

Revision of the IOF Control Descriptions – 3 August 2016

The IOF Control Descriptions were last revised in 2004. There have been many developments in the sport since then and the IOF is now in the process of considering revisions for a new version of the Control Descriptions to be valid from September 2017.

Over recent years a number of suggestions for changes have been made and an invitation to all Federations and interested parties to submit any further suggestions was distributed in November 2015 for receipt by 1st March 2016.

We would like to thank all those individuals and Federations who have submitted comments and further suggestions.

Below is the **final** draft of proposed changes. Suggestions that we do not propose to take forward are coloured in **red** with a brief reason noting why we don't think the change should be made.

The revision project is being managed by the IOF Rules Commission (in liaison with the other IOF Commissions) and the project manager is Barry Elkington GBR who led the previous revision.

Please send any further comments to iof@orienteering.org by 30th September 2016. A new version of the IOF Control Description booklet will then be prepared and there will be a further chance to comment before the final version is published.

No.	Section/Ref	Suggestion	Reason	Proposed action
1	General	Make the pdf file searchable.	The current pdf file is not searchable for words or phrases.	Accepted. This facility is of more use than attempting to provide any type of index.
2	General	Optional extra line showing the distance to the start triangle from the timed start.	This will tie in with the new ISOM and could also be used by course-planning software to calculate the true course length.	Accepted. The line symbol for map issue is included in the new ISOM course overprinting section.
3	Explanation of Columns	Clarification of text for using columns E and F.	Assisting planners as two symbols are not allowed in Column D.	Accepted. Text will be clarified in the updated booklet.
4	General	Include an explanation on good practice for using the symbols at the start of each section.	Will help planners use the symbols correctly.	Accepted. Additional text will be included at the start of each of the Column sections. The summary "Explanation of Columns" on page 5 will be kept (with relevant revisions).

5	General	Match symbol descriptions more closely to the text used in ISOM.	Should avoid ambiguity.	Accepted. Text will match new version of ISOM where applicable.
6	General	Remove descriptions where there is no specific map symbol e.g. ant hill, rootstock.	Better just to use special item symbols 6.1 and 6.2	Rejected. These are important and regularly used features in some countries. Hence many people feel they are still useful.
	Section 0	Column C - Which of any similar		
7	0.1-0.5	Emphasise that it is not necessary to use 0.1 to 0.5 in column C if it is obvious which feature is being used for the control site.	Modern printing is very accurate so usually it is obvious which feature is at the centre of the circle.	Accepted. Text will be included at start of Section stating these symbols are only to be used if the features on the map are close enough to be confused.
	Section 1	Column D - Land forms		
8	1.10 & 2.4, 2.5 & 2.6	Use 1.10 (black circle) for boulder and use an elongated dot for knoll. Use black triangle for boulder cluster. Use three randomly orientated triangles for boulder field.	It is best if the description symbols are like the map symbols. A boulder is more naturally represented by a black circle and a boulder cluster by a black triangle.	Rejected. Although the boulder symbol is not ideal, people are generally used to the black triangle. Using a black circle would mean that the new symbol for the dot knoll would be less intuitive than at present.
	Section 2	Column D - Rock and boulders		
9	2	Introduce a new symbol for a rocky or artificial trench.	The new ISOM introduces map symbol 215 for a rocky or artificial trench.	Accepted. Control description will be a square U with short bars extending outwards from the top.
	Section 3	Column D - Water and marsh		

10	3.2	Remove the symbol for a pond.	3.1 can be used for pond as well as lake.	Rejected. Convention is that 3.1 is used for a large uncrossable area of water, usually surrounded by a black line on the map, whereas 3.2 is used for those areas of water without. May be particularly applicable to Sprint races.
	Section 4	Column D - Vegetation		
11	4	New symbols required for hedge and small bush.	Useful for sprint.	Rejected. Current symbols are adequate. i.e. a hedge is a linear thicket (4.6); a bush a small thicket (4.5). However the text for these symbols will be updated to explain this.
	Section 5	Column D - Man-made features		
12	5	Add a new symbol for Out-of-Bounds area or flowerbed.	No such symbol currently exists but can be a useful Sprint control site.	Partially accepted. We should generally not be using an OOB area as a control site description. Usually, the control will be on, and hence the control description will be of, whatever feature is adjacent to the OOB. However the edge of a flower bed, or similar feature, is frequently used and therefore does warrant its own symbol. Proposal is to use a pair of flowers as the symbol.
13	5.16	Delete 5.16, shooting platform.	Use 5.15 instead.	Rejected. The symbols are used for quite distinct features. 5.15 is used for free-standing man-made structures built for any purpose. 5.16 is quite specific and may be just a tree with a wooden structure attached to it.

14	5.19	Remove charcoal burning ground symbol.	They are generally too difficult to see.	Rejected. These are very clear and important features in certain countries. Also see next item.
15	5	New symbol for platform (a man-made small flat area on a slope).	Probably an inverted filled black triangle. There will be a new map symbol (brown triangle) in the new ISOM.	Rejected. The current IOF symbol 5.19 already exists and includes "A small level man made area on a slope. (A platform)."
16	5.23	Description to also include "canopy".	General usage.	Accepted. Text will be updated to include "canopy".
	Section 6	Column D - Special features	No changes proposed.	
	Section 7	Column D - Country Specific	No changes proposed.	
	Section 8	Column E - Appearance		
17	8.1-8.8	Remove these "appearance" symbols. The appearance is usually clear from the map.	The control description should not duplicate what is on the map except for the basic feature.	Rejected: The appearance may not be clear from the map if the area affected is small and the description can then help. e.g. a small ruin overgrown with vegetation. However the new text at the start of Section 8 will stress the point that the appearance symbols should only be used if the appearance is not already clear from the map.
	Section 9	Column F - Dimensions		
18	9	Emphasise benefits of correct use of dimensions.	Important to know how obvious the feature will be in the terrain as this cannot always be seen from the map.	Accepted. Additional text will be included at the start of the section, including a list of the features that should normally have dimensions.
19	9	Write 3 rather than 3.0 in dimensions if it is a whole number.	The extra decimal place implies a false level of accuracy.	Accepted. The examples will be shown without the decimal point.

	Section 10	Column F - Combinations	No changes proposed.	
	Section 11	Column G - Location of control flag		
20	11.2	Remove this symbol (edge).	This is often misused. It will be simpler just to use side (11.1).	Rejected. It can be useful in picturing the control site. Generally, a control on one edge of a feature is visible from the opposite edge. A control on the side of a feature is not visible from the opposite side. However, additional text will be included to clarify their use.
21a	11.7	Move 11.7 Bend to column E.	To allow control to also have other Column G symbols e.g. North Side.	Accepted. Current symbol will become an "Appearance" symbol in Column E. Note that an associated entry in Column G is optional.
21b	11.8	Move 11.8 End to column E.	To allow control to also have other Column G symbols e.g. Side.	Rejected. Additional location symbol is not required for End, which can be appropriately oriented.
22	11.4, 11.5, 11.7	Merge Bend with Corner, allowing the symbol to appear with a dot if the control is on one side of the feature, or without a dot if the control is on the feature itself.	To allow orientation and which side of bend to be shown without creating a very large number of additional symbols.	Rejected. See 11.7 above which will resolve this problem.
23	11.9 - 11.13	Clarify which symbols should be used to denote top/foot of stairs.	Sometimes Upper/Lower part is used. Others use Top/Foot.	Accepted. Text will be updated. Top and Foot are to be used except on very long sets of steps where Upper and Lower may be valid. Hence stairs will be included in the accompanying text for symbols 11.11 and 11.13.
	Section 12	Column H - Other information		

24	12.1 & 12.2	Reword "control site" as "site".	First Aid and Refreshments are not always at a control.	Rejected. Only control sites are listed in the Control Descriptions. First Aid and Refreshment points not at control sites will be shown on the map, but these do not appear in the Control Descriptions.
25	12.3	Remove radio/TV control symbol.	The radio equipment is so small that it is insignificant. The TV equipment can also be rather small and may only be present for part of the time.	Accepted.
26	12.4	Rename the control check symbol as Manned control.	Control cards are no longer checked mid-course.	Accepted. Text will be updated.
	Section 13	Special Instructions	No changes proposed.	
	Section 14	Nature of route to Finish	No changes proposed.	
	Examples			
27	Examples	Include example showing side of hill.	Description is valid for small, single contour, hills.	Accepted. An example picture will be included to show that it is a valid control site, and hence description.