

Rules Group
23rd June 2007
Report to Event Operations



Meeting of
RULES GROUP
held on Saturday 23rd June 2007
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.

Event Operations is asked to NOTE:

Agenda item 07/16 : Recommendation to Mike Richardson as Major Events Co-ordinator (Major Events Group) that at all major events within UK that have specified Elite Courses an IOF Event Advisor or similar be appointed with the specific intent of focussing on the organisation for and planning of the Elite Courses.

Agenda item 07/37 : The need for the paper entitled 'Embargoed Areas and Non-Competitive Runners – May 2007' to be advertised as widely as possible.

Agenda item 07/39 & 7/40 : The adoption and format of the British Sprint and Middle Distance Championships for all age groups will be determined by the outcome of the Event Structure Review Group.

Agenda item 07/49, 07/50 & 07/51 : The decisions regarding the BOC and BRC Protests and Appeals and the recommendations for the future handling of protests with regard to misplaced or missing controls.

Agenda item 07/52 : The agreement that a set of procedures should be established for the organisation of various elements of all major events in order that officials do not have to re-invent them. These procedures should form part of the Major Events Handbook.

Agenda item 07/57 : The decision that Quantock Orienteers should gain the agreement of the SWOA Committee prior to any initial trial usage of the Joe Lee e-punching system at a Regional Event within the SWOA Region.

Rules Group

23rd June 2007

Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the Meeting of
RULES GROUP
held on Saturday 23rd June 2007
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.

Present:

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

07/33 Apologies, Courtesies, and Minute Taking:

Apologies were received from Terry Smith (SCOA) and Paul Taylor (NEOA).
Ernie Williams agreed to take the Minutes on behalf of the Group and to email them to the Chairman Barry Elkington for approval and forwarding to British Orienteering National Office.

ACTION: EW

Members present agreed that all communication and tabled papers are to continue to be distributed via email.

ACTION: BE

07/34 Minutes of Rules Group meeting held on 17th March 2007:

Item 07/16 IOF Rules Commission Report: Correction - Simon Thompson not Simon Errington attended the IOF Event Advisors Clinic in Zurich on 30th March and 1st April 2007.

07/35 Actions from 17th March meeting:

07/01 Production of Rules Group Minutes:

Completed by Ernie Williams and sent by email to Chairman Barry Elkington.

07/02 All communications and tabled papers to be distributed via email

This is being undertaken by Chairman Barry Elkington.

07/05 Paper of guidance re Event Refunds:

Barry Elkington reported that he had prepared an article for 'FOCUS' which had been published.

07/06 Revision of timescale re embargoed areas and publication of embargoed areas:

Agenda item 07/37.

07/07 Monitoring and training of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Controllers:

Agenda item 07/38.

07/08 Drafting of British Sprint Championships Guideline T:

Agenda item 07/39.

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

Agenda item 07/40.

07/10 Re-draft of the definitions of the role of Organiser, Planner and Controller re Rule 4:

Agenda item 07/41.

07/11 Update of Major Events Handbook:

Barry Elkington has spoken with Helen Errington and will report further at the 24th November meeting.

ACTION: BE

07/12 Promotion of Guidelines and Good Practice at Events and drafting of new 'Standard Event Assessment Form' for Level 3 Events and above:

Agreed need for the use of the 'Standard Assessment Form to be promoted by Regional Associations.

ACTION: ALL

07/13 Road Crossings:

Agenda item 07/42.

07/15 Changes to the structure of major events:

Agenda item 07/46.

07/16: IOF Event Advisors:

Philip Gristwood and Simon Thompson are both IOF Event Advisors for 2007 and 2008. Following discussion on the role of IOF Event Advisors at major events it was agreed to recommend to Mike Richardson as Major Events Co-ordinator (Major Events Group) that at all major events within UK that have specified Elite Courses an IOF Event Advisor or similar be appointed with the specific intent of focussing on the organisation for and planning of the Elite Courses.

ACTION: BE, MR

07/18 Trial for provision of age class results at District Events:

It had previously 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 EMOA has yet to report on discussions with Michael Napier re his MERCS Results program.

ACTION: EW

07/19 Proposal for nationwide District Events League:

Ernie Williams reported that this proposal had been subsumed into the work of the Event Structure Review Group, of which he is a member, with the ESRG being chaired by Lyn West.

07/20 Revision of all Appendices A to L to be effective from 1st January 2008:

Agenda item 07/43.

07/22 Article in FOCUS re results for Ranking Lists and possible sanctions:

Barry Elkington reported that Event Operations had agreed with Rules Group in this matter and that an article will be in a future edition of 'FOCUS'.

ACTION: BE

07/24 Use of GPS systems whilst competing at orienteering events:

An article will be prepared for a future edition of 'FOCUS'.

ACTION: BE

07/25 Research into comparative running speeds:

Agenda item 07/44.

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

An article is being prepared on this topic for the next edition of 'FOCUS'.

ACTION: BE

07/27 Map scales used at Regional Events and above:

Map Group, chaired by Colin Spears, is to ask all surveyors and cartographers to note that standard base maps should be surveyed for printing at a scale of 1:15,000, then enlarged to a scale of 1:10,000 if required. There have been particular problems when maps have been surveyed at 1:10,000 and then reduced to 1:15,000 for major competitions.

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

Ernie Williams reported that this proposal, as for item 07/19, had been subsumed into the work of the Event Structure Review Group.

07/29 Recognition of appointment to Controller Grade 1 following approval of Rules Group for Neil Crickmore (SO):

Neil Crickmore reported that he had received a letter from the Mike Hamilton, Chief Executive of British Orienteering.

07/30 Actions by members of Rules Group and others to be indicated in Minutes:

Action completed by Ernie Williams.

07/31 Dates and Locations of Rules Group meetings in 2007 to be booked and confirmed:

Action completed by Barry Elkington.

07/36 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda:

There were no items brought forward for discussion.

Items from previous meeting requiring further discussion:

07/37 Embargoes on areas and publication of embargoed areas etc:

The previously circulated paper entitled 'Embargoed Areas and Non-Competitive Runners – May 2007' was discussed and it was noted re the '12 month rule' that the majority of Clubs use event areas only once per year or less and that the organisers of coaching courses and Level 5 events should also take the '12 month rule' into account. It was agreed that advice regarding any problems in the use of an area within the limit of the '12 month rule' can be sought from the Chairman and members of Rules Group.

ACTION: BE and ALL MEMBERS OF RULES GROUP

It was agreed that the paper entitled 'Embargoed Areas and Non-Competitive Runners – May 2007' is to be advertised as widely as possible by reference in the next edition of 'FOCUS' and as an item on the 'General News' section of the British Orienteering web site.

Furthermore, a copy should be circulated to all Club Secretaries via National Office mail shot. It was also agreed that registration of an individual event and inclusion into either or both the British Orienteering Current Fixture List and Advance Major Events List shall initially serve as a suitable method for orienteers to check in advance the intended use of areas. However longer term it would be appropriate to have a specific page on the British Orienteering web site containing this information.

ACTION: BE

07/38 Monitoring and training of Controllers and possible Development funds:

Simon Thompson had volunteered to be a member of the Working Group regarding this topic which is to be formed in the near future. Barry Elkington reported that funds may be available via an application to Sport England which would permit one person to be employed to spend one year reviewing the training and monitoring of Event Officials and to then make recommendations to the Chief Executive and Council of British Orienteering.

07/39 British Sprint Championships Guideline T – Elite and Non-Elite:

Charlie Adams is in the process of drafting the Guidelines for Sprint and Middle Distance Championships for all ages/classes for possible first use in 2009. The actual adoption and format of such an event will be determined by the outcome of the Event Structure Review Group.

The British Sprint Championships in 2008 are to be held at the University of Warwick with two races – qualification and final – on the same day. There will be prizes, but no Championship, for Senior, Veteran, etc. Barry Elkington agreed to liaise with the event officials.

Arrangements for 2009 are already being made for the British Sprint Championships to be held in the EMOA Region in mid-May (as part of a British Sprint/Middle Distance Championships weekend) and, when appointed, Organisers and Planners will need to receive the final version of the agreed Guideline from Charlie Adams.

Charlie Adams will also consult with David May, currently drafting the JK 2008 Sprint Guideline, with a view to planning the JK race according to the final draft of a JK Sprint Guideline. As the expectation is that competitor numbers at the JK are likely to be much larger than for the British Sprint Championships the aim is to have all age classes covered by an appropriate number of courses.

ACTION: CA, DM, BE and EW

07/40 British Middle Race Championships Guideline S – Elite and Non-Elite:

In 2008 there is an expectation that the Championships, to be held in WMOA Region, will use the draft of a yet to be finalised Guideline. There will be fewer courses than the 11 listed in the initial draft of the Guideline even though, due to the growing popularity of Middle Distance as well as Sprint Events, there will be increasing numbers of competitors. Charlie Adams is to offer advice to the 2008 Organiser and Planner re suitable course combinations and size of the Elite start block, and he also noted that the Elite competitors could well complete their races before any other age classes begin to compete. The actual format of the event longer term will be determined by the outcome of the Event Structure Review Group.

ACTION: CA

07/41 Rule 4 - Definitions of the Role of the Organiser, Planner and Controller:

The revised Rule 4 has been drafted by Andrew Cordle and he made a final request for any comments to be made to him as soon as possible. It was agreed that information re the latest version of the Risk Assessment Form be included within the revised Rule 4, and that the completion of the Form be added to the actions expected of an Event Organiser, together with information on where the form can be found on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: AC and ALL MEMBERS OF RULES GROUP

07/41 Event Officials:

There is an urgent need for a clearly identified 'Event Officials' section on the British Orienteering website and with similar access to 'one-click' pdf files as per the 'Event Guidelines' section on the website 'Map'. BE to check progress of the new web site with British Orienteering office.

ACTION: BE

07/41 2007 Rules:

Neil Cameron had identified a number of places in the text of the 'Rules' that need tidying up, and Barry Elkington as Chairman of Rules Group has agreed to make the necessary amendments prior to the issue of the 2008 edition.

ACTION: BE

07/42 Road Crossings:

After discussion on various aspects of 'Road Crossings', that included the need to limit the time allowance, the placing of controls, drinks stations and map exchange, together with the experience from the road crossing points at JK 2007 and the need to stress the importance of both 'fairness' and 'safety', Charles Daniel had agreed to revise the draft document and asked that any further discussion and amendments be completed as soon as possible after the meeting by email.

ACTION: CD and ALL MEMBERS OF RULES GROUP

07/43 Review of Appendices – update on any major issues:

The members of Rules Group reported as follows:

Appendix A: Control Descriptions - Barry Elkington is reviewing the IOF Control Descriptions and UK variations.

ACTION: BE

Appendix B: Course Planning - Charles Daniel has recommended a number of changes that he distributed pre-meeting by email.

ACTION: CD

Appendix C: Event Officials – Simon Thompson recommended that information on British Orienteering courses be available both in the Appendix and on British Orienteering website. He also suggested that attendance on Courses be 'recommended' rather than 'required' and that for Level1/Level 2 Courses the words 'shall be required' be used. Simon Thompson will contact Mike Richardson, Major Events Co-ordinator, to discuss the drafting of Appendix C.

ACTION: ST

Appendix D: Doping Control - Barry Elkington is checking with British Orienteering management.

ACTION: BE

Appendix E: Event Safety – Simon Thompson has reviewed, and has added information re Risk Assessment; he also commented that some landowners have their own version of a 'Risk Assessment' form that does not have specific orienteering requirements.

ACTION: ST

Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice - Ernie Williams has sent the revised draft of Appendix F by Roy Denney of EMOA to Barry Elkington.

ACTION: EW

Appendix G: Protests, Juries and Appeals - Neil Crickmore is reviewing Appendix G.

ACTION: NC

Appendix H: Mapping - Barry Elkington is liaising with Colin Spears of Map Group.

ACTION: BE

Appendix I: Electronic Punching - Terry Smith and Neil Crickmore are collaborating in a complete revision of the Appendix with regard to current knowledge and practice.

ACTION: TS and NC

Appendix J: The Badge Scheme - Barry Elkington is to review with Chris Boycott, but there will not be any changes until the outcome of the Event Structure Review Group are known.

ACTION: BE

Appendix K: The Ranking Scheme - Charlie Adams is liaising with the Ranking Scheme Co-ordinator and also with David May, but there will not be any changes until the outcome of the Event Structure Review Group are known.

ACTION: CA

Appendix L: Seeding and Selection - Terry Smith is continuing his work on issues connected to Seeding and Selection.

ACTION: TS

Appendix M: Relay Alliances – this Appendix is to be moved from Event Guidelines and re-labelled.

ACTION: BE

It was agreed that the final drafts of the Appendices will be ready for the meeting on 24th November 2007 for formal adoption in order that, as previously agreed, the revised Appendices are to be ready for issue on or before 1st January 2008 on the British Orienteering website.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS OF RULES GROUP

07/44 Comparative Running Speeds – do they need updating?

David May was thanked for the excellent work that he has already undertaken with his analysis of comparative running speeds of men and women in senior age classes using the 2006 Lakes 5 Days results data and the 1997 British Orienteering Rules and Guidelines ratios. It was apparent from the data, and from personal experience of Rules Group members, that M/W 50+ appeared not to be getting slower as rapidly as when the original analysis was done, but were maintaining their fitness and speed levels. Some thought will therefore need to be given to make M/W 50+ courses a small amount longer, except possibly on very physical terrain. It was suggested that David May would be asked if he is prepared to produce separate data graphs for Men and Women and to include results data from additional recent events such as the JK and BOC, which could then lead to a review and revision of course lengths and ratios.

ACTION: BE and DM

Reports from Event Operations Committee Meeting held on 9th June 2007 plus Rules Group report to Event Operations:

07/45 Development Committee Review of Work of Committees and Groups:

Barry Elkington reported on the tabled document 'Development Committee – Recommendations to Council: Review the Work of the Committees & Groups' and highlighted three items:

(i) Recommendation 6 - Development Committee should be disbanded and replaced with a Development Programme Committee that will oversee and support the work of the development team across the UK. The areas of responsibility to include the following aspects across the UK: membership, junior participation, club development, volunteer development, University O, Youth O.

Item (i) is a significant change to the work and responsibilities of Development Committee.

(ii) Recommendation 8 - Rules Group Terms of Reference should include responsibility for: overseeing application of the rules, good practice, managing Controllers, feeding back on IOF Rule changes in regard to event rules.

Item (ii) was as per recommendations made by Rules Group.

(iii) Recommendation 9 - Major Events be constituted into a group (rather than an individual) and be responsible for the major events strategy in addition to the allocation of events.

Item (iii) will have both short and long term commitments both for the members of Major Events Group as well as orienteering in general, but should help to improve the quality of our major events.

07/46 Report of Event Structure Review:

Ernie Williams was invited by Barry Elkington to summarise the work to date of the Event Structure Review Group (ESRG).

(i). The Report presented by Lyn West on behalf of ESRG at the recent Event Operations meeting was 'preliminary' in nature and was not yet 'final' and this was accepted by Rules Group.

(ii) Current ESRG thinking is that the Level 1 events i.e. JK and BOC should see JK remain a

separate 'Spring Festival of Orienteering' and not be amalgamated with BOC, which should also remain separate but with the possible recommendation of a move to the Autumn rather than the current place in the annual events calendar. Both of these events will have age-class competitions. Level 1 Events such as BNC, BSC, BMDC etc. have still to be considered in any detail. Rules Group agreed with the continuation of JK as a 4 Day Festival of Orienteering separate from BOC. It was believed that the 'new' structure re Day 1 Sprint, Day 2 Long or Middle Distance, Day 3 Classic, Day 4 JK Relay was probable for the foreseeable future but could require Regions as well as Clubs working together rather than one Region taking on full responsibility, together with possibility of a 'professional Co-ordinator' ensuring continuity year on year rather than a constant re-invention of the wheel. The importance of the Major Event Officials Annual Conference was also seen as being of crucial importance as is the revamp of the Major Events Handbook currently being undertaken by Helen Errington on behalf of Rules Group. The principle of moving BOC to the autumn was understood but the general belief was that the undergrowth so often prevalent in the autumn (bracken, brambles etc.) might make such a move a contentious one.

(iii) ESRG may at some point recommend that Level 2 Nationals be discontinued as such and to be replaced with approximately 5 or 6 Area Championships as Level 2 quality events that have a recognised place in the annual events calendar. These events will also be age class competitions. Other Area Championships e.g. Night will also continue to be age class competitions. There was general agreement from Rules Group but with the proviso that the Area Championships are high grade/quality events on suitable terrain and not just undertaken on a basis of 'buggins turn'. It was also agreed that JK/BOC/Area Championships/selected Day or Days of a Multi-Day event will continue to be the basis of Masters Cup Competition i.e. quality age class competition on quality areas with quality organisation.

(iv) Discussion is on-going within ESRG re a recommendation that Level 3 Regional and Level 4 District Events be replaced by a series of events within each Region that are of Level 3 standard but instead of age classes will have a range of Colour Coded courses from Black through to White and with the addition of a Short Green, building as it does on earlier decisions re Junior Ageless Classes with competitors taking part on the course that they deem suitable for their age and ability. Results/raw data from these events could then be used to form the basis of a revised Rankings List and which will require input from orienteers with specialised knowledge of computer programming/mathematics/statistics to ensure fairness and 'useability' for all members of British Orienteering. Rules Group agreed with the idea of one all-embracing Ranking List that incorporated events that were an amalgamation of Level 3 and 4 (as well as the Level 1 and 2 events), but it was suggested that there should be no more than 20 to 25 of these events throughout the UK annually. Again with the emphasis on quality terrain, mapping, organisation etc, (as per the Level 1 and 2 events). This would mean that not every Club would put on an annual 'Regional Badge' event as happens at the present time. As an example members of Rules Group suggested that a Club such as LEI would put on a 'new' Level 3 event only every 2 or 3 years rather than annually as at present. It was noted that Clubs would have to be persuaded into this as many see the annual 'Regional Badge' event as the 'money-maker' of the year even though Clubs can often have more success re attendance and financial gain with putting on a wide variety of 'Local'/Level 5 events throughout the twelve months of each year.

(v) Rules Group agreed with ESRG that current Level 5 Local Events should be promoted and encouraged in all areas of UK as entry-level events for competitors of all ages and abilities, together with attracting young competitors/families/adult beginners/competitors from other physical activity disciplines etc. Organising Clubs will be able to arrange events and courses to suit local conditions and which will, as at present, continue to be registered with British Orienteering.

(vi) Discussion is on-going within ESRG re Sprint and Middle Distance Events and their place in the annual events calendar – as with item (iv) this is wide-ranging in nature with no specific conclusions to date. It was appreciated that these types of event are becoming more popular with orienteers of all ages and not just with Elite competitors and, as such, the provision of Sprint and Middle Distance events are likely to become more numerous throughout the UK.

(vii) Discussion is also taking place within ESRG re other events within the annual calendar that are recognised as having an important role to play e.g. Compass Sport Cup and Trophy, FCC, UK Cup, Harvester, Multi Day Events such as Scottish 6/Lakes 5/Creoso/SINS/Tamar Triple together with the present Masters Cup Competition etc. Rules Group agreed that there is every expectation that the various competitions for Clubs and young competitors aiming for 'Elite' status plus the variety of Multi-Day events will continue to have a significant place within the annual Orienteering Calendar.

(viii) It was noted that the many aspects of the sport that are related to the Rules such as the 'Appendices' and the 'Guidelines' will continue to be an integral part of the work of Rules Group and as such will continue to be reviewed and revised by Rules Group. All of the Appendices and some of the Guidelines, including those for Sprint and Middle Distance Championships, are being revised at the present time for issue prior to 1st January 2008. Looking forward, as event structure decisions are made by Event Operations together with British Orienteering Council, this will create the need for review and revision, together with the continued need for a Senior Competitions Group to be established (though it must be said that there was an expectation that the ESRG could well be the precursor of the SCG!).

Barry Elkington and Ernie Williams agreed to continue to liaise re the continuing work of the Event Structure Review Group.

ACTION: BE and EW

07/47 Any other Event Operations items requiring further explanation or discussion:

There were no further items to be considered.

07/48 IOF Rules Commission Report:

The next meeting is to be held in Ukraine in August 2007.

Major Events

07/49 and 07/50 British Individual Championships/British Relay Championships 2007-protest regarding the removal of split times:

Following a very lengthy debate of the issues involved at both events it was finally agreed that Barry Elkington, on behalf of Rules Group, would issue a statement to be placed as soon as possible in the 'General News' section of the British Orienteering website.

The text of the agreed statement is as follows:

"At the Rules Group meeting on Saturday 23rd June 2007, the problems and resulting protests and appeals from the 2007 British Championships and British Relay Championships were considered.

Whilst sympathising with all the competitors affected, the following decisions were reached: For the Individual day the decision by the event jury to restore the results of the W21E and M21L classes to the original times, without the leg split times from either side of the wrongly placed control removed, was supported. These results have now been placed on the BOC website.

For the Relay the decision of the Organiser and the Jury to leave the Mini Relay results unchanged from those published on the day was supported.

The reasons behind these decisions were:

1) The consensus that, based on experience, removing leg splits is not an appropriate course of action. It is impossible to predict how the overall results were affected by the wrongly placed (individual) or missing (relay) controls, and therefore to remove the leg splits would not necessarily provide a fairer result than the finishing order on the day.

2) As requested in the original complaints, the option of voiding the course was not taken. Guidance for officials at future events is that, even if there is a problem, leg split times should not be removed from the final results. The only options available to the Organiser are to leave the results as they stand or to void the course.

A fuller article on this will appear in the next edition of Focus, and the relevant Rules and

Appendices will be updated to provide more advice to event officials, including under what circumstances a course should be voided."

ACTION: BE

Barry Elkington agreed to contact Michael Napier and to get the results already on the BOC website revised, and to inform him of actions that should be taken in the event of future major event Organisers and/or Planners requiring the removal of leg splits.

ACTION: BE

07/51 Agreed statement on removing split times and voiding courses:

Rules Group agreed that in Appendix I section 2.7.4 there should be stress placed on the phrase "split times should not be removed" and that this shall be for all Events at Level 1, 2 and 3.

Looking to the future it was agreed that a complaint / protest requires two assessments:

- 1) Is the complaint / protest correct and there is something wrong ?
- 2) What action should be taken ?

If something is wrong then there is a need for the Organiser to publicly recognise that a problem has occurred. This should be done both on the day and in subsequent 'Comments' in Results, whether or not a decision was taken to void the course.

It was also agreed that the following criteria could form the basis for future decision making and advice as to what action to take, and will appear in the revised Appendix I being drafted by Neil Crickmore:

- (i) Can the problem be described as having a significant impact on the results ?
- (ii) Does the problem have an effect on the top competitors in the final results list ?
- (iii) Is the request for the course to be voided, as opposed to just recognition of the mistake ?

Competitors will need to be made aware that the result of a formal protest can only be one of two actions - that the results will stand or the course/courses will be voided.

The recommendation is that courses should not be voided unless no meaningful results can be produced. Reasons for not voiding a course go beyond the simple question of unfairness, including:

- The requirement for a 'winner' for prizegivings, publicity, media coverage, sponsors, etc.
- The loss of credibility with funding bodies such as the Sports Council if there isn't a British Champion included in the roll of honours.
- Local authorities, sports partnerships, etc. who give benefits to anyone who can demonstrate achievements at a national level.
- In the case of World Ranking Events, the loss of Ranking Points for GB competitors.

It was also agreed that there is a need for a standard 'Protest Form' to be available for the use, when required, of Organisers and Competitors.

Barry Elkington agreed to publicise a summary of the criteria regarding problems within the competition area as agreed by Rules Group as a short-term measure. Neil Crickmore agreed to take the criteria into account when re-drafting Appendix I.

ACTION: BE and NC

07/52 Major Events Review for Event Operations:

Barry Elkington used the contents of the tabled paper 'Rules Group review of Major Events for Event Operations' dated 9th June 2007 to summarise the problems encountered at seven major events in the first months of 2007. It was agreed that, although all of the problems were different in nature, it required a recommendation from Rules Group to the Major Events Group that they should be more actively involved in appointing Controllers for major events and monitoring their performance.

It was also agreed that set procedures should be established for the organisation of various elements of all major events in order that officials do not have to re-invent them, and that competitors will be aware of the procedure to be followed at all major events. These procedures should also form part of the Major Events Handbook currently being revised by Helen Errington.

Barry Elkington agreed that he would contact Mike Richardson re the recommendations of Rules Group to the Major Events Group, and Neil Crickmore agreed to contact Helen Errington re the Major Events Handbook and the need for set procedures for all major events.

ACTION: BE and NC

The JK Co-ordinator had commented that he had underestimated the lack of familiarity of competitors from some regions with EMIT and with hindsight would have given more opportunity to practice. Use of an electronic system with which some are unfamiliar could be unfair. There are two systems with wide usage within the orienteering world. Use of both systems prepares our young (and not so young) competitors for overseas competition. EMIT is expected to be used for BOC 2008. Future organisers to note Co-ordinators comments.

07/53 Provision of Controllers for JK 2007:

Charles Daniel outlined the problems created by the late appointment of Controllers for JK 2007 and stated that it had been fortunate that well experienced Controllers had 'volunteered' and had therefore been able to ensure that the event as a whole was organised and planned correctly. It was agreed by Rules Group that there was a real need to match Controller's known skills with specific events and that the recommendations contained in Agenda Item 07/52 be forwarded to the Major Events Co-ordinator as previously agreed.

07/54 JK 2007 Relays – proximity of controls and run-in geometry:

Charles Daniel raised his concerns regarding the proximity of controls in the competition area, particularly the last controls, and the geometry of the run-in which led to problems with the change-over area conflicting with the run-in to the Finish, as well as perceived problems with marked crossing points. Rules Group agreed that Planners and Controllers need to be familiar with the specialised demands of Relay events. The advice sheets and diagrams from the old (pre 1997) Relay Guideline need to be resurrected and made available as they contained valuable advice regarding control placement and grouping, gaffling, layout of changeover and finish areas etc. Barry Elkington and the other members of Rules Group agreed to conduct a search to find the original 'Relay Guidelines' and make them available.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS OF RULES GROUP

07/55 W21E course at BOC 2007:

Verbal complaints had been received from the Elite Women competitors re the lack of quality planning and the use of available terrain at BOC 2007. Rules Group agreed that as noted in previous Agenda Item 07/35 (section 7/16) that the appointment of an IOF Advisor or similar would have provided an independent overview and contribution to the planning of this course.

07/56 Harvester Relay trophy allocation:

Barry Elkington reported that he had been contacted prior to the 2007 Harvester Event re the allocation and distribution of the available trophies and that he had revised section 3.1 of the Guideline to ensure that the order of allocation of the trophies was not open to dispute. This had proved to be successful, with no problems allocating the trophies on the B course, and in fact the first four Clubs each receiving a trophy.

It was also suggested that a new word was required to replace 'Small' in the Small Club (Sutton Park Trophy) as this is presented to the top club, regardless of size, which has not finished in the top three positions at any time in the previous five years. Suggestions as to a new title are welcome.

ACTION: BE

Matters raised by or through Association Representatives

07/57 Use of Joe Lee electronic punching system for C3 Events (Quantock - SWOA):

Background documents had been distributed by SWOA Representative Charles Daniel and there was a need to answer two questions – who would be responsible for the approval and how can a new e-punching system be approved ?

After discussion the following was agreed regarding new e-punching systems:

- (i) Responsibility for approving systems within Great Britain lies with Rules Group.
- (ii) There is no British Orienteering “procedure” for approving electronic punching and the meeting discussed if one should be created. The meeting decided that it was not desirable to produce a GB only approval process.
- (iii) A new electronic punching system would have to have IOF approval prior to use at any event of Level 2 and above.
- (iv) Use of any non-IOF approved electronic punching system for our national based competitions which use events which are Level 3 or below (Home internationals, JIRCs, Compass Sport Cup, etc.) is not desirable.
- (v) It was recognised that QO have this system and have used it for District Events, and also that a deviation from the rules for a Level 3 Regional Event could be given on an individual basis if agreed by the Controller and approved by SWOA.

Charles Daniel agreed to report back to the Committee of SWOA that the agreement of their Committee is required prior to any initial trial usage of the Joe Lee e-punching system at a Regional Event within the SWOA Region, and to try to facilitate a solution that is acceptable to both parties.

ACTION: CD

07/58 Grade 1 Controller Applications:

None received for consideration at this meeting.

07/59 Any Other Business:

No matters were raised for this item on the agenda.

07/60 Reporting and Actions:

As identified in the minutes.

07/61 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2007/2008:

24 th November 2007	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
8 th March 2008	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
21 st June 2008	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
22 nd November 2008	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.