

# Allocation of Start Times

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# Current Rule R10.2 Start Times

- “At individual competitions of C3 (League) competition status or above (with the exception of massed-start competitions, or when a ‘chasing start’ is used) no competitor shall be timed to start on the same course within one minute of another competitor”
- “At individual competitions of C2 (Championship) competition status or above the start list for Elite classes should be prepared as prescribed in the Guidelines to the Rules of Orienteering, and shall not take any account of any expressed preferences of the Competitors”

# Current Guideline 1 for Long Distance or 'Classic' competitions

- Guideline G1.10 Start Times
- “Start time allocation is the responsibility of the Organising Club. In some instances seeding of competitors in the Elite, A, and Long classes may be appropriate
- The start interval for the Elite classes shall be at least 3 minutes, and for all other classes shall be at least 2 minutes”

# Current Guideline 2: Irish Middle Distance Championship

- Guideline G2.12 Start Times
- “Start time allocation is the responsibility of the Organising Club. In some instances seeding of competitors in the Elite classes may be appropriate
- The start interval for the Elite classes shall be at least 2 minutes, and for all other classes shall be at least 1 minute”

# Guideline 3: Irish Sprint Championship

- Guideline G3.5: Winning Times, Start Interval, and Timing
- “The start interval in each class shall be 1 minute”

# Summary of IOF Rules

- Rule 12: Starting Order and Heat Allocation
- 12.1 In an *interval start* the competitors start singly at equal start intervals.
- 12.2 The starting order shall be approved by the IOA Event Advisor. The start draw may be public or private. It may be made by hand or computer
- 12.6 (JWOC) For an interval start other than the finals of qualification race competitions, the starting order shall be drawn at random. The draw shall be made normally in three starting groups (early, middle, and late)

# Summary of IOF Rules (Contd)

- 12.7 (WOC & JWOC) For an interval start, competitors from the same Federation may not start consecutively
- 12.9 In qualification race competitions, the starting order of the finals shall be the reverse of the qualification race heats, the best competitors shall start last
- 12.16 For an interval start, the normal start interval is 3 minutes for Long Distance, 2 minutes for Middle Distance, and 1 minute for Sprint
- 12.18 (JWOC) The start interval in the Long Distance competition is 2 minutes, unless there are more than 180 competitors in the class, in which case the start interval may be 1.5 minutes

# Summary of BOF Rules

- Rule 27 Selection, Seeding, and Start Times
- 27.1 Appendix A: Event Systems contains details on how to carry out the seeding and selection process.
- 27.2 The Organiser must ensure compliance with all the relevant requirements of seeding, selection and start times as specified in the specific competition Rules.
- 27.3 The Controller must review the systems used for selection, seeding, and start time allocation, and be satisfied that the criteria have been fully and consistently followed. Once this has been done, the Organiser's decision is final.



# Summary of BOF Rules (Contd)

- 27.4 At Level A, B, and C events no competitor must be timed to start within one minute of another competitor on the same course
- 27.5 At Level A events a timed start must be used
- 27.6 At Level A events, competitors late for their starts through no fault of the Organiser are permitted to start. The Start Official will determine at what time they are permitted to start, giving due consideration to the possible influence on other competitors

# Summary of BOF Rules (Contd)

- 27.7 The competitors must be timed as if they had started at the time given on the start list. Their actual start times must be recorded for use in any possible subsequent complaint
- 27.8 At Level B and C events, the Organiser is permitted to change the start times of competitors late for their starts through no fault of the Organiser.
- 27.9 Competitors who are late for their start time through a fault of the organisation of the event must be given a new start time.

# Summary of BOF Appendix A: Event Systems

- 2.3 Selection in general
- 2.3.1 The number of places available in a class (or course) should be as large as possible, subject to the spread of start times and the nature of the terrain. However the situation may arise where the number of entrants to a particular class (or course) is larger than the number of places available: this is when selection will occur.
- 2.3.2 Only the premier class in an age category is subject to selection.
- 2.3.5 In some cases, the need for selection may be avoided by using a longer start list (Or by having a separate course for one or more of the age classes)

# Summary of BOF Appendix A: Event Systems

- 3 Seeding
- 3.1 General principles (for Level A Competitions)
- 3.1.2 The purpose of seeding is to ensure as fair a competition as possible for the better competitors in a class. This is achieved by preventing good competitors on the same course from starting too close together.
- 3.1.3 Minimum separation times between seeded runners must be applied as follows:-
  - Sprint                      1 minute
  - Middle Distance 2 minutes
  - Long Distance    4 Minutes

# Summary of BOF Appendix A: Event Systems

- 3.3 Elite seeding and creation of start lists using the seeded block method
  - 3.3.1 Seeding process
  - Competitors should be ranked in order of their latest ranking.
- 3.4 Process for allocating start times
- An athlete may request a start time in a lower ranked group than that to which they are entitled (e.g. in order to allow for a split start time). They may not request one in a higher ranked group.

# Allocation of start times – The Irish Situation

- We do not have a ranking system but some Elites are ranked in the IOF Eventor System. Seeding for the non-ranked classes, when used, has been done in an informal way usually to separate known competitive competitors.
- We do not normally have sufficient competitors to create pressure in accommodating them within the usual start windows (4 hours for Long Distance, 2 hours for Middle Distance, and 1 hour for Sprint)
- The view has been expressed previously that competitors should have their start times spread evenly over the start window.

# Do we need a 4 hour start window for Long Distance events? – IOC 2016

Course No	Classes	No of Starters	Equal interval with start window of :-			
			240mins	180 mi	120 mi	60 mi
1	M21E	13	18	13		
2	W21E, M35	14	17	12		
3	M40, M21L	14	17	12		
4	M20E, M18E, M45, M50	35	6	5		
5	M16, M55, W35, W21L	30	8	6		
6	M60, W20, M21S	16	15	15		
7	M65, W18, W40, W45	19	12	12		
8	W16, W50, W55, W60 W21S	26	9	9		
9	M70, W65, W70	10	34	25	10	8
10	M14, W14	12	20	15	13	5
11	M12, W12	9	26	20	17	6
12	M10, W10	7	24	18	12	6

- What is a reasonable start interval in these circumstances?



# Proposed start windows

- Long Distance 4 hours
- Middle Distance 2 hours
- Sprint 1 hour

# Proposed minimum start intervals for C2 competitions

- Long Distance      5 minutes
- Middle Distance 2 minutes
- Sprint                      1 minute
  
- This would allow a maximum number of competitors per course of 48 in the Long Distance, 60 in the Middle Distance, and 60 in the Sprint.

# Proposed seeding on the courses with Elite classes

- Competitors in the Elite classes shall be ranked in the order of the latest IOF Ranking with the highest ranked competitor starting last
- Elite competitors with no IOF ranking shall have their start time allocated by a start draw that may be made in public or in private, and done by hand or by computer
- Where an Elite competitor requests an early start time (for split start reasons) their name will be placed in the draw for non-ranked competitors
- The start times of the competitors on courses with the Elite classes should be evenly spaced without breaks
- Elite competitors arriving late for their start time may be allowed to start at the discretion of the Start Official but their competition time will be subject to the Rules on Late Starts

# Proposed start time allocation for the non-Elite classes

- The start window should have 3 sub-divisions: Early, Middle, and Late to accommodate competitors' preferences
- Within each sub-division, the start times should be allocated by way of a random start draw that may be made in public or in private, and done by hand or by computer
- The start times of competitors should be evenly spaced within each sub-division with a similar interval used in all three
- Competitors arriving late for their start time may be allowed to start at the discretion of the Start Official but their competition time will be subject to the Rules on Late Starts

# How would this work in practice 1

- Example: Elite class with 19 competitors, 12 with an IOF Ranking, and 7 without.
- The starting order would be made by having a random start draw for the 7 non-ranked competitors, with the remaining competitors allocated start times in the IOF ranking order with the highest ranked starting last
- If a start interval of 8 minutes used , this would create a total start window of 144 minutes
- With the Elite courses usually the longest in the competition, it would be better to start the competitors from the beginning of the start window
- If the start of the start window is 10.00 and the first Elite competitor starts at 10.00, then the last competitor on that course will start at 12.24

# How would this work in practice 2

- Example: Non-Elite classes on a course with 35 competitors, 8 requesting Early start times and 10 requiring Late starts with the remaining 17 competitors to be allocated Middle start times
- With a 4 hour start window, they could all be accommodated within a 4 hour start window using a 6 minute start interval
- A random draw for the starting order would be carried out for the competitors in each sub-division.
- In this case if a start interval of 6 minutes is used, the Early starters could start in the period 10.00 to 10.42: the Middle starters from 11.00 to 12.36, and the Late starters from 13.00 to 13.54

# How would this work in practice 3

- Example: A courses with Non-Elite Senior (M/W70+) and Junior (M/W14-) classes and 12 entries, 3 requesting Early start times, 5 requesting Late start times, and the remaining 4 to be allocated Middle start times
- With a 4 hour start window, they could all be accommodated using a 20 minute start interval but it makes sense to start the Senior and Junior classes early to ensure that they have finished the courses well before the competition is completed
- A random draw for the starting order would be carried out of the competitors in each sub-division
- If a start interval of 8 minutes is used, the Early starters could start in the period 10.30 to 10.46, the Middle starters from 11.00 to 11.24, and the Late starters from 11.40 to 12.12

# Proposed new Rule R10.2 Allocation of Start Times

- R10.2.1 Start time allocation is the responsibility of the Organiser. The Organiser must ensure compliance with all the relevant requirements as specified in the Rules and Event Guidelines.
- R10.2.2 The Controller must review the systems used for start time allocation, and be satisfied that the criteria have been fully and consistently followed. Once this has been done the Organiser's decision is final.
- R10.2.3 At individual C1, C2, and C3 level competitions no competitor shall be timed to start within one minute of another competitor on the same course.
- R10.2.4 At individual competitions of C2 competition status, the start list for each course shall be prepared as prescribed in the Rules and Guidelines for the individual competitions.
- R10.2.5 The minimum starting interval at C2 competitions shall be 5 minutes for Long Distance events, 2 minutes for Middle Distance events, and 1 minute for Sprint events.



# Proposed new Rule R10.2 Allocation of Start Times (Contd)

- R10.2.6 At C2 competitions, competitors on courses with Elite classes shall have their starting time allocated in accordance with their IOF Ranking where the highest ranked competitor will start last. Where competitors do not have an IOF Ranking, their starting order will be selected by way of a random draw that may be carried out in public or in private, and may be by way of hand or computer. This group of competitors will start before the IOF ranked competitors.
- 10.2.7 Competitors on courses with Elite classes shall have equal start intervals with no breaks.

# Proposed new Rule R10.2 Allocation of Start Times (Contd)

- 10.2.8 For an interval start competition, competitors from the same Club should not start consecutively. If the composition of the entrants on that course does not allow the intended separation, then competitors from the same club should be separated by double the standard starting interval. This Rule does not apply to the Elite classes whose starting order is determined by the competitor's ranking and the start draw.