

Rules Group

22nd November 2008

Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the meeting of
Rules Group
held on Saturday 22nd November 2008
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham,
commencing at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

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| Barry Elkington | (WMOA) – Chairman |
| Andrew Cordle | (EAOA) |
| Ernie Williams | (EMOA) |
| Simon Thompson | (NWOA) |
| Terry Smith | (SCOA) |
| Neil Crickmore | (SEOA) |
| Charlie Adams | (YHOA) |
| David May | (WOA) |
| Mike Hamilton | (Chief Executive) |
| Lyn West | (Chair of Events Committee) |

Apologies:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Charles Daniel | (SWOA) |
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08/55 Apologies, Courtesies and Minute Taking:

Apologies were received from Charles Daniel.

Barry Elkington welcomed Mike Hamilton (Chief Executive) and Lyn West (Chair of Events Committee) to the meeting.

Ernie Williams volunteered to take the Minutes.

08/56 Minutes of the Rules Group Meeting held on 21st June 2008:

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

08/57 Actions:

Barry Elkington reported that all of the items listed under 'Actions' had been undertaken or carried forward to items on the agenda.

08/58 Matters arising from the Minutes not elsewhere on the Agenda:

08/51 – Simon Thompson confirmed that he had communicated with Mike Forrest (Chair of Major Events Group) and that at future World Ranking Events held within the UK the Event Controller and IOF Adviser would not be the same person.

08/59 - Event Structure Review:

British Orienteering Council, earlier in 2008, ratified that from 1st January 2009 the Event Structure of Orienteering within the UK would change from five Levels to three Levels i.e.

National Events (Level 1) - to include all of the annual major Championship Events, the JK and the Area Championships;

Regional Events (Level 2) - to provide quality orienteering competition;

Local Events (Level 3) - to provide opportunities for participation in orienteering.

In order to achieve the target date of 1st January 2009, Mike Hamilton (Chief Executive), Lyn West (Chair of Events Committee) and the members of Rules Group considered the detailed implementation of the changeover.

From 1st January 2009, the new Event Structure will:

- a) Provide a framework of courses and course descriptors that will be easy to explain to newcomers and will support a vision of increasing participation in orienteering;
- b) Provide a framework of courses and course descriptors from which any Club in the UK will be free to select courses to include in an event that will meet the needs of the participants;
- c) Recognize that Local and Regional Events serve a different purpose and should be separate – Regional Events are to provide an accepted level of competitive orienteering whilst Local Events will provide opportunities for participation in orienteering;
- d) Clarify that the Event Rules shall define the ‘quality’ an Event will be required to meet;
- e) Provide clarity in that it is the Club that has the responsibility to meet the needs of the majority of their participants to the best of the Club’s organisational and planning ability.

It was agreed that the Regional and Local Levels of Event should be able to offer matched Technical Difficulty and Lengths of Courses. For the time being these would continue to show links to the nationally available incentive schemes of Colour Coded Badges, Championship and Age Class Badge Awards, and the National Rankings Scheme, until such time as revised incentive schemes had been approved.

This matching will be displayed by a matrix/grid that clubs will also be actively encouraged to display on Club websites, in Club newsletters, and especially at all Level 2 and Level 3 Events that they organise.

The vertical left-hand bar of the matrix/grid labelled ‘**Technical and Navigational Difficulty**’ will have five named levels of Technical Difficulty and the top horizontal bar of the matrix/grid labelled ‘**Course Distances**’ will show the expected range of course lengths. The courses currently used for the Colour Coded incentive scheme (White, Yellow, Orange, Light Green, Green, Blue, Brown and Black) and for Age Class competition (M/W10 to M/W85) can all be allocated to a specific place within the matrix/grid.

It was noted that the Colour Coded naming applied to a course of specific difficulty and length relates to an incentive scheme, not a method of labelling every possible course length and difficulty combination.

For ease of understanding the left-hand bar of ‘**Technical and Navigational Difficulty**’ can be shown as:

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Very Easy | (TD1) |
| Easy | (TD2) |
| Medium | (TD3) |
| Hard | (TD4) |
| Very Hard | (TD5) |

The following descriptors can be applied to the five levels of ‘**Technical Difficulty**’ i.e. in a way that is easily understandable to newcomers.

Very Easy (TD1): Courses are very easy with all controls on paths; they are mainly used by six to ten year olds and family groups.

Easy (TD2): Courses use paths, tracks, walls and streams; they are mainly used by under 12’s and families.

Medium (TD3): Courses require the basic use of a compass and will have basic route choices; they are ideal for adult beginners.

Hard (TD4): Courses are more technically difficult and use contour and 'point' features such as ponds, small buildings and ruins, small hills, boulders, re-entrants and depressions; they are used by people with some orienteering experience.

Very Hard (TD5): Courses are physically demanding and technically more difficult and require significant route choices to be made; they are designed for experienced orienteers wanting a challenge and many legs on a course will offer route choices.

Item 08/60 to 08/71 Guideline Updates:

Following a review by Rules Group of the currently available Guidelines, it was agreed that the new or revised Guidelines will be either:

- 'Event specific', and therefore labelled '**Event Rules**', with information on the criteria that need to be fulfilled to stage the event e.g. 'British Orienteering Championships', 'Jan Kjellstrom Sprint', 'Area Championships', 'Compass Sport Cup and Trophy', 'Yvette Baker Trophy' etc.

or

- 'Event generic' and therefore labelled '**Event Guideline**' with information and advice based on 'best practice' for the particular type of Event e.g. 'Sprint', 'Middle Distance', 'Long Distance', 'Urban', etc.

It was agreed that the two new Event Rules will be re-labelled as 'Colour Coded Award Incentive Scheme' (currently labelled 'Draft Event Guideline B2: Local Cross Country Events'), and 'Cross Country Events with Age Classes' (currently labelled 'Draft Event Guideline B1: Regional Cross Country Events'). These will not be specifically associated with either Regional or Local events, but will include the matched 'Technical and Navigational Difficulty' and 'Course Lengths' matrix/grid.

The draft of 'Event Guideline A': Overview of Event Structure' was revised including sections 3.6, 3.7, 4.4 and 4.6 on Page 2 and the deletion of Section 6 'Orienteering Activities' on Page 3 of the document. The quality section should use only generic descriptions of products (e.g. for split time analysis) to avoid the impression that BOF endorse or recommend specific products.

The existing Guidelines will be re-sequenced starting with new 'Event Rules A: Overview of Event Structure', which will contain the quality criteria of an event, and thereafter sequentially moving through the alphabet.

ACTION: BE

The following Event Rules (currently Guidelines) will be revised and published in line with the new structure:

- British Elite Orienteering Championships (Long Distance) (currently Guideline H)
- British Orienteering Championships (currently Guideline D)
- British Relay Championships (currently Guideline E)
- British Night Championships (currently Guideline J)
- British Middle Distance Elite Championships (currently Guideline M)
- British Middle Distance Age Class Championships (currently Guideline S)
- British Sprint Elite Championships (currently Guideline K)
- British Sprint Age Class Championships (currently Guideline S)
- Jan Kjellstrom Sprint (currently Guideline U)
- Jan Kjellstrom Individual Events (currently Guideline F)
- Jan Kjellstrom Relays (currently Guideline G)
- Area Championships (adapted from current Guideline C - National events)

The following members of Rules Group agreed to act as 'Event Advisers' through 2009 on receipt of any queries received by email/telephone/letter and to maintain a review of the specific 'Event Rules' document(s):

Neil Crickmore:

- British Orienteering Championships
- British Elite Orienteering Championships
- British Relay Championships

Charlie Adams:

- British Middle Distance Elite Championships
- British Middle Distance Age Class Championships
- British Sprint Elite Championships
- British Sprint Age Class Championships

Charles Daniel:

- British Night Championships

David May:

- Jan Kjellstrom Sprint
- Jan Kjellstrom Individual

Barry Elkington:

- Jan Kjellstrom Relays
- Area Championships

New generic 'Event Guidelines' will be written by:

- David May - 'Sprint Events';
- Charlie Adams - 'Middle Distance Events'.
- Simon Thompson volunteered to produce an initial draft for 'Urban Events' after seeking advice from orienteers experienced in this type of event.

Neil Crickmore would also update the 'Score Events' Guideline following feedback.

After discussion it was agreed that 'Novice' (N) courses will be removed from the list of courses to be available at British Championship and Area Championship Events. Novices should be catered for by suitable non-Championship courses.

National Events will also include classes for M/W85, using the same courses as M/W80.

A query had been received in connection with the possible non-provision of courses for M/W10 and M/W12 competitors at the British Middle Distance Age Class Championships on 10th May 2009. Concern had been expressed that this would result in them competing on the M/W14 course (for which they may not have the technical ability) or taking part on a course for 10s and 12 but for which no medals would be awarded. Neither of these occurrences was thought to be satisfactory. It was agreed that Barry Elkington would contact the Chair of Junior Competitions Group to discuss these concerns.

ACTION: BE

After discussion re the awarding of trophies and medals to the winners of classes in a particular Age Group at the British Championships it was confirmed that these would only go to the winners of the highest class in each age group. e.g. the winner of M21E should be awarded the trophy, with medals to the first three. The winners of classes M21L and M21S would only receive mementoes. It was also suggested that the specific Event Rules for Major Events should contain details on the awarding of trophies and medals.

ACTION: BE

Item 08/72 to 08/77 Rules Review and updates to Appendices:

The revised 'Rules 2009' were discussed at length and a number of amendments made to the draft text:

- 1.7: Introduce the approach that the event Risk Assessment should be used to determine the appropriate response plan and First Aid provision for ill or injured competitors.
- 2.4.2: insertion of the word 'relevant' to read 'the relevant calendar year'.
- 6.6.2: Revised to now read 'The control description list shall be printed on the map and may also be provided as a separate sheet to each competitor'.
- 7.1.4: Removal of the first sentence.
- 7.1.7: Revised to now read 'The use of any artificial aid for navigation, other than a compass, is prohibited'.
- 8.5.2: Revised to now read 'The finishing time shall be measured when the competitor punches at the finish point or is detected electronically crossing the Finish line'.
- 9.1.2: Revised to now read 'A complaint shall be made to the Organiser in writing'.

- 9.3.2: Revised to now read 'A protest shall be made to the Controller in writing'.
- Many revisions were where the word 'should' was replaced with the more mandatory word 'shall'; these included the following:
- 1.1.5, 1.4.2, 1.7.3, 1.7.6, 6.2.3, 6.2.4, 6.4.4, 7.2.11, 8.2.2, 9.3.6
- With regard to Rule 7.1.3 discussion on the use of the words 'a cagoule or similar waterproof garment' led to an agreement that the words be replaced by 'a hooded waterproof jacket'.
- With regard to Rule 8.2.2 re maps in start lanes, it was agreed to delete this requirement and that Organisers be instructed in the specific 'Event Rules' that 'blank' maps of the competition area shall be displayed in a prominent place in the Assembly Area.
- With regard to Rule 8.2.3 and Rule 8.2.4, discussion centred on the need to clarify the provision of course maps to competitors/participants pre-start or just beyond the start line. It was agreed that draft replacement text for 8.2.3 and 8.2.4 could read:
 - "At National and Regional Events individual competitors shall receive their pre-marked maps not more than ten seconds before their start time.
 - At Regional and Local Events with courses planned to 'Very Easy' (TD1) and 'Easy' (TD2) pre-marked maps shall be made available to competitors/participants in advance of their start time.
 - At Local Events the Organiser shall decide whether participants receive their maps showing their course on all courses planned to 'Medium' (TD3) and above either before or at their start time.

ACTION: BE

Andrew Cordle agreed to re-distribute to the Chief Executive, the Chair of Events Committee and members of Rules Group the four page Rules Summary that he had previously written.

ACTION: AC

Terry Smith requested that further comments and amendments re 'Appendix L: Selection, Seeding and Start Lists' be sent to him as soon as possible and he thanked those members of Rules Group who had taken part in the recent email discussion which had proved to be both very helpful and supportive.

Barry Elkington volunteered to turn the material on 'Embargoes' that had been made available on the British Orienteering website into an 'Appendix'.

08/78 JK Relay – Class changes for 2010:

Barry Elkington reported that in line with the request from Elite Competitions Group, in 2010 the Men's Premier Class would have three laps rather than the current four. Also, the total number of courses would also be reduced by running more classes on the same courses. These changes would be introduced in conjunction with Major Events Group.

ACTION: BE

08/79 Event Jury acting as assessors:

Barry Elkington agreed to take back to Mike Forrest and the Major Events Group the need to get feedback and quality control of National events, and ask for suggestions as to how this could be achieved.

ACTION: BE

08/80 Road Crossings – final version of document:

It was agreed that Charles Daniel would be asked to email the final draft of the document to the members of Rules Group and also to Mike Hamilton so that when approved, it can be made available to Event Officials via the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: CD

08/81 Summary of Events Committee Minutes held on 8th November 2008:

Matters in connection with this Agenda item had been completed in earlier parts of the meeting.

08/82 IOF Rules Commission Report – IOF Event Adviser Renewals:

A short discussion took place on the IOF Event Adviser renewals. Mike Hamilton agreed to discuss this further with Barry Elkington.

ACTION: MH / BE

08/83 Controller's advice on SI and EMIT – David Rosen articles:

Following on from the document he produced on SI punching, David Rosen is currently drafting a second document giving advice on the programming and use of EMIT electronic punching systems.

08/84 Grade 1 Controller Application:

It was agreed that David May be approved as a Grade 1 Controller. Mike Hamilton agreed to write to David May congratulating him on his appointment and wishing him 'Good Luck' in his future controlling activities.

ACTION: MH

08/85 Any Other Business:

- a) **Street 'O' Risk assessment:** Comments on the draft document should be sent to Simon Thompson for his attention.
- b) **Map Group and Control Descriptions:** There has been a suggestion that at National Events and, if at all possible, at Level 2 Events all Control Descriptions shall be in IOF Pictorial and not in plain text. At Level 3 it would be up to individual Clubs to decide whether to use IOF Pictorial or plain text or a combination of both.

08/86 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2009:

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 th March 2009 | Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham |
| 20 th June 2009 | Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham |
| 21 st November 2009 | Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham |

Post meeting note - next year sees the seven week school summer holiday to bring the calendar back into line. Hence to avoid clashing with the British Schools Championships it is proposed that the November meeting takes place on the 28th November not the 21st.

There being no further business Barry Elkington thanked all of those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.50pm.