

Minutes of Telemeeting of IOA executive on 14th September 2010

Attendance: Brendan O’Brien, Harold White, Brian Power, Fergal Buckley, Ed Niland, Andrew Cox, Aine Joyce, Sara Ni Ruairc, Ruth Lynam and Finn van Gelderen.

Apologies from Ivan Millar.

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REVISION OF GUIDELINE 5 – C2 Long Distance Events (Irish and Regional Championships, and Other Major Events, currently the Shamrock O-Ringen and the Irish Three Day)	9

Agenda:

- * Report of IOSG Meeting, Andrew Cox
- * Junior report, Ruth Lynam
- * LIDAR report, Brian Power
- * Proposal for organising a training camp in Ireland run by Thierry Gueorgiou, Ivan Millar
- * Introduction of an Award Scheme or Role of Honour, Brendan O'Brien
- * AOB

Committee Communications:

The Chairperson raised the question of the need for written reports and face to face meetings of the IOA Executive committee. There was general agreement of the need to have one face to face meeting in a year. For 2010, it was suggested that this be in early December.

Action: Brendan will look at the detail of this suggestion.

Sara Ni Ruairc, Ruth Lynam and Finn van Gelderen joined the meeting.

Irish Schools Orienteering:

Andrew Cox presented a report of the recent meeting of the IOSG (Irish Orienteering Schools Group). See Appendix I.

Andrew reported that there was a good attendance at the meeting. The organisation of events was discussed, also the possibility of funding for perpetual trophies from IOA. All schools events for the coming season are on the IOA Fixtures list. There is also a need for 150-200 extra SI cards for use in Leinster Schools orienteering.

Action: Andrew Cox to request this SI resource from Brian Power.

There is also a need for training of people involved in Schools Orienteering in the areas of SportIdent, mapping and power supply options.

Mapping needs of Schools Orienteering

Schools' orienteering is suffering from a lack of appropriate maps. The people currently involved in Schools Orienteering don't have the available time to take on mapping projects. They would like the IOA to designate a mapper for Schools Orienteering.

Brian Power suggested that clubs may be able to help with this issue.

Brendan O'Brien agreed that there was a need to put resources into Schools mapping. It was suggested that an unemployed orienteer may undertake some of these projects.

It was agreed that the first step is to identify the suitable areas for schools mapping. Sports Partnerships may be very supportive of Schools mapping projects.

Junior Representative Report

Fundraising:

The Quiz organised by Niamh O'Boyle during the Irish Championships weekend with plenty of help from Juniors, raised €749

International Events:

The 3 International events of the year were:

- Junior World Champs (JWOC, M/W20) in Denmark.
- European Youth Champs (EYOC, M/W 16 & 18) in Spain.
- Junior Home International (JHI M/W 14, 16, 18) in Scotland.

There were some very strong runs at EYOC, Alex Simonin was 20th in M16 & Jack Millar 32nd, but the highlight was Niamh Corbett's 4th place in W16!

Expectations were lower for the JWOC team due to exams & winter injuries, but there were several solid runs, & Conor Short made the B Final in Middle Distance.

Although there were no podium places at the JHI last weekend, the team as a whole ran very well making it one of the most successful JHI's ever for the Irish, who took the Ireland v. Wales Judith Wingham trophy with a good margin.

The Chairperson praised the efforts and results that the Junior Squad have achieved.

Training:

Both JWOC and EYOC teams spent some days before the competitions training in relevant terrain: 5 days in Spain pre-EYOC, and 4 days in Denmark pre-JWOC.

Squad Summer Tour

20 Juniors plus a large accompaniment of adults ran at the WOC spectator races in Norway in August. This tour was a success, excellent terrain and courses, and great experience to see Ireland's and the World's elites in action.

Plans 2010

Training weekend 9-10 October

Training weekend in Munster probably November.

Calendar for 2011 still to be drawn up.

LIDAR and Mapping Report (Brian Power)

There was €25,000 granted by the Dept of Sports in 2007 and Dec 2010 is the deadline by which the money must be drawn down. Any money drawn down must be matched by the same amount from the IOA.

It is proposed that the bulk of this money is spent on LIDAR projects. LIDAR is an alternative to photogrammetry. It produces detailed contours for a base map. It is not an alternative to Fieldwork. It is the future for mapping projects as photogrammetry is increasingly inaccessible. Pat Healy is working as an advisor on LIDAR.

Nine clubs have responded to a request to identify areas they wish to have LIDAR 'ed'. Some of these areas are quite specific others are too broad and need to be specified further.

There are 2 stages to LIDAR.

1. Procure the flyover of a specific area
2. Process the material that is obtained

Brian Power posed the question of how much money the IOA wishes to spend on this project. He also pointed out that it may be difficult to draw down the full amount of the grant before the end of the year.

Sarah Ní Ruairc suggested that some of the grant money could be used on Schools mapping projects. Perhaps by using Orienteers who are currently available.

Register of Maps

Appendix 3 of the Rules of Orienteering regarding Map Registration is currently not working. The map register has gone missing a few years ago. The question of 'map ownership' may need to be part of a 'Code of Conduct/Practice'. The IOA cannot legally enforce any mapping register; it can only be part of a code of practice of the association.

Action: Brian Power to write a report on this issue.

Role of Honour in Orienteering

Brendan O'Brien proposed the introduction of a Role of Honour for Orienteering. This is to recognise exceptional performance or a lifetime of achievement in Orienteering. At a minimum it should include anyone who makes the finals in WOC. The award will not be a perpetual trophy but could be a special medal and inclusion in a "Role of Honour". It is expected that in some years there may be no recipients and other years may have more than one recipient. People may be included in the "Role of Honour" retrospectively.

Action: Brendan O'Brien to write a proposal.

Other suggestions were that a Banquet Night may be part of announcing the recipients.

AOB

Technical

Harold White's full reports can be seen on page 7.

Harold White is working on simplifying the guidelines for long distance events at championships, for example, reducing the number of courses, avoiding putting M70 and M12 on the same course. The guidelines cover National and Regional championships, Shamrock ORingen and the Irish 3 Day.

Harold is proposing the following changes:

1. 'Short' and 'B' courses should be 2/3 of 'Long' and 'A' course distance but the same technical difficulty.
2. There should be no 'S' courses where there are less than 3 competitors.
3. There should be no 'Short' or 'B' courses for M/W70 and above.
4. Remove the novice classes and replace with 'Colour' courses.
5. W21E shares the same course with M35
6. Elite classes M/W21E be boffered at all C2 Long Distance events including the regional championships

Harold will draft new guidelines based on these proposals. They will be presented to the committee for approval.

Subvention for major events: Qualifying events are IOC, Shamrock and Irish 3 day. The amount of the subvention remains at €1000

Fixtures

Some issues with the registration of events were discussed. A vote was taken on the issue and it was agreed that the events should be registered.

The issue of which organisation nominates schoolchildren to attend the World Schools Orienteering Championships was discussed.

Action: Brendan O'Brien to contact Aidan Gallagher to clarify the situation.

Conclusion and Next Meeting:

Meeting finished at 9:50 pm.

It was decided to arrange a face to face meeting for early December.

Appendix I – Reports from IOA Officers

Report to IOA from Development Officer

The annual meeting of the IOSG (Irish Orienteering Schools Group) took place on May 26th at 7.30 p.m. in the Kilcoran Lodge Hotel near Cahir.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2009-10 year, to clarify structures and to set dates for 2010-11.

In attendance were: Mary Healy (Leinster Schools/GEN); Kevin O'Callaghan (Connacht Schools/GMIT), Hugh Dobbs (SE Schools/Wato), Liam O'Brien (CSOA/CorkO), Willie Fitzgerald (CSOA/CorkO), Jim Callnan (CSOA/CorkO), Ann Marie Lucey (CSOA), Ted Lucey (CSOA), Andrew Cox (Development Officer/Wato), Ed Niland (Director of Education/Boru), Barbara Foley-Fisher (Child Protection Officer/Mnav), Nigel Foley Fisher (AITO)

The following are the main topics discussed and recommendations made.

1. Organisation of events:

- a. Risk assessment needs to be carried out for each event organised
- b. Primary and Secondary schools events should be organised on different days or at least with different starts, where resources and safety issues demand it.
- c. All events should be safe, enjoyable and positive for those involved.
- d. All event organisers should complete the Garda Vetting Process.
- e. An accident book should be used to record and issues that arise at an event.
- f. Support of clubs in terms of manpower and equipment is vitally important.
- g. Entry details must be completed in advance and changes on the day should be kept to a minimum. Some flexibility may be needed with secondary schools.
- h. Entry fees should be sent in advance where feasible.
- i. Competitor details should be written down in sequence at the start to facilitate checking later
- j. Trophies for Irish Schools Competition to be considered. The IOA could consider financial support.
- k. All events to be posted on both IOA website and IOSG blog. All dates agreed for 2010-11 were agreed. See blog for full list.
- l. ISOC (Irish schools competition) draft rules were discussed and changes related to age classes recommended. See blog for updated version.
- m. Affiliation to the IOSG was discussed and a simplified version recommended. For Insurance reasons it is important that specific statement of IOA policies are listed. See blog for updated version.
- n. Family Day run by clubs should be encouraged at the weekend following a school event to encourage further participation.

2. Sport Ident:

- a. Clubs have been supportive in lending equipment
- b. More SI cards are needed with the growth in numbers at events. The current 100 SI cards with the Development Officer have been heavily used. Another 150 to 200 are required in the Leinster region. Could the IOA consider financial support?
- c. It may be possible to access SI equipment recently purchased by Outdoor Education centres.
- d. Would older generation equipment be available from clubs as they upgrade their own equipment?
- e. Power supply is an ongoing problem, particularly where no buildings close-by. Any advice welcome?

- f. A school-specific SI workshop to exchange ideas and improve efficiency would be welcome.

3. Map availability:

- a. The availability of maps is not meeting demand for suitable areas for use with schools. These ideally require:
 - i. Good bus access
 - ii. Electricity supply if possible
 - iii. Toilets
 - iv. Large holding area at start
 - v. 1:4000 or 1:5000 scale
 - vi. Updated recently
- b. We request that the IOA encourage all clubs to release maps to those organising recognised/registered school events.
- c. A list of mappers that are currently available to map/remap areas with schools in mind is urgently required.
- d. The Local Sports Partnerships are a possible source of part funding. They have shown interest in Permanent Orienteering courses to date.
- e. We need large scale maps (1:4000 or 1:5000) to cater for different technical levels (mostly yellow/red colour coded). We require IOA financial support for this process.
- f. Suitable urban park areas should be selected to cater for clusters of schools.

4. Training:

- a. The use of Transition Year Pupils to help run school events is a common practice and needs to be further encouraged with basic certified course. Proficiency courses run by Outdoor Education centres require the Instructors to be fully trained. The TY pupils can then deliver to Primary level and 1st year pupils.
- b. The JCPE (Junior Certificate Physical Education Programme) orienteering instructors programme needs to be fully recognised and certified. This will encourage development of orienteering in Secondary schools. They can then deliver an event and provide a map.
- c. The Active Schools Programme have been in communication and will promote schools orienteering in their training information.
- d. More formal links should be established with the Uniformed organisations.

Report of the Controller of Technical Standards for Committee Meeting 14 September 2010

1 Amendments to Rules and Guidelines

An amendment document that incorporates all of the changes to the Rules and Guidelines made since the previous revision in 2002 was published on the website in April 2010. It includes sections on the Subvention for major events, and the Guidelines for Irish Sprint and Relay Championships. Currently in train are revisions to the Guidelines for C2 Long Distance, and colour course events. Guidelines for C2 Middle Distance Championships will be drafted in time for Irish Championships next April.

2 Guideline for C2 Long Distance events

This was considered at the Planning Workshop in December 2009 and I forwarded a paper for discussion at the Committee Meeting in February 2010. As I was on holidays at that time, I understand that the raised questions were not discussed and I am therefore re-presenting the paper with a few amendments. The delay has had no material impact since the Irish Long Distance Championships were planned using the BOF Championship Guidelines, and the Irish 3 Day seemed to adopt their own guidelines.

I think that it should be clarified with NIOA that all 'Irish' Championship events should be subject to IOA Rules and Guidelines. The Sprint and Relay events were.

3 Irish 'Championship' events

In my February paper I raised the question below.

At the Committee meeting on 14 September 2009, it was agreed that an application process be set up whereby clubs or regional associations could apply to stage 'Irish Championship' events that are not part on the normal Championship weekend. It has been agreed that this weekend shall include the Long Distance and Relay Championships with the Organisers having the option of holding the Middle Distance and/or Sprint Championships as additional events. The suggested application process to stage whichever of these events that are not held, and other possible Championships such as Score, Night, MTBO, and Trail-O was to have been set up and administered by the Fixtures Secretary. However in talking to Fergal Buckley about its implementation, he made the very valid point that we should only be doing this for the disciplines where there is a good chance that they will be repeated year after year.

Therefore before implementing this I feel that the Committee should confirm what disciplines should be awarded 'Irish Championship' status. Beyond the obvious Long

Distance, Relay, Sprint, and Middle Distance Championships, I would recommend having Trail-O but am uncertain of the sustainability of Score, and Night Championships. Please let me have your views.

4 Subvention to clubs for staging major events.

The subvention to clubs staging major multi day events has remained fixed at £1,000 per event for many years, and with the expectation of higher standards and associated running costs, I would recommend that this be increased to £1,500 per event for 2011. On the current fixtures, the two events that would qualify next year are the Irish Championship weekend being organised by AJAX, and the Shamrock O-Ringen by CorkO.

With the Irish Championships this year being organised by a Northern Ireland club, NWOC, no levy is payable for that event, and the only other qualifying event was the Irish 3 Day organised by Western Eagles. I have received an application for the subvention and this is currently under discussion by the Technical Sub-committee.

5 Controllers Course

This is planned for 16 October at Kilcoran Lodge and will be taken by Rogier Vanaken who conducted a similar course in 2007.

6 Planning Workshop

This is planned for 4 December with details still to be finalised. The guest speaker will be Graham Nilsen who has written a definitive book on course planning, and on a number of associated topics.

REVISION OF GUIDELINE 5 – C2 Long Distance Events (Irish and Regional Championships, and Other Major Events, currently the Shamrock O-Ringen and the Irish Three Day)

This is an amended version of the paper I submitted for the February Committee meeting that I understand was not discussed as I was on holidays. I re-present it for discussion at the September meeting with a few subsequent amendments

The present guideline was derived from the BOF Guidelines and has not been reviewed for several decades. An analysis that I conducted for the Planning and Controlling Workshop in December 2009, and available in the Technical Section of the IOA website, showed that for recent C2 events:-

1 While the Guideline (G5.10) specifies 23 separate courses to meet the requirements of the various age classes, the experience in recent years has been to consolidate them into 12 courses. This has not been completely satisfactory with for example M70's being consolidated on the same course with M14's when the former has a Technical Difficulty grade 5 requirement when the latter has one of 3-4.

2 The courses designed for the Irish Championships in the last three years (2007/8/9) have had only 10 winners out of the 29 classes finishing within the target winning time range in 2007, only 15 winners out of 31 classes in 2008, and 8 winners out of 31 classes in 2009. This could be regarded as a failure of the planners to design courses where the winners meet the time targets. It should be remembered that the primary focus of planners is to produce courses where the winner in each class finishes within the target winning time range.

In designing the course standards for championship events, a key question is should they be based on what might be regarded as international standards, or should they be based on the standards of Irish competitors. I would like a clear direction on this from the Committee.

Courses are set for the mythical 'fully fit and competent orienteer' with course lengths for each being derived by using Course Length Ratios based off the Adjusted Course Length of the M21L course. The experience, as detailed in my analysis of Irish National and Regional Championship events, suggests that in general women's courses have proved to be too long primarily due to the competitors running at slower speeds than might be expected by external standards; that the courses for M/W 70 and over classes are too long and/or physically too difficult; and that the M21E courses have been too short. In the three years the winning times for the M21E class have been 73 minutes in 2007, 77 minutes in 2008, and 84 minutes in 2009 compared with the target winning time of 90 to 100 minutes. In 2010 when the IOC was held in Northern Ireland using BOF Course guidelines and class combinations, the M21E winning time was 71 minutes.

The results from the analysis also suggest a preference by the better competitors to compete in the M21E and W21E classes rather than compete in their actual age class with the result that the winning times achieved in the surrounding age classes such as M/W 20, and M/W 35 appear slow against the target winning times. A clear example is what is happening in the W35 class where the average speed of the winners over 7 recent championship events is 10.75 minutes per km, and is slower than the average speeds for the W40, W45, W50, and W55 classes. This abnormality is also evident in the M21L class, and one question is should the standards reflect the actual experience even though it may result in say the W35 course being actually shorter than the W40 course.

The feeling of the attendees at the Workshop was that the course standards for the elite classes should be set by international standards to prepare our team representatives for taking part in international events, but for the remaining classes they should be based more on the current standards of Irish orienteers. If conditions change over time, that may occur as competitors' age, then the standards can be adjusted accordingly.

I circulated my initial proposed standards to the Technical Sub-Committee, and to the attendees at the Workshop, and based on their feedback and some further consideration of my proposals I now submit the revised version for your consideration. Subject to your feedback, I will then submit the full Guideline for your approval.

The main proposed changes are:-

1 Currently the practice at the Regional Championships is not to offer Elite courses with elite competitors running in M/W21L classes, whereas the Irish Championship does, and if the intention is to have an all-Ireland Ranking System at some stage, based on all C2 Long Distance events, then the class structure should be the same for all events and would include elite courses for men and women.

2 In the current Guidelines, Juniors are assumed to compete in the age classes lower than M and W21. To bring this into line with international standards, I am proposing that Junior classes are M and W18 and lower.

3 Again in line with the international trend, I am proposing the introduction of Elite classes for the M/W 20 age classes. At the Workshop the feeling was that we should not have elite classes for M and W 18 competitors.

4 In the present Guideline, Short courses for Seniors, and B courses for Juniors have different technical and physical standards than the corresponding age classes whereas the international trend is now to have them at the same technical standard. I am proposing the same, and having the course length ratios approximately two-thirds the length of the main class.

5 Given the difficulty of providing very short courses of the correct technical standard, I am suggesting that no Short or B courses be provided for the M10, M12, M14, W10,W12, W14, M70, M75, M80, W70, W75, and W80 courses.

6 In view of the very small number of competitors entering Short or B classes (only 19 over all classes out of 278 competitors in IOC 2009) and several classes having only one entrant, I am suggesting that they be only held if there are three and more entries.

7 I am proposing that Novice classes be no longer provided but that colour courses of a suitable standard be provided either by way of entry on the day, or by pre-entry. Their availability would be at the discretion of the Organiser.

8 Part of this review process is to simplify Guideline 5 and to reduce the number of recommended courses. With slight changes in the Technical and Physical Difficulty ratings for some classes (commented on below), changes in the Recommended Winning Times, and changes to the assumed competitor speeds, the number of courses and class combinations would be reduced from 23 to 14. Because of the requirement to use maps of different scales, four courses would require A(1:15,000) and B(1:10,000) versions.

9 In the previous Guideline the recommended time was given as a range but the IOF and BOF Guidelines have moved to a single time and I am recommending a similar change in our new Guideline. I used the midpoint of the ranges for calculating the Course Length Ratios.

10 In the current Guideline, M21E and W21E are to be given separate courses, and I am suggesting that this no longer be the case. Because of the required length of M21E, it will always be a separate course, but I think that this should not apply to W21E, and any other newly introduced elite courses. The experience in recent years has been for a very small entry for W21E with only 10 competitors in 2009 and 8 in 2010.

The proposals are as follows:-

Course No	Class	Map scale	TD (1 – 5)	PD (1- 5)	Recommended winning time (mins)	Course length ratio
1	M21E	1:15,000	5	5	95	1.00
2	M20E	1:15,000	5	5	75	0.62
	M35L	1:15,000	5	5	75	
	W21E	1:15,000	5	5	70	
3	M21L	1:15,000	5	5	80	0.53
	M40L	1:15,000	5	5	70	
4A	M20L	1:15,000	5	4	70	0.47
	M18L	1:15,000	5	4	60	
	W20E	1:15,000	5	4	65	
4B	M45L	1:10,000	5	4	65	0.47
	M50L	1:10,000	5	4	65	
5A	W35L	1:15,000	5	4	65	0.38
5B	M55L	1:10,000	5	4	60	0.38
6A	W20L	1:15,000	5	3	52.5	0.35
	W21L	1:15,000	5	3	60	
6B	M16A	1:10,000	5	3	55	0.35
	M60L	1:10,000	5	3	60	
7A	W40L	1:15,000	5	3	55	0.32

7B	M65L	1:10,000	5	3	55	0.32
	W18A	1:10,000	5	3	50	
	W45L	1:10,000	5	3	55	
8	W16A	1:10,000	5	3	50	0.29
	W50L	1:10,000	5	3	55	
9	W55L	1:10,000	5	3	50	0.25
	W60L	1:10,000	5	3	50	
10	W65L	1:10,000	5	2	45	0.20
	M70	1:10,000	5	2	50	
11	M14	1:10,000	4	3	35	0.20
	W14	1:10,000	4	3	35	
12	W70	1:10,000	5	2	45	0.16
	W75	1:10,000	5	2	45	
	W80	1:10,000	5	2	45	
	M75	1:10,000	5	2	45	
	M80	1:10,000	5	2	45	
13	M12	1:10,000	3	2	27.5	0.14
	W12	1:10,000	3	2	27.5	
14	M10	1:10,000	2	2	22.5	0.12
	W10	1:10,000	2	2	22.5	

SHORT AND B COURSES

The Short and B classes, if offered would use the following courses:-

Course No	Class	Map scale	TD (1 – 5)	PD (1- 5)	Course length ratio
5A	M35S	1:15,000	5	4	0.38
6A	M21S	1:15,000	5	3	0.35
	M40S	1:15,000			
7A	M20S	1:15,000	5	3	0.32
7B	M45S	1:10,000	5	3	0.32
	M50S	1:10,000			
9	M55S	1:10,000	5	3	0.25
	M60S	1:10,000			
	M16B	1:10,000			
	W20S	1:10,000			
	W21S	1:10,000			
	W35S	1:10,000			
10	M65S	1:10,000	5	2	0.20
	W40S	1:10,000			
	W45S	1:10,000			
	W18B	1:10,000			
					0.16
12	W50S	1:10,000	5	2	
	W55S	1:10,000			
	W60S	1:10,000			
	W65S	1:10,000			
	W16B	1:10,000			

The proposed changes to the Technical and/or Physical Difficulty ratings of the affected age classes are:-

Age Class	Previous		Proposed	
	Technical Difficulty (1-5)	Physical Difficulty (1-5)	Technical Difficulty (1-5)	Physical Difficulty (1-5)
M20L	5	5	5	4
M16A	4	4	5	3
W20L	5	4	5	3
W21L	5	4	5	3
W16A	4	3	5	3
W60L	5	2	5	3
M70	5	3	5	2
M14	3-4	3	4	3
W14	3-4	3	4	3
M12	3	3	3	2
W10	2	1	2	2

In reviewing the Recommended Winning Times, I also considered those currently used for the IOF finals of the JWOC, WOC, and WMOC. The comparison and proposals are as follows:-

Class	Previous winning time range (mins)	IOF (JWOC, WOC, WMOC)	Proposed
M20E	-	-	75
M20L	70-80	-	70
M21E	90-100	90-100	95
M21L	80-90	-	80
M35L	70-80	70	75
M40L	65-75	65	70
M45L	60-70	60	65
M50L	60-70	55	65
M55L	60-70	50	60
M60L	55-65	50	60
M65L	55-65	50	55
M70	55-65	50	50
M75	-	50	45
M80	-	50	45

Class	Previous winning time range (mins)	IOF (JWOC, WOC, WMOC)	Proposed
W20E	-	-	65
W20L	55-65	-	55
W21E	65-75	70-80	70
W21L	65-75	-	60
W35L	60-70	55	65
W40L	60-70	50	55
W45L	55-65	45	55
W50L	55-65	45	55
W55L	55-65	45	50
W60L	55-65	45	50
W65L	55-65	45	45
W70	55-65	45	45
W75	-	45	45
W80	-	45	45

Class	Previous winning time range (mins)	IOF (JWOC, WOC, WMOC)	Proposed
M18L	55-65	40	60
M16L	45-55		55
M14	35-45		35
M12	25-30		27.5
M10	20-25		22.5
W18L	45-55	55	50
W16L	35-45		50
W14	30-35		35
W12	25-30		27.5
W10	20-25		22.5

To enable me to progress this hopefully for it to be used for the Irish Championships next April, I would very much like your views on the points raised above. I will then discuss it more fully with the Technical Sub-Committee and other interested parties before framing the final Guideline for your approval which could either be done by e-mail or special conference call.