 Map scales used at Regional Events:

It was agreed that major events need to provide specific age classes with 1:15,000 scale maps in order to allow them to compete using a map scale that is standard at International Events.

BE

When a Level 3 event has map scales at both 1:15,000 and 1:10,000, and a course has age classes both over and under the M/W45 age groups, then the scale should be 1:10,000 for all rather than 1:15,000. e.g. Course 5 at Regional Events has five age classes of M/W45 and over and two under M/W45 age classes of M21V and W21S so a 1:10,000 map is appropriate.

07/28 Over 35s Competition and Senior Competitions Group:

The tabled proposal by Ernie Williams was welcomed and is to be sent to Lyn West, Chair of Event Operations, who has been tasked with reviewing orienteering fixtures and competitions for Seniors within the UK.

EW

07/29 Controller Grade 1 Application:

Approval was given to the application from Neil Crickmore (Southdown Orienteers) to become a Grade 1 Controller.

BE

07/30 Any Other Business:

None.

07/31 Reporting and Actions:

See attached list of actions to be undertaken by members of Rules Group.

ALL

07/32 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2007:

23rd June 2007 Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, at 12.30 p.m.

10th November 2007 Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, at 12.30 p.m.

(The November meeting may be held on 24th November due to a clash with 'O' events)

Actions

98	07/01	Production of Rules Group Minutes	EW
99	07/01	All communications and tabled papers to be distributed via email	BE
100	07/05	Paper of guidance re Event Refunds	BE
101	07/06	Revision of timescale re embargoed areas and publication of embargoed areas	BE
102	07/07	Monitoring and training of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Controllers	BE, and Event Ops
103	07/08	Drafting of British Sprint Championships Guideline T	BE
104	07/09	Drafting of British Middle Distance Championships Guideline S	CA
105	07/10	Re-draft of the definitions of the role of Organiser, Planner and Controller re Rule 4	AC
106	07/11	Update of Major Events Handbook	BE
107	07/12	Promotion of Guidelines and Good Practice at Events and drafting of new 'Standard Event Assessment Form' for Level 3 Events and above	BE and NC
108	07/13	Road Crossings	CD
109	07/15	Forward any comments regarding the structure of major events	BE
110	07/18	Trial for provision of age class results at District Events	EW
111	07/19	Proposal for nationwide District Events League	EW
112	07/20	Revision of all Appendices A to L to be effective from 1 st January 2008	ALL
113	07/22	Article in FOCUS re results for Ranking Lists	BE
114	07/24	Use of GPS systems whilst competing at orienteering events	BE
115	07/25	Research into comparative running speeds	BE
116	07/26	Blank maps before the start lines at C4 and C5 events	BE
117	07/27	Map scales used at Regional Events	BE
118	07/28	Over 35s Competition and Senior Competitions Group	EW
119	07/29	Recognition of appointment to Controller Grade 1 following approval of Rules Group for Neil Crickmore (SO)	BE and MH
120	07/31	Actions by members of Rules Group and others to be indicated in Minutes	EW
121	07/32	Dates and Locations of Rules Group meetings in 2007 to be confirmed, including the provision of lunch !	BE