

Controller of Technical Standards

Annual Report

Irish Orienteering Association.

Annual General Meeting

May 2021

The impact of COVID 19 has left a considerable mark on the Orienteering community at home and abroad. It has decimated the fixtures list and put on hold many plans for events from local to national level.

Despite this the Executive committee have endeavoured on behalf of the entire Orienteering community to ensure that when the opportunity arises for us all to return to the sport we love that we will be in a position to do so safely and in compliance with all necessary regulations and guidelines.

IOC 2020 :

All the work that was done by the clubs involved in organising IOC2020 has not been in vain. Thanks to the accommodating nature of the subsequent organisers we have been able to schedule this for 2022. I would like to acknowledge the Kerry O & Cork O clubs for their persistence. Also it is important to acknowledge CNOC, NIOA and WEGO for their co-operation in arranging the rotation for the next few years.

Unfortunately all the regional championships were also affected but we would be hopeful that these too will return to the events list at the earliest opportunity. Hopefully all the planning has not been in vain.

Rules and Guidelines - Updates

Over the past twelve months since the last AGM the IOA has continued to align its

- IOA Competition Rules, Guidelines and Appendices

with current Best Practice and Internationally recognised standards.

This is a constant process and continues to develop and change to meet the increasing demands of our sport both for International Elite athletes and those who try the sport for the first time. Any changes or updates are based on fairness for all and maintaining the integrity of the sport.

Some of the changes are only minor amendments while others can be significant. The document itself is available for all to read on the website.

I would like to thank those members of the Technical sub-committee for their input and assistance over the past twelve months. If you would like to get involved in this process and become part of the Technical sub-committee please make contact – all contributions appreciated.

Major Events Conference

There was no conference this year but hopefully we will be back next year.

IOC into the Future

At the 2019 AGM under AOB the Chairperson noted that a discussion was necessary on the future of the IOC and its burden on small clubs.

Some initial work was commenced on producing a working document on this topic. At the Major Events Conference in 2019 a discussion was held seeking input from those present on this matter.

The intention was to follow the following process

- Initiate discussion at the Major Events Conference and seek opinions from Organisers of IOC2019 and IOC2020
- Produce an initial report for the IOA Executive.
- Seek input from all stakeholders. In particular the clubs and their members.
- Put forward proposals for change to the current structure – if deemed necessary.

Subsequent events have overtaken the process this year and as we all know has led to the cancellation of IOC2020 & IOC2021

The basic Question still remains in relation to whether the current format for the National Championships is appropriate and sustainable.

The Province/club rotation system is proving to be more onerous on some clubs more than others leading to an unfair distribution of the work and costs involved.

The work on this continues. If you feel you have any opinion to contribute at this stage please feel free to contact me.

In the meantime fingers crossed we can get back to Orienteering soon. Stay Safe.

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