

Minutes of Teleconference on Monday, 6th February 2012

Attendees: Brendan O'Brien, Aine Joyce, Fergal Buckley, Sarah Ní Ruairc, Ruth Lynam, Finn van Gelderen, Andrew Cox, Ed Niland, Brian Power, Ivan Millar

Apologies: Harold White

Agenda

IOC 2012

There has been a quite a public reaction to the level of fees. A 'trip' to the IOC is now a substantial expenditure of money.

The response to BOC request for financial assistance was sent 1 week ago.

It was pointed out that the IOC does not necessarily have to be a selection race for the Junior and Senior Squads.

It was also noted that the IOA constitution states that the IOA is responsible for the organisation of the IOC.

The committee discussed at length the issue of the IOC and the reaction of the orienteering community to the level of fees proposed by the organising club.

It was agreed that the committee would make contact with BOC to resolve the issue.

Text of email sent to BOC from IOA on 8th Feb 2012

Dear Patrick,

Further to our previous correspondence I am writing to you to express the concern of the IOA executive over the fees you have set for the forthcoming Irish Orienteering Championships. We feel that the published fees are too high and not in line with traditional norms for the event. In the current economic climate it is very difficult to justify an increase in fees of approximately 100%.

As I am sure you are already aware there has been a very strong reaction among the Orienteering community in Ireland to these fees. Unfortunately this reaction is widespread and universally negative. Most people have very strong views at the levels of entry fee and I have personally heard from over 20 people who have decided not to attend this year on the basis of the increased costs. I know, as I am sure you have also seen, there has been a lot of similar reaction on the social media as well as personal representations to other members of the IOA executive.

I'm concerned that unless corrective actions are taken immediately the numbers competing in IOC 2012 will be very disappointing and at historically low levels. The IOA's remit includes ensuring that the IOC to be the premier orienteering event on the Irish calendar and I urge you to consider what steps you can take to preserve the quality of competition in the event and achieve a level of entry similar to recent years.

I would like to arrange a phone call with you over the coming days to discuss this and hear your thoughts on how we can encourage more people to enter.

Can you please let me know your thoughts by Friday 10th and we can arrange a time for a call over the weekend.

Yours Sincerely,
Brendan

Brendan O'Brien
Chairperson
Irish Orienteering Association