

Rules Group

28th November 2009

Minutes of meeting



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Rules Group

held on Saturday 28th November 2009 at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX, commencing at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

Barry Elkington (WMOA) – Chairman
Charlie Adams (YHOA)
Andrew Cordle (EAOA)
Neil Crickmore (SEOA)
Charles Daniel (SWOA)
David May (WOA)
Katy Stubbs (SCOA)
Paul Taylor (NEOA)
Dick Towler (NWOA)
Ernie Williams (EMOA)
Lyn West (Chair of Events Committee)

09/69 Apologies, Courtesies, Minute Taking.

Barry Elkington welcomed the Association Representatives and the Chair of Events Committee and stated that he had received no apologies from Northern Ireland and Scotland. Ernie Williams agreed to take the Minutes.

09/70 Minutes of Rules Group meeting held on 28th June 2009.

The Minutes of 28th June 2009 were approved.

09/71 Actions.

The following Actions were commented upon:

09/01: Feedback re Terms of Reference and interaction with other Groups and Committees required from Neil Cameron to be covered under Agenda item 09/73.

09/31: The wording in the draft 2010 Rules had been updated re 'Shadowing' at Events.

09/34: The roles, training and accreditation of Controllers is to be an Agenda item at a future meeting of Rules Group. Events Committee and Major Events Group will also be discussing the topic in 2010. Barry Elkington commented on the appointment of the Event Managers Helen Errington and Dave Peel, especially as Helen, as part of her role, will be working closely with Rules Group. Katy Stubbs was thanked for her updating of the training materials that had been successfully used at the recent EMOA Development and Training Day. Part of the feedback requested the use of more up-to-date maps as a number of those currently used were showing their age.

09/41: The topic of the use of GPS devices within orienteering competitions had been the subject of an article in 'FOCUS' with a request for feedback to Barry Elkington. It was agreed to discuss this topic further at the May 2010 meeting of Rules Group.

09/42: Lyn West thanked the members of Rules Group for their hard work and diligence in the drafting of the Rules, Appendices, Event Rules and Guidelines for the new Event Structure and for keeping to the tight timescale that had been set.

09/43: The 2010 BOF Rules and associated documentation formed the main part of the meeting Agenda and would be discussed at the appropriate place.

09/72 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda.

None.

Rules Group Terms of Reference.

09/73 Neil Cameron's review of Events Committee and the reporting of and to Groups.

Neil Cameron had circulated an email requesting feedback on the Terms of Reference, responsibilities and interaction of the various Groups that report to Events Committee and the Board of Directors. The various bullet points were discussed at some length and it was agreed that Barry Elkington as Chairman would summarise the views of the Group and email a draft to members for comment prior to sending the finalised report to Neil Cameron before the deadline.

ACTION: BE

09/74 Publication of Rules Group documentation on the British Orienteering web site.

Rules Group were agreed on the importance of each of the 2011 Competition Rules being finalised at least eighteen months prior to each specific competition taking place and were also in agreement with the Chair of Major Events Group that Event Organisers shall be expected to sign-up to and use the Competition Rules for their particular event. Concern continued to be expressed re access to the part of the National web site that contained the Rules, Appendices etc. Katy Stubbs agreed to liaise with Helen Errington to see if not only the Rules and associated documentation but also other useful information for Event Officials could be very easily accessed on the web site by British Orienteering members and others.

ACTION: KS

Reports from other Committees.

09/75 Summary of Events Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2009.

Lyn West and Barry Elkington gave a brief summary of the most recent Events Committee meeting and highlighted the CompassSport Cup and Trophy Rules, the Competition Rules for all major Events, the new set of Event Guidelines, the continuing debate on appointment, training and availability of Controllers for all Levels of Events, the eligibility rules for the British Championships, and the importance for British competitors to be able to gain World Ranking points in competitions at home and abroad.

09/76 IOF Rules Commission Report.

No IOF Commission Report was received for the meeting.

Rules updates.

09/77 British Orienteering Rules 2010.

Barry Elkington introduced the work contained within the major part of the meeting Agenda by indicating that the deadline for the receipt of the final version was 7th December at National Office in advance of the next Board Meeting on 10th December 2009. These dates also applied to all other documentation due to be effective from 1st January 2010. The draft Rules for 2010 were then extensively reviewed and revised section by section until completely agreed by the members of Rules Group, who also agreed that 'ownership' of the Rules and the Appendices is one of the main responsibilities of Rules Group.

ACTION: BE

As a supplement to the discussion Lyn West agreed to take the concerns of Rules Group to Events Committee, Major Events Group and Fixtures Group re the urgent need to publish embargoed areas for all Level 1 Events in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

ACTION: LW

2011 Competition Rules updates.

Prior to going through each document, Rules Group expressed their concern as to the initial 'ownership' of each document and, after discussion, agreed the following:

- (i) that all British Orienteering 'franchise' National Level 1 Events with Competition Rules are 'owned' by Rules Group, as are the 2010 Event Rules and the new generic Event Guidelines;
- (ii) that, following a request to review and revise, the revised drafts of documents listed in (iii) to (vi) below are to be produced by the 'owners' in the standard Rules Group document format and to be submitted for approval prior to the next meeting of Rules Group in May 2010 if at all possible, and to then be submitted to the Board for approval for publication before January 2011;
- (iii) that the content of the documents relating to the Yvette Baker Trophy, the Peter Palmer Junior Team Relays, the Future Champions Cup and the Junior Inter Regional Championships is 'owned' by the Junior Competitions Group, although the responsibility for publication will remain with Rules Group;
- (iv) that the content of the documents relating to the British Schools Championships and the British Schools Score Championships is 'owned' by the British Schools Orienteering Association, although the responsibility for publication will remain with Rules Group;
- (v) that the content of the document relating to The Harvester Relays is 'owned' by the Senior Competitions Group, although the responsibility for publication will remain with Rules Group;
- (vi) that, initially, the documents relating to the Senior Home Internationals, the Veteran Home Internationals and the Junior Home Internationals should be sent to the Chairs of the English and Welsh Orienteering Councils for comment prior to the SHI and VHI documents being forwarded to the Senior Competitions Group and the JHI to the Junior Competitions Group for further consideration.

ACTION: BE

Barry Elkington also agreed to check the allocation of 'consecutive letters of the alphabet' with regard to the complete set of 2011 Competition Rules.

ACTION: BE

David May accepted responsibility, on behalf of Rules Group, for pulling together all aspects of the following 2011 Competition Rules, and for ensuring that, as far as could be possible, they would be ready for approval by the Board on 10th December 2010; Neil Crickmore agreed to work with David on the completion of Competition Rule C:

09/78 A: British Individual Championships (long race) - Elite and non-Elite combined.

09/79 B: British Middle Distance Championships - Elite and non-Elite combined.

09/80 C: British Sprint Championships - Elite and non-Elite combined.

09/81 D: British Relay Championships.

09/82 E: British Night Championships.

09/83 F: Jan Kjellstrom Sprint Event.

G: Jan Kjellstrom Individual Cross Country Events.

H: Jan Kjellstrom Relays.

09/84 I: Area Championships.

09/85 J: CompassSport Cup and Trophy.

ACTION: DM

09/86 Requirement to update any other specific Competition Rules (currently Guidelines).

As agreed earlier under Agenda item 09/77, the following documents are to be forwarded to specific Competition Groups or to the British Schools Orienteering Association:

Guideline K: The Harvester Relays (SCG)

Guideline L: Yvette Baker Trophy (JCG)

Guideline M: Peter Palmer Junior Team Relays (JCG)

Guideline N: Future Champions Cup (JCG)

Guideline O: Junior Inter Regional Championships (JCG)

Guideline P: British Schools Score Championships (BSOA)

Guideline Q: British Schools Championships (BSOA)

ACTION: BE

Event Guideline updates.

09/87 Overview of Event Structure with Event Summary Table (Event Guideline A).

Following a discussion on the inclusion of the Event Summary table prepared by Lyn West on behalf of Events Committee, Neil Crickmore agreed to work with Lyn West on the production of a final version to be included as the last section of Event Guideline A. There was also a short discussion on the Grade of Controller required for Level 2 Events and the likely decision, following the completion of the work of the Ranking Working Party, that only Level 1 and Level 2 Events would be Ranking Events in British Orienteering.

ACTION: LW and NC

09/88 Long Distance Cross Country Events using Colour Coded Courses (Event Guideline B).

Ernie Williams agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline B and to submit the final version to National Office by 7th December 2009.

ACTION: EW

09/89 Generic Event Guidelines – Sprint Events (Event Guideline D) and Urban Events (Event Guideline E).

David May agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline D and Charlie Adams agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline E and to submit the final versions to National Office by 7th December 2009.

ACTION: DM and CA

09/90 Generic Event Guideline – Middle Distance Events (Event Guideline C).

Charlie Adams agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline C and to submit the final version to National Office by 7th December 2009.

ACTION: CA

09/91 Generic Event Guideline – Score Events (Event Guideline G).

Neil Crickmore agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline G and submit the final version to National Office by 7th December 2009.

ACTION: NC

09/92 Other Generic Event Guidelines – Relay Events (Event Guideline F), Ultra Distance Events (Event Guideline H), String Courses (Event Guideline I).

Katy Stubbs agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline F, Paul Taylor agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline H, and Barry Elkington agreed to complete the revision of Event Guideline I, with all three Event Guidelines to be completed before the next meeting of Rules Group in May 2010.

ACTION: KS, PT and BE

Appendix updates and reviews.

09/93 Appendix B - Course Planning.

Charles Daniel agreed to revise Appendix B before the May 2010 meeting of Rules Group.

ACTION: CD

09/94 Appendix C - Event Officials.

Katy Stubbs reported that she was currently close to completing Appendix C and would be checking the final draft with Helen Errington and members of Rules Group prior to sending to National Office by 7th December 2010.

ACTION: KS

09/95 Appendix G - Protests, Juries and Appeals.

Neil Crickmore reported that he had completed the revision of Appendix G and that he would be able to meet the 7th December deadline.

ACTION: NC

09/96 Appendix I - Electronic Punching.

Neil Crickmore reported that he had completed the revision of Appendix I and that he would be able to meet the 7th December deadline.

ACTION: NC

09/97 Appendix K - Ranking Scheme.

David May reported that he was close to completing the final draft of Appendix K on behalf of the members of the Ranking Working Party.

ACTION: DM

09/98 Appendix L - Selection, Seeding and Start Lists. (Updating originally carried out by Terry Smith).

Barry Elkington reported that the current draft, updated in the first instance by Terry Smith, needed reviewing during the first half of 2010.

ACTION: Rules Group

09/99 Embargoes re land use prior to major events.

Barry Elkington reported that he would turn the existing Rules Group document into Appendix O: Embargoed Areas and make it available for publication.

ACTION: BE

09/100 Other Appendices - update on any major issues. Timetable for production in light of the Event Structure Review.

Appendix A: Control Descriptions.

Barry Elkington agreed to check Appendix A and revise where necessary.

ACTION: BE

Appendix D: Doping Control.

Barry Elkington reported that Appendix D is the responsibility of the Chief Executive and National Office staff.

ACTION: MH

Appendix E: Event Safety.

Originally updated by Simon Thompson, Appendix E urgently needed revision and a final draft completed and suitable for publication. Dick Towler agreed to review the existing documentation.

ACTION: DT

Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice.

Ernie Williams agreed to check and revise the final draft of Appendix F prior to submission for publication by the deadline of 7th December 2010.

ACTION: EW

Appendix H: Mapping.

It was noted that the latest draft of Appendix H is awaiting completion by Map Group.

ACTION: Map Group

Appendix J: Badge Scheme.

Barry Elkington reported that the revision of Appendix J is awaiting a decision on the future of Incentive Schemes within the sport.

Appendix M: Elite Competitions Seeding and Selection.

Barry Elkington reported that the current document, updated in 2008 and 'owned' by Elite Competitions Group, needs a review prior to any updated version being published in 2010.

ACTION: Elite Competitions Group

Appendix N: Neighbouring Club Alliances in UK Relay League Competitions.

Barry Elkington reported that the current document, updated in 2008 and 'owned' by Elite Competitions Group, needs a review prior to an updated version being published in 2010.

ACTION: Elite Competitions Group

Items from previous meeting requiring further discussion.

09/101 Controllers - role of Rules Group.

Barry Elkington reported that the management and development of Event Officials is part of the role of Event Manager Helen Errington, and that the training and assessment of Event Officials are priorities of British Orienteering in 2010 and beyond. It was agreed that Helen Errington be invited to the May 2010 meeting of Rules Group.

ACTION: BE

Matters raised by or through Association Representatives.

09/102 British Night Championships 2011: Reduction of embargo period to 21 months.

The Fixtures Secretary of Octavian Droobers has submitted a request to Rules Group for dispensation from the 24 month rule for the 2011 British Night Championships at Bentley Woods.

"The original intention was to use Bentley in March 2009 for a Regional Event and then March 2011 for the British Night Championships. i.e. with a 24 month gap between the two fixtures. The 2009 event was subsequently moved to May to cope with the fixture congestion in February and March and the re-arranged date for the 2009 British Championships. An option many of the southern clubs did not have.

Subsequently we were asked by BOF to move the 2011 BNC forward to February to free up a date for the Southern Championships. As a result the two events are now only 21 months apart rather than the stated requirement of 24 months. As both these changes were made at the request of BOF to help other clubs and to improve the overall fixture list, allowing a time interval of only 21 months would not seem unreasonable."

The event Controller is Charles Daniel, who is agreeable to this request. (The courses were primarily in Bentley Woods north in 2009, whereas only Bentley Woods south is to be used for BNC.)

Rules Group therefore agreed to the reduction in embargo period re OD's hosting of the 2011 British Night Championships at Bentley Woods.

ACTION: BE to inform the OD Fixtures Secretary of the decision.

09/103 Grade 1 Controller Applications.

None received.

09/104 Any Other Business.

None.

09/105 Dates and locations of future Rules Group Meetings.

22nd May 2010	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
23rd October 2010	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.
?? February 2011	Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham.

Note: These dates have been reviewed and revised by the chairman post-meeting in order to align them with the meetings of Events Committee and the Board.