

IRISH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION Major Events Conference 8 October 2016

Summary of discussions on the presentation papers

Present: Paul O'Sullivan- Hourihan (BOC)(Chairman), Tommy Burke (FIN), Anyta Richardson (FIN), Dave Richardson (FIN), Liam O'Brien (CSOA), Bernie Sharkey (FIN), Alex Bogomooletz (FIN), Angus Tyner (SET), Val Jones (FIN), Aonghus O'Cleirigh (AJAX), Ruth Lynam (CNOOC), John McCullough (3ROC), Frank Ryan (WEGO), Padraig Higgins (MNAV), Mary Curran (CorkO), Martin Flynn (WEGO), Sarah Ni Ruairc (FIN), Andrew Cox (WATO), Brian Bullen (FVO), and Harold White (3ROC & LVO)

Review of the Leinster Three Day 2016: Sarah Ni Ruairc

As existing maps had been used, albeit with some modifications, the event was financially viable.

It was advised not to use an untried printer for an important event.

The event could have done with an overall SI guru to ensure a common processing of results.

It was felt that the time of year for the event was not helpful given the small attendance of Irish competitors, and it was suggested that a multi-day event may get a better response in the Autumn.

The use of a reverse chasing start seemed a good idea but it proved difficult to calculate the final day's starting times, and it needed multiple finish controls.

While five clubs were involved in staging the three events, it required careful co-ordination, but it ensured plenty of volunteers for the jobs on each day.

Review of Irish Championships 2016: Andrew Cox

The discussion was short due to time constraints, and some of the issues were covered in the Issues session later.

To ensure the correct planning standards are met, an assistant planner should be appointed who is or was recently an elite competitor.

In view of the number of controls to be used across the four events, WATO had to borrow SI units from other clubs, and some had to be re-programmed to bring them into line. It was suggested that all clubs should programme their SI units in exactly the same format.

Controlling IOC relays 2016: Liam O'Brien

His recommendations were:-

All course planning arrangements should be completed two months before the competition.

At a multi-day event, the Organiser, Planner, and Controller for each day should not have any other major role in any of the other events.

The Planner and Controller should use the same version of OCAD or Condes.

The recommended winning time per leg for the main classes should be reduced from 32 to 30 minutes, but the overall recommended winning time should remain at 96 minutes.

The randomising method as detailed in the previous Guideline should be retained for all classes apart from the Open and Women's Premier, but software systems for forking should be used for the Open and Women's Premier classes as they give a wider range of forking opportunities.

Do away with the Rule that requires urban and public parks to be used for the Sprint and Relay Championships to be embargoed 24 months in advance of the event.

A brief discussion followed on the forking methods but this needs a more extensive discussion and this is to be arranged by the Controller of Technical Standards

Planning Championship Courses: Brian Bullen

For WOC 2015, the area was surveyed two years in advance in the same season as the competition with the draft ready one year ahead so that the planning could be completed then in the same season.

Areas of heather in the open terrain for WOC 2015 had initially been indicated on the draft map by vertical green lines but the IOA Event Advisor made them take the lines off as the running speed of elites is apparently not affected by heather.

The Scottish convention is to map 'distinctive' boulders and crags whereas ISOM specifies that boulders should be at least 1m in height, and crags at least 6m long on a 1:15,000 scale map. The IOF Event Advisor requested a change to the WOC maps to this standard.

The Guideline for the WOC Long Distance event requires at least two 'long' legs that could vary in length from 1.5 to 3.5k and should represent in total about 40 % of the total course length. An important element is that the potential routes should be technical and require full concentration on map reading along whichever route is chosen. Deciding on the long legs should be the starting point in course planning.

Another important element of long distance planning should be the use of techniques to break up any group of competitors. This can be done by introducing butterfly loops, or by putting courses through areas of low visibility.

For TD1, TD2, and TD3 championship courses the Planner should not be afraid of using line features such as streams, and well defined marshes and valleys.

Allocation of Start Times: Harold White

A key principle of the IOF Rules for individual elite competitions is that competitors start singly at equal start intervals.

In the absence of an official Irish ranking list, a seeded list of elite competitors should be provided to the Organisers of the Irish Championships by the IOA Selection Committee. In the case of non-Irish elite entrants they should be asked to provide some evidence of their ability such their IOF Ranking, and the Organiser should slot them into the starting order as he/she thinks appropriate.

For elite entrants with no ranking, they would have start times allocated in the early part of the starting order, with their placing being determined by way of a random draw.

All competitors in the elite classes should start consecutively with an equal start interval and no breaks.

For competitors in the non-elite classes, their starting order should be selected by a random draw, subject to any requests for Early, Middle, or Late starts. To accommodate these requests it is suggested that the start draw be carried out for each section separately. Competitors who have expressed no preference for a start time could be allocated to the Middle section. The structuring of the start window to accommodate competitors in these sub-sections should be the responsibility of the Organiser although he/she could delegate this to another official. Within each sub-section, competitors should start consecutively and the start interval should be the same for all three sections.

Given the number of competitors on some courses of the Irish Championships, it would be difficult to have a starting window much shorter than 4 hours for the Long Distance, 2 hours for the Middle Distance, and 1 hour for the Sprint Championships. However for courses with few competitors a shorter starting window could be used for them within the overall starting window.

In a forthcoming revision of the Guidelines for the individual championships, all of the elite classes will run on courses separate from the non-elite classes. This will avoid the complications caused in structuring the start list where you have a mix of elite and non-elite classes.

It was agreed that the stated minimum start intervals for C2 (championship) events should be 3 minutes for Long Distance, 2 minutes for Middle Distance, and 1 minute for Sprint competitions. However it was felt that for Long and Middle Distance championship competitions longer start intervals should be used especially for competitions in open terrain.

Complaints, Protests, Jury, and Appeals: Harold White

The current Rules are now not in line with international practice, are ambiguous as to who is responsible for dealing with them, and are not clear on the process for Complaints. The slide presentation focussed on a proposed new set of Rules and Guideline.

They proposed that the Jury for C2 (Championship) events be appointed by the Organiser, but it was suggested that this should be done by the IOA.

It was suggested that for C2 competitions, provision should be made for the appointment of alternative jurors should one or more of the jurors be conflicted over a protest as for instance a protest lodged by a competitor on the same course as the juror.

Issues arising from Irish Championship events: Harold White

A series of questions were discussed.

- 1) As regards the ability of an individual club to stage a four event championship weekend the strong consensus was that it was too much of an undertaking. Whether in future clubs attempting to stage a four event weekend should be restrained in some way was not discussed. It was felt on balance that a four event weekend was better from a social and travel point of view than splitting the events, and this would suggest co-operation of two or more clubs in order to provide that.
- 2) On the question as to whether the rotation of Irish Championship events should be by region or club, no views were expressed.
- 3) On the question as to whether the organising clubs of Irish Championship events should have to submit their plans and proposed officials to the IOA for approval, there was a strong resistance to this.
- 4) On the question as to whether the IOA should appoint the Controllers for the Irish Championship events, no contrary views were expressed but the question was raised about the actual availability of championship grade controllers. Many experienced controllers have not registered as IOA Certified Event Controllers and maybe some alternative method of registering should be considered by the IOA. The Rule requiring a Controller to come from a separate region to the organising club should be dropped.
- 5) There was a general consensus that the embargo rules for competitions in areas with public access should be dropped.

Harold White

Controller of Technical Standards

19 October 2016

