

Controller of Technical Standards

Annual Report

Orienteering Ireland Annual General Meeting 2022

Twelve months ago the world was a very different place. Restrictions and uncertainty led to lack of opportunity in relation to Orienteering activities and doubts surrounding could we hold events and how. Thankfully in Q3/Q4 things changed for the better and a flurry of activity ensured that all the Regional championships were successfully planned, Organised and held within a six week period.

IOC2022

The clubs involved in Organising IOC2020 moved their focus to take advantage of the work already done to prepare for IOC2022. Thanks in particular to the Organisers, Controllers and Planners for their flexibility to ensure that this year's championship could proceed. In addition I would like to thank the Organising Clubs for the next 2/3 rotations for moving their scheduled years to accommodate this. Preliminary plans are already in motion for IOC2023 with CNOC the host club.

Major Events conference

The last Major events conference held was in Portlaoise in 2019. It is intended to hold a Major events conference again this year in Q3. The last one was an in person occasion but with the change in the acceptance of online conferences this may be the model we will use going forward. Either way the importance of the sharing of knowledge and experience at such an event should not be understated for anybody involved in planning a national championships or multiday event.

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 Orienteering community who have contributed to the discussions around the Rules and Guidelines.

If you would like to get involved in this process and become part of the Technical sub-committee please make contact – all contributions appreciated.

Planners Course

In the months from October 2021 to February 2022 a considerable amount of work was undertaken by a small group to develop and produce a user friendly Planners course to be delivered on line to encourage and develop new planners. Deirdre NiChallanain, Eoin Browne and Mark Stephens were all instrumental in ensuring this course was delivered in March 2022 over four weeks to 16 students. The course co-ordinator Deirdre, with course content presenters – Mary Healy, Niamh O’Boyle, David Healy and Ruairi Short, ensured a very enjoyable and information filled course for all attendees. Hopefully the clubs will now encourage their newly accredited **Orienteering Ireland Planner Level 2** members to develop their planning skills.

The intention is to review this inaugural course and run it again in Q3/4 this year. It should also provide the template for an Organisers workshop and Controllers course to develop all these necessary skills.

I would like to acknowledge the support from Scottish Orienteering and in particular Lynne Walker for their sharing of information and documentation. Also all the clubs that contributed to our map file for on course work. Without this input it would have been impossible to complete the course.

Finally thanks to everybody who helped me in the last year. Whether it was a prompt to update a particular item or clarify an issue all those conversations were much appreciated.

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