

Rules Group

29th October 2011

Minutes of meeting



Minutes of the Meeting of
Rules Group
on Saturday 29th October 2011
at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham. B4 7SX
which commenced at 12.30 p.m.

Present:

Barry Elkington (Chairman) (WMOA)
Charlie Adams (YHOA)
Andrew Cordle (EAOA)
Neil Crickmore (SEOA)
Katy Stubbs (SCOA)
Paul Taylor (NEOA)
Dick Towler (NWOA)
Arthur Vince (SWOA)
Ernie Williams (EMOA)
Helen Errington (British Orienteering Events Manager)

11/57 Apologies: David May (WOA)

Courtesies and Minute Taking:

Barry Elkington thanked all those present for attending and, in his opening remarks, stressed the need to use the majority of the available meeting time to concentrate on completing the review and revision of the Rules, Appendices, Competition Rules and Event Guidelines for 2012. Ernie Williams agreed to take the Minutes.

11/58 Minutes of Rules Group meeting held on 4th June 2011:

The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

11/59 Actions:

It was agreed that all of the 'Actions' had been undertaken, particularly as they were related to items to be discussed on the Meeting Agenda.

11/60 Matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda:

Item 11/44: British Night Championships:

The existing 2011 Course Tables have not been revised so they will be used for the 2012 Championships.

Item 11/55(ii): Miss-punching and disqualification:

Barry Elkington explained that at the White Rose a competitor had been 'disqualified' due to a miss-punch but when the SI box had been 'interrogated' post-event it was found that they had clearly and correctly punched at the control. The SI card had been returned to the manufacturer for investigation and it had either been a 'card error' or there was a possible mismatch problem between an older software version in the SI box and the latest version of SI cards. It is therefore recommended that all clubs using SI ensure that all SI boxes are upgraded to the latest software available. There is also a possibility that an SI card may, because of age or some other factor, fail to register a punch.

ACTION: Barry Elkington agreed to publish advice to all clubs and competitors in line with the advice given by the SI manufacturers.

Individual Rules, Appendices and Guidelines for revision and approval.

11/61 Updates to 2012 Rules:

Amendments to the following Rules were all agreed:

Rule 3.2.1 re Club Representation;

New Rule 7.2.7 re impassable features that shall not be crossed by any part of a competitor's body;

Re-numbering of section of Rule 7.2 'Conduct During The Event' to provide Rules 7.2.8 to 7.2.15;

Rule 8.1.1 to be amended whereby circumstances deemed by the Organiser to necessitate a reduction to less than one minute between timed starts would allow starts on the half minute;

Clarification of Rule 8.2.4 allowing competitors on Technical Difficulty 1 and 2 standard courses at Level B, C and D Events to see their courses in advance of their start time.

11/62 Appendix D – Doping:

The Appendix contains the approved wording currently on the Anti-Doping page of the British Orienteering web site. It was noted that in future there may need to be a change in the email addresses provided in section 1.2.

11/63 Appendix F – Environmental Good Practice – to approve the new document and to leave as an Appendix to the Rules:

All documentation relating to British Orienteering Environmental Policy had been reviewed and updated, and the Appendix effective from January 2012 includes a section at the end giving details of a 'Checklist' available for download on the British Orienteering website.

11/64 Appendix H - Mapping – to approve the revised Map Group document:

The following changes were agreed:

2.1.4: The word 'carry' changed to 'show';

2.3.2: '2011 Level A competition Rules' changed to read 'Level A Competition Rules';

2.5.2: 'Maps for Level A events shall be printed by offset litho. They may be printed by other methods where shown in Table 1 provided that:' changed to read 'Maps for Level A events shall be printed by offset litho, by other methods as shown in Table 1 provided that:';

Section 3.3 Map Registration: It was agreed that where a non-commercial Mapper produces a map for a School or College that is not to be used for a forthcoming Event and will not therefore have an Event Registration Number available for inclusion on the map, then the School or College should be asked to ensure that Third Party Insurance Cover is available from its Insurer. British Orienteering members mapping on a non-commercial basis for their Club are believed to be covered by the available annual Third Party Insurance.

11/65 Appendix J - Badge Scheme:

The revised Appendix J effective from January 2012 is currently with British Orienteering Office to be placed on the national website following drafting by Development Committee, the approval of Events Committee and final approval by the Board of British Orienteering.

11/66 Competition Rules A, D and E - British Championships eligibility to be added:

It was noted that the following changes re British Championship eligibility had been supplied by the Board and had been inserted into the relevant '1: General Information - 'Who may compete' section of the 'Competition Rules':

To be eligible to be awarded the title of British Champion and receive a medal, and trophy if appropriate, a person must:

- Be a National member of British Orienteering and
- Be a British Citizen.

This must be declared at the time of entry to the competition.

The following has also been inserted in the relevant '3: Trophies and Medals' section of the 'Competition Rules':

Non British Citizens who are National members of British Orienteering or members of an IOF affiliated Federation may take part in the competition.

Non British Citizens are not eligible for medals or trophies and shall not form part of the prize giving if their result places them in the top 3.

They may be given a memento or small token of recognition at the discretion of the Event Organiser.

Competition Rules A and D – 5.1.1 Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/67 Competition Rules B - British Middle Championships – to approve the updated document:

The following changes were agreed:

1.4.2: Insertion of relevant 'Eligibility' criteria as agreed at Agenda Item 11/66.

3.3.5: The word 'in' inserted between 'competitors' and 'each' to thereby read 'the first, second and third placed competitors in each class';

3.3.5: The word 'in' and Rule number 1.4.2 added to the end of the second sentence to thereby read 'if they satisfy the Eligibility Rule in 1.4.2.'

11/68 Competition Rules C - British Sprint Championships – to approve the updated document and clarify wording re traffic:

The revised document, first drafted by Neil Crickmore, and further revised by David May and others, was agreed, following alterations to:

1.3.3: IOF World Ranking Event – added to last sentence 'www.orienteering.org. In particular, all runners in the two Open classes shall be entered for World Ranking points, irrespective of their normal age classes';

1.4.2: Eligibility – insertion of eligibility criteria;

2.3.1: Map – wording amended to match with similar wording in other Competition Rules, particularly F – JK Sprint;

2.4.1: Map Printing – to read 'All maps shall be offset litho printed unless agreed otherwise with Map Group.'

3.2.2: Seeding – deletion of second sentence 'Seeding is not necessary for other classes (see Appendix L 2.1.4);

3.5.3: World Ranking Event Scheme – insertion of new second sentence 'Open classes shall be entered for World Ranking points, irrespective of their actual age classes.'

3.6.3: Programme on the day – in second sentence delete 'each age class' and insert 'the different age classes';

4.1.3: Event Format – Open A Finals – amend part of second sentence to read 'Competitors in the Qualification races for the Open classes should start at the beginning of the start window for their courses.'

4.2.3: Qualification Race – delete 'less' and insert 'fewer' in third sentence to read 'No age class heat shall contain fewer than 6 entrants unless there are fewer than 6 entrants in total for that age class.'

4.2.5: All wording deleted;

5.1.1: Addition of M45/50 to the W16/35 Finals, W Open B/C Finals in the Course Planning Table;

5.3.4: Retention of paragraph beginning 'Particular attention needs to be given to courses for

competitors under 16 years of age...and would not absolve the Organiser of his/her responsibility in law.'

11/69 Competition Rules F - JK Sprint - updated junior course length ratios and need to clarify wording re traffic:

The following changes were agreed:

1.4.1 and 1.4.2: Changes to the wording in the 1.4 'Responsibility' section;

2.1.3: Safety and fairness must be prime considerations, particularly with regard to road traffic;

2.2.1: Deletion of last sentence and insertion of deleted section 2.2.2 'See Appendix H: Mapping, and insertion of new 2.2.2: 'In terrain with exceptionally fine detail...to...enlargement should be done of all aspects of the map.'

3.1.1: Event Organisation – make text in all bullet points 'normal' not **emboldened**;

5.1.1: Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

Following analysis of data by Katy Stubbs re 'Course Lengths' and 'Course Speed Ratios', it was agreed that there is a need for a review of 'quoted' and 'actual' distances in course lengths and to monitor future events, and also to encourage all Planners to make every effort to produce courses that will match the expected winning times. Attention had also been drawn by David May to the October 2011 IOF Event Advisers Newsletter re Rule 16.3 and Sprint Distance measurement:

IOF Rule 16.3 states that "*The course lengths shall be given as the length of the straight line from the start via the controls to the finish deviating for, and only for, physically impassable obstructions (high fences, lakes, impassable cliffs etc.), prohibited areas and marked routes.*" Of course in urban terrain, there are a lot of impassable obstructions and the shortest route that the runner can take may be twice as long as the direct line. Course planning software will tend to give the direct line distance and often that is quoted as the course length. However, that is incorrect and you should ensure that the correct distance is given."

At Urban Events it is seen as essential that the Organiser and Planner give approximate actual running distances of courses in the Event Entry Details

11/70 Competition Rules I - Area Championships - correct table; for Elite courses consultation with ECG required:

The following changes were agreed:

1.7.5: Reworded to read 'A Safety Officer shall be appointed';

1.9.1: Event Timescale – make the two 'Event' paragraphs 'normal' not **emboldened**;

2.3.1: Deletion of the word 'should' and replace with the word 'shall';

3.1.1: Event Organisation - make text in all bullet points 'normal' not **emboldened**;

4.2.3: Deletion of this section and insert into '4.1: Courses' as new 4.1.5 with the wording 'The requirement for Elite classes for M/W18, M/W20 and M/W 21 at each Area Championship event shall be discussed with Elite Competitions Group and Major Events Group.';

5.1.1: Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/71 Competition Rules J - Compass Sport Cup & Trophy - eight teams; information re start time allocation to be revised:

The following changes were agreed:

2.3.1: 'The map shall be printed by an approved printer.'

3.3.2: Deletion of this section 'Via advertising flyers.'

3.5.1: Deletion after '...these venues.' of the words '...before the end of September in the year prior to the competition.'

3.5.2: Organisation of Qualifying Round matches - make text in all bullet points 'normal' not **emboldened**, and in the bullet point 'electronic punching' delete the words '...and timed (rather than punching) starts.';

3.6.3: Reword to read 'In addition to the facilities described in 3.5.2, the Final competition should also provide timed (rather than punching) starts';

5.3.2: 'If there are eight or more teams in a Qualifying Round...' delete 'in' and replace with 'entered for';

6.1.1: Amendments to make this section read 'Competing clubs shall initially be pre-allocated an equal number of start times, in rotation, throughout the start period. A different order of rotation shall be used on each course. (There shall be no specific allowance for clubs travelling longer distances.) When allocating start times...'

6.3.1: Further advice – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/72 Competition Rules L - Yvette Baker Trophy – information re start time allocation to be revised:

The following change was agreed:

5.2.2: Amended to read 'Competing clubs shall initially be pre-allocated an equal number of start times, in rotation, throughout the start period. A different order of rotation shall be used on each course. There shall be no specific allowance for clubs travelling longer distances.'

11/73 Competition Rules O – The British Junior Inter-Regional Championships:

The following changes were agreed:

1. General Information – paragraph three to read '**There shall be no non competitive guest runs allowed other than extra runners as defined in 5.4 on either day.**'

10.3: Delete 'leg' and replace with 'lap' to read 'Fastest lap times of each age group...'

10.5: The second sentence amended to read 'All three laps shall be gaffled, at the same time ensuring that each individual leg is of the appropriate technical standard for the courses on which it is used.'

11/74 Event Guideline B - Long Distance - revised course Tables:

The following changes were agreed:

3.1: The second paragraph to read 'At larger events it may be necessary to plan parallel course. For example, if the Blue course is oversubscribed, introduce courses called Blue1 and Blue2. These will be of a similar length and may have a number of common legs.'

3.3: The revised Table for 'Suggested courses for a typical Level B Long Distance Event with a full range of courses and more than 300 to 400 competitors';

3.4: The revised Table for 'Suggested courses for a typical Level B Long Distance Event with a full range of courses and less than 300 to 400 competitors';

3.5 The revised Table for 'Suggested courses for a typical Level C Long Distance Event'.

4.1: Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/75 Event Guideline C - Middle Distance - revised course tables:

Following discussion on amending the 'Very Short Green' course ratio it was agreed not to recommend any changes at the present time. The following changes were made:

3: First sentence to read 'Courses: The organising club shall decide which courses are to be provided.'

3. Fifth paragraph, first sentence, deletion of words '...at Level C and D events.'

4: Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/76 Event Guideline D - Sprint - section re impassable barriers on ISSOM maps:

The following changes were agreed:

4. Practical Planning considerations – amended to read 'Controls on impassable features (walls, fences, etc) may tempt competitors to cross, lean over or reach through the impassable feature. Such control sites are best avoided but, if this is not possible, great care is needed with control (and punch) placement to avoid the possibility of competitors gaining an unfair advantage. (Rule

7.2.7: At events using maps produced to the ISSOM specification, impassable features (as defined

in ISSOM) shall not be crossed by any part of a competitor's body. Hence it is NOT permitted to reach through or lean over such a feature to punch at a control site.

7. Safety – deletion of second and third sentences in paragraph one.

11/77 Event Guideline E - Urban - updated course table; section re impassable barriers; extra section re night events:

The following changes were agreed:

1. General Information: Nature of Event: First sentence amended to read 'Cross-country competition, usually held in daylight, although events may be held at night.'

1. Night events: Paragraph six - **Embolden** the first sentence **'When the event is to be held during the hours of darkness...hazards arising from this.'**

3: First sentence to read 'Courses: The organising club shall decide which courses are to be provided.'

3.: First sentence to read 'Courses: The organising club shall decide which courses are to be provided.'

3. Practical Planning considerations: Bullet point seven to read 'Controls on impassable features (walls, fences, etc) may tempt competitors to cross, lean over or reach through the impassable feature. Such control sites are best avoided but, if this is not possible, great care is needed with control (and punch) placement to avoid the possibility of competitors gaining an unfair advantage. (Rule 7.2.7: At events using maps produced to the ISSOM specification, impassable features (as defined in ISSOM) shall not be crossed by any part of a competitor's body. Hence it is NOT permitted to reach through or lean over such a feature to punch at a control site.

3. Bullet point ten – to read 'Consider the use of numbered bibs (possibly on front and back) as a way of identifying competitors who are seen to breach the Rules'.

3. Course Length Ratio Table: Course 3 – deletion of 'M50+' and insertion of 'M55+'.

3. Control Descriptions – last paragraph to read 'Loose control descriptions should be available to all competitors.'

4: Further Information – check use of capital letters for titles of Appendices and Guidelines.

11/78 Guideline J - Night Event – new document for approval:

The following changes were agreed:

1. General – to read '1. General Information'

3. The Map: add to end of sentence 'and colours should be checked for clarity under night conditions.'

6.1 Safety – Fourth emboldened sentence – deletion of the words after '**considered**' '**...and that resources for it are available if necessary.**' and sentence to read '**In particular the possibility of a search for a missing competitor must be considered, with a plan in place to cover such a situation.**'

At the conclusion of the review and revision of the Rules, Appendices, Competition Rules and Event Guidelines, Barry Elkington thanked the members of Rules Group for their work, enthusiasm and determination and believed that it was important that all British Orienteering members were made aware that the changes were made to ensure consistency and usability, and that input to these changes had come from other Groups and Committees as well as Rules Group.

Other items, including those carried over from previous meeting.

11/79 (i) Update on the role, training and accreditation of Controllers:

Helen Errington reported that all Grade A, B and C Controllers, hopefully by the beginning of 2012, will be 'qualified by licence' dependent upon approval by the relevant body and by attendance at a Safety Training Course. Helen will complete all updating of the database on receipt of all necessary information that has been requested.

(ii) Roll-out of Safety Training Courses:

Helen Errington reported that the holding of courses is currently on-going throughout the UK.

(iii) Grade C Controller returns from Associations:

Helen Errington thanked those Associations who had already updated the data on Grade B and C Controllers, and asked that she receive any outstanding returns as soon as possible after this Rules Group meeting.

11/80 Governance Review of Committees and Groups:

Barry Elkington reported that, following the Governance Review and the recently held Club and Association Conference, there is every possibility of new Groups, Committees and Working Parties being formed of 'specialists and experts' following the appointment in the near future of a Chair of Events and Competitions Committee and then the Events and Competitions Committee itself.

11/81 Update on Rules and Guidelines review:

Following the work undertaken by Rules Group and others it now remained for Events Committee and, ultimately, the Board to approve and publish all of the documents to be effective from January 2012.

11/82 Feedback and review of Level B events - adherence to Guidelines:

Helen Errington reported that she had checked a very wide range of Level B Events and that almost all Events met the required standards and that, if there were discrepancies, the majority of these were at Events held early in the year.

Reports from other Committees.

11/83 Events Committee Meeting held on 18th June 2011:

Barry Elkington reported that Mike Cope and Fixtures Group were working well on behalf of Clubs and Associations and were expecting all Clubs and Associations within British Orienteering to adhere to all of the published requirements for Events.

Matters raised by or through Association Representatives.

11/84 Grade A Controller applications:

None.

11/85 Any Other Business:

None.

11/86 Date and location of next Rules Group Meeting in 2012:

It was agreed that, subject to possible changes in the Governance, Groups, Committees and Meetings structure in 2012, the next meeting of Rules Group would take place on Saturday 27th March 2012 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham. B4 7SX, commencing at 12.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.