

Meeting of
RULES GROUP
held on Saturday 25th March 2006 at the Carrs Lane Church Centre,
Birmingham.

Event Operations is asked to NOTE:

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RULES GROUP

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Birmingham.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Alex Ross	(BOF Executive Officer)
Neil Cameron	(BOF Vice Chairman)

06/01 Apologies and Courtesies

Apologies from Alistair Mackenzie. Welcome to Neil Cameron as an observer.

06/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2005

There was some debate over the message inherent in the minute to item 05/39c but no change was thought necessary. The minutes were approved.

06/03 Actions

Deleted: 23, 36, 38, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 50, 51 and 52

Continuing: 39 and 48.

06/04 Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

It was confirmed that the difficulty in scanning slides, identified in 05/45, had been overcome. Thanks to David May for his offer. No other matters arising.

06/05 Report on Event Operations Committee meeting held on 25th February 2006

Barry Elkington reported on those items relevant to Rules Group namely: The procedure agreed to ensure that organisers and planners of Level 3 events and above are being provided with the latest Guidelines; the monitoring process for provision of appropriate map scales and map size for the relevant competitors by Planners and Map Designers; The apparent lack of clarity in embargo rules and the process agreed for the introduction of late additions or changes to major events.

06/06 Matters raised by Association Representatives

a) Back – up punches

The appropriate action reached by e-debate, as conveyed to the JK team, to provide a means of back up at every control, was confirmed. There was some discussion as to how this advice might be incorporated into a good practice guide, perhaps through a series of FAQ's.

b) Control Descriptions

The appropriate action reached by e-debate regarding the appropriate sources of information was confirmed. This is a further item for inclusion in a good practice guide.

c) Check Lists

The Checklist Document for use at Badge and National Events is being updated by the co-ordinator of BOC 2005. The draft will be made available to members of the group for comment when available. Many thanks to Roger Hargreaves (KERNO) for this work.

Action AR

d) Planning Guidelines

Many thanks to Graham and Anna Nilsen (MEROC) for their work in updating the Planning Guidelines Document and to David May for co-ordinating. This is now available as a download from the Regulations pages of the website.

Action AR

e) Membership Proposal

The possible existence of a two tier BOF membership has implications for the BOF Rules. Rules group agreed that it would be preferable for Controllers to be National BOF Members whereas Organisers and Planners could be Local BOF Members.

f) Eligibility and Foreign Competitors

It was noted that BNC 2006 had admitted non-BOF members onto Championship Courses contrary to the approved Guideline. It was agreed to liaise with the IOF to ascertain what happened in other nations' National Championships.

Action AR

g) Embargoes

A paper provided by Barry Elkington was discussed which looked at the relevant Rules on fairness and eligibility and the relevant Guidelines where it was mentioned. There was discussion on the interpretation of these Rules and Guidelines and to whom they should apply. It was agreed that a document would be produced for approval by Event Operations.

Action BE

h) IOF Rules

Members were provided with a summary from the latest meeting of the IOF Rules Commission for information.

i) Controllers List

Members were made aware of the system in place at National Office for the recording of Controllers and the possible outputs from those lists.

j) Event Refunds

A paper provided by Neil Cameron was discussed. It was clear that this should feature as best practice and not as a Rule. It was agreed to circulate to Club Secretaries and publish in Focus, guidance for Event Organisers in adopting a suitable refunds policy.

Action AR

06/07 OCAD for Planning

Due to the absence of Alistair Mackenzie it was agreed that this item be deferred once more before removal.

06/08 Controller Provision

Simon Thompson provided a paper on the background which centred on increasing the number of available Controllers and on the appointment of Controllers to Events. The issues of relationships between Clubs and Controllers, provision and advertising of Courses and the identification of Controllers experience in all aspects of event provision were seen as key. It was agreed to update Appendix C and identify the training of Controllers (and other Event Officials) as a priority within the Operational Plan which might be better delivered on a National rather than Association level. A suggestion was made to apply for Development

Funds to enable such a change.

Action AR

06/09 Appendices – Revision of J

A final version of Appendix J was provided which included all changes subsequent to the last meeting of Rules Group and Development Committee. It was agreed to submit any possible further changes prior to release.

Action AR

06/10 Guidelines – Revision of J and introduction of a Middle Race Guideline

A further draft version of Guideline J was reviewed and a number of suggestions made for simplification. It was agreed to incorporate these changes before publication.

Action AR

Several course options for Guideline R (Middle Regional Event) were discussed with preferences expressed. It was felt that the Guideline needed to include a statement on the philosophy of such an event as currently found on the IOF website.

Action AR

06/11 Grade 1 Controller Applications

Application from the SEOA to appoint Phillip Gristwood (MV) as a Grade 1 Controller was approved.

Action AR

06/12 Appeal

The Group continued its discussion, initially held by electronic means (with the agreement of the appellant), based on five documents. A statement from the Organiser, the response to the initial complaint by the Controller, the protest letter from the appellant to the jury, the jury's response to that protest and an appeal letter to Rules Group. The Group confirmed their initial finding in supporting the decision of the jury. In their judgement the correct procedure for dealing with such an issue had been followed and the content of the formal report from the jury showed that the jury had evaluated the available evidence in a reasonable and competent way. On the basis of the documents provided they could find no reason to overturn the decision.

Action AR

06/13 Any Other Business

Terry Smith raised a junior issue which involved three strands. Many juniors did not know which course to enter highlighting perhaps a lack of understanding regarding the difference between ability based junior courses and age based ones. The difficulties involved when seeding of juniors is required indicates poor communication by those seeking to use specific events for selection purposes. Finally the problems in providing equitable start distribution for those juniors especially when they are part of a family group.

Action AR

Voidance of courses was an issue identified as benefiting from inclusion in a good practice guide.

Action AR

David May informed the Group of his intention to stand down and be replaced as the SEOA representative by Neil Crickmore. David was thanked for his contributions to the Group over many years.

06/14 Reporting and Actions

There was not felt to be anything notable that required immediate publication.

06/15 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2006 and 2007

24 th June 2006	Birmingham
11 th November 2006	Birmingham
10 th March 2007	Birmingham

Actions

39	05/24	Produce synopsis of desirable features for provision of a planners guide to OCAD 8	AM
48	05/39f	Liaise with CompassSport Cup Co-ordinator over review and statistics.	BE
53	06/06c	Draft Event Checklist Document to be made available.	AR
54	06/06d	Graham Nilsen's Planning Document to be made available on the BOF web site.	AR
55	06/06f	What eligibility rules do other Federations have for their National Championships ?	AR
56	06/06g	Produce document on embargoes for Event Operations.	BE
57	06/06j	Guidance on Event Refunds to be published in Focus.	AR
58	06/08	Application for Development Funds for the monitoring and training of Controllers.	AR
59	06/09	Appendix J Revision (The Badge Scheme) to be published on the BOF web site.	AR
60	06/10a	Guideline J (British Night Championships) to be updated before publication.	AR
61	06/10b	Guideline for Middle Distance events to be updated.	AR
62	06/11	Recognition of Philip Gristwood's appointment as a Grade 1 Controller.	AR
63	06/12	White Rose 2005 Appeal. Appellant to be notified of the Rules Group decision.	AR
64	06/13a	Issues with seeding and start times for Juniors.	AR
65	06/13b	Guidance on voiding courses to be included in a good practice guide.	AR