

# Rules Group

28th June 2009

## *Minutes of meeting*



Minutes of the meeting of  
**Rules Group**  
held on Sunday 28th June 2009  
at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway, Birmingham,  
commencing at 12.30 p.m.

### **Present:**

Barry Elkington	(WMOA) – Chairman
Charlie Adams	(YHOA)
Neil Crickmore	(SEOA)
Charles Daniel	(SWOA)
David May	(WOA)
Ernie Williams	(EMOA)

### **Apologies:**

Andrew Cordle	EAOA
Katy Stubbs	(New Association Representative for SCOA)
Paul Taylor	NEOA
Dick Towler	(New Association Representative for NWOA)

### **09/36 Apologies, Courtesies, Minute Taking.**

Barry Elkington welcomed those members of Rules Group who had been able to attend on a Sunday rather than the more traditional Saturday. He gave the apologies of Andrew Cordle and Paul Taylor, and welcomed, in their absence, the appointment of new Rules Group members Katy Stubbs and Dick Towler. Ernie Williams agreed to take the Minutes.

Very sincere thanks were expressed to Terry Smith (SCOA) and to Simon Thompson (NWOA) for the work that they had undertaken on behalf of their Associations and British Orienteering membership in general as members of Rules Group until their recent retirement from their position as Regional Association Representatives. Barry Elkington indicated that Simon Thompson had been asked to continue to advise the Chief Executive of British Orienteering on the Health and Safety aspects of the sport including the management of Risk Assessments. On the latter point, a comment was made with regard to whether or not all Organisers should at some point be officially accredited following completion of a training course (possibly with the option of doing this online) in order to satisfy the requirements of the insurers for British Orienteering.

### **09/37 Minutes of the Rules Group meeting held on 7th March 2008.**

These were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **09/38 Actions.**

Barry Elkington indicated that almost all Actions listed in the previous Minutes were covered by items on the Agenda of the current June meeting.

**Item 09/01: The Terms of Reference of Rules Group and the appointment of a non-voting Secretary.** This matter has still to be discussed with Chief Executive Mike Hamilton and it also relates to problems being experienced at British Orienteering Office where Nicole, Laura and Caroline have often been unable to respond to queries because they have not been in possession of, or informed about, changes to the Rules and other relevant documentation.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington as Chair agreed to provide relevant updates to British Orienteering Office re Rules etc, and to discuss the Terms of Reference with the Chief Executive.  
Post Meeting Note: The Terms of Reference will be addressed by The Board after the 26th September joint Committees / Groups / Board meeting and updated versions are due to be finalised at the Board's December meeting.

**09/31 Shadowing:** David May had written to the parent who had raised the initial protest about shadowing at the British Championships. It was agreed that the wording in the Rules should give the opportunity for shadowing at events but only after a competitive run has taken place:

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington to note this for inclusion in the 2010 Rules update.

**09/34 Controllers:** Rules Group is responsible for giving accreditation to Grade 1 Controllers and Major Events Group has the responsibility for their appointment to specific Level 1 Events. It was agreed that Rules Group had previously identified the need for training courses for new Controllers of all Grades, but that it was also agreed that there is a need for Associations to undertake a review of Controllers using the latest available information on the database available from British Orienteering Office and to check with each Controller which recent events they have controlled/planned/organised and whether they wish to remain at their current Grade or intend to upgrade, downgrade or to cease to hold Controllers accreditation in the future.

**ACTION:** All Association Representatives.

It was commented that when a print-out of Controller information from the database was requested it no longer gave full details of address and contact information such as telephone number and email address as happened in the past.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington agreed to discuss how controller information was managed and distributed with the Chief Executive.

Rules Group also agreed to seek the re-introduction of Controller status being printed on membership cards in order that individual members may check that their current Controller status is correct.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington agreed to raise the matter with the Chief Executive.

#### **09/39 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.**

It has been announced that there is to be a Board/Committees/Groups Conference on Saturday 26th September 2009 in Birmingham and members of Rules Group had been informed by British Orienteering Office.

#### **Reports from other Committees:**

##### **09/40 Review of Events Committee Meeting held on 13th June 2009.**

Barry Elkington gave a verbal report assisted by a copy of the Minutes of Events Committee downloaded from the British Orienteering web site earlier in the morning by Ernie Williams. The major message to come from Events Committee was that the new Three Level Event Structure for the sport needed to move from the current transition stage to full implementation at the beginning of 2010. This process had been helped by the publication of a 'Staging events' advice document from the Chair of Events Committee, Lyn West. She had also very recently distributed an 'Event Structure Summary' spreadsheet showing the relationship between Championship, National, Regional and Local Events and aspects such as whether or not the event was a BOF Franchise, whether the event was monitored or not by Major Events Group, the management of Fixtures, the Grade of Controller, and role of Controller in the transition period, and which events were subject to a 24 or 12 month embargo.

Concern was expressed by members of Rules Group that they had drafted and were still in the process of revising the new Event Rules and Event Guidelines without any firm knowledge of the Incentive Schemes that are to replace the existing Colour Coded, Badge and Ranking Schemes, particularly as information about any new schemes needed to be compatible with and fitted into the wide range of new Event Structure documentation. There was also very real concern with regard to Groups taking and making decisions in isolation

from one another. Rules Group were agreed that the example of how the matter of map scales had been handled with Map Group had given the opportunity to provide a clear-cut steer for other Groups, Events Committee and the Board, and was a positive method of working. Rules Group looked to Events Committee to give clear directions to all Groups, and for clarification of responsibilities regarding the implementation of the new Event Structure.

The results of the survey into map scales at the Graythwaite Regional event in April was of limited use as offset printed 1:10,000 maps were not available at the event. However Map Group is to look at the possible need for a larger map scale to be made available for competitors in the M/W60 and above age classes.

The appointment of an Event Manager was raised and discussed.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington agreed to email the Job Description to members in order that they may be better informed about this new position.

It was noted that Major Events Group have indicated that there may be a requirement that Organisers of all National (Level 1) Events in 2010 will have to agree in writing that their Event will be conducted as per the new Event Rules. For National (Level 1) Events in 2011 the Organisers will also be asked to agree in writing that they will ensure that the events will conform to the current Event Rules on the understanding that there may be minor changes to the Event Rules after the 2010 Events have taken place if these are acceptable to the Organisers. Any major changes will require consultation between the Chair of Major Events Group and the Event Organiser and will normally require a two-year lead time. Charlie Adams stated that minor changes to the Event Rules of the Sprint and Middle Distance Championship Events had been made following comments from the Organisers of the 2009 Events.

#### **09/41 IOF Rules Commission Report - the carrying of GPS devices.**

The Rules Group discussed at some length the carrying and use of GPS devices by competitors, particularly with regard to the change to IOF Foot-O Rule 21.3 which now reads: "During the competition the only navigational aids that competitors may use or carry are the map and the control descriptions provided by the organiser, and a compass.", which has the very clear implication that 'competitors may not use or carry' a GPS device. Discussion centred on the need to bring British Orienteering Rules into line with those of IOF and that present technology and imminent changes to the technology will allow some competitors to gain a significant advantage in carrying and using a GPS device and, as such, could be seen as an aid to more accurate navigation rather than as a tracking device. It was also noted that the carrying of such a device provides the data for post-race analysis. It was agreed that the best course of action would be to indicate to the British Orienteering membership that there is a major possibility of a change in the Rules re GPS devices and that there now exists, for a short time, the opportunity to review and evaluate the use of such devices and that input from orienteers would be welcome.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington agreed to draft a short article for inclusion in 'FOCUS' about the new IOF Rule and the carrying and use of GPS devices.

#### **Rules updates:**

#### **09/42 Timetable for publication of new Rules, Appendices, Event Rules, Guidelines.**

It was agreed that the following would be appropriate:

All matters that relate to Junior Events to be sent to Junior Competitions Group annually in January for their review and to then await their report back to either the March or June meeting of Rules Group;

All National (Level 1) Events with Event Rules A through to L to be reviewed annually at the June meeting of Rules Group;

All other National (Level 1) Events such as the Compass Sport Cup and Trophy Final and The Harvester to be reviewed annually at the November meeting of Rules Group;

All Rules and Appendices, together with urgent items relating to specific Event Rules, will be kept under review at all meetings of Rules Group. As the generic Event Guidelines are reference documents it was agreed that they should be kept under regular review and be subject to revision as and when it is deemed necessary.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington as Chair of Rules Group to inform the Chairs of all other Groups of the calendar for the review of the Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Event Guidelines.

**ACTION:** The Chair of Major Events Group to distribute, when approved by the Board of Directors, copies of the new Event Rules to the Organisers of National (Level 1) Events in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

**ACTION:** The Chief Executive to ensure that, with the support of the Chair of Rules Group, that the new Event Rules and Event Guidelines be published following approval by the Board of Directors as soon as is possible thereafter.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington and David May agreed to review the existing format used for all Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Event Guidelines in order to ensure that they conform to what is the 'best fit' for Rules Group to use in all published documentation.

#### **09/43 BOF Rules.**

The current revised draft of the 2009 Rules based on the existing 2007 Rules will undergo a final review at the November meeting of Rules Group in order that they can be published and be fully effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. It was also agreed that, after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010, members of British Orienteering will need to be alerted to changes to the Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Event Guidelines by news items on the British Orienteering website and in 'FOCUS'.

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington, as Chair of Rules Group, agreed to alert British Orienteering members of changes to future changes to the Rules etc with news items on the British Orienteering website and in 'FOCUS'

#### **Guideline (Event Rules) updates:**

#### **09/44 Number and labelling of Guidelines (Event Rules).**

A major part of the meeting (Agenda Items 09/45 to 09/52) dealt with the revision of the draft versions of Event Rules A through to L and the members of Rules Group were agreed that each of the documents had been finalised to their satisfaction and were in a suitable state to be forwarded to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval for subsequent publication at their meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

#### **09/45 British Individual & Relay Championships.**

Event Rules A: British Elite Orienteering Championships  
Event Rules B: British Orienteering Championships  
Event Rules G: British Relay Championships

#### **09/46 British Middle Distance Championships - Elite and non-Elite.**

Event Rules C: British Middle Distance Elite Championships  
Event Rules D: British Middle Distance Age Class Championships

#### **09/47 British Sprint Championships - Elite and non-Elite.**

Event Rules E: British Sprint Elite Championships  
Event Rules F: British Sprint Age Class Championships

#### **09/48 British Night Championships.**

Event Rules H: British Night Orienteering Championships

#### **09/49 JK Sprint.**

Event Rules I: JK Sprint Championships

#### **09/50 JK Individual.**

Event Rules J: JK Individual Championships

#### **09/51 JK Relay.**

Event Rules K: JK Relay Championships

#### **09/52 Area Championships.**

Event Rules L: Area Championships

ACTION: Barry Elkington as Chair of Rules Group to forward Event Rules A through to L to Lyn West, Chair of Events Committee, and to Chief Executive Mike Hamilton.

**09/53 Requirement to update any other specific Event Guidelines (Rules).**

Rules Group had previously agreed (Agenda Item 09/20) at the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2009 that the existing Event Guidelines be re-labelled:

Event Rules M: Compass Sport Cup & Trophy

Event Rules N: The Harvester Relays

Event Rules O: Yvette Baker Trophy

Event Rules P: Peter Palmer Junior Team Relay

Event Rules Q: Future Champions Cup

Event Rules R: Junior Inter Regional Championships

Event Rules S: British Schools Score Championships

Event Rules T: British Schools Championships

**ACTION:** Barry Elkington to update these following the completion of these year's events.

**09/54 Overview of Event Structure (Guideline A).**

After discussion it was agreed to enlarge the draft of Event Guideline A: Overview of Event Structure with the addition of sections from the recently drafted Event Guideline for Local (Level 3) Events. As there was little meeting time remaining, Ernie Williams and Charlie Adams agreed, with the assistance of other members of Rules Group, to produce via email discussion, a final draft prior to it being forwarded to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**ACTION:** Ernie Williams and Charlie Adams to be responsible for the completion of the final draft of Event Guideline A: Overview of Event structure, which is then to be sent to Lyn West, Chair of Events Committee, and to Chief Executive Mike Hamilton.

**09/55 Cross country events - Levels 2 & 3. (Guideline B).**

After a detailed discussion it was agreed to re-label the draft of Event Guideline B as Event Guideline B1: Regional (Level 2) Long Distance Events with Colour-coded Courses. As time to complete the discussion was limited, Charlie Adams and Ernie Williams agreed, with the assistance of other members of Rules Group, to produce via email discussion, a final draft prior to it being forwarded to the Board of Directors for their consideration and approval at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

**ACTION:** Charlie Adams and Ernie Williams to be responsible for the completion of the final draft of Event Guideline B1: Regional (Level 2) Long Distance Events with Colour-coded Courses, which is then to be sent to Lyn West, Chair of Events Committee, and to Chief Executive Mike Hamilton.

**09/56 Generic event Guidelines - Sprint, Middle, Urban, Score, others.**

It was agreed to temporarily label other generic Event Guidelines as follows:

Event Guideline B2: Middle Distance Events

Event Guideline B3: Sprint/Urban Events

Event Guideline B4: Score Events

These Event Guidelines have currently been drafted and require finalisation prior to approval and subsequent publication. In order to avoid confusion going forward the term Event Guideline should be changed to something more appropriate e.g. Competition Format Guidelines, Generic Guidelines, or even Discipline Guidelines.

**Appendix updates and reviews:**

Due to the shortage of any further time available for a detailed review of the revised Appendices, the following items 09/57 to 09/62 were carried over to the next meeting of Rules Group:

**09/57 Appendix B - Course Planning.**

**09/58 Appendix C - Event Officials**

**09/59 Appendix K - Ranking Scheme.**

**09/60 Appendix L - Seeding and Start Times.**

**09/61 Land use prior to major events (embargoes) - turn into an Appendix.**

**09/62 Other Appendices - update on any major issues. Timetable for production in light of the Event Structure Review.**

**Items from previous meeting requiring further discussion:**

**09/63 None were identified.**

**Matters raised by or through Association Representatives:**

**09/64 Carrying of whistles - raised at the 2009 AGM.**

It was agreed that the current Rule 7.1.4 was adequate, and that it was the responsibility of Event Organisers to complete the British Orienteering Risk Assessment with regard to advice as to whether or not whistles should be carried.

**09/65 Positioning of control codes - raised at the 2009 AGM.**

It was agreed that current Rule 6.4 regarding the positioning of control codes follows IOF Foot-O Rules.

**09/66 Grade 1 Controller Applications.**

None received.

**09/67 Any Other Business.**

There was no AOB.

**09/68 Dates and locations of Rules Group Meetings in 2009 / 2010.**

28th November 2009	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
6th? March 2010 (tbc)	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
26th? June 2010 (tbc)	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
20th? November 2010 (tbc)	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.