

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED VERSIONS OF THE RULES, APPENDICES, AND GUIDELINES IN THE PERIOD SINCE 2002

In July 2013, the structure of the Rules, Appendices, and Guidelines was changed resulting in a change in the indexing of the different sections.

RULES

R1.1 Definitions

Formerly Rule 1 (Amended March 2010)

Revised to conform with the IOF Competition Rules, published March 2010, and it replaced the paragraphs 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3. It replaced *Classic Distance, Short Distance, And Other Distances* with *Long Distance, Middle Distance Sprint, and Other Distances* while it introduced *Micr-O*.

The Rule R1.2 changed the title of the document by adding the words 'for foot orienteering events'.

The Rule R1.8 specified that the Guidelines for each event type should be followed with significant differences being approved by the Controller of Technical Standards.

R1.2 Definition of terms (Unchanged)

Formerly Rule 2. Replaced Rule 1.4 March 2010.

R1.3.5 Disputes regarding the interpretation of the Rules

Formerly Rule 3 (Amended March 2010)

Replaced Rule 1.6 and expanded the title from *Disputes*.

In paragraph 3.2 it introduced the provision that should the OI Rules not cover a specific situation, or none exist for some of the newer disciplines such as MTBO or Trail-O, then the IOF Rules shall be used.

R2.1 Categories of Competition

Formerly Rule 4 (Amended September 2008)

Replaced Rule 1.5

Former Rule 4.2 relating to international competitions, listed the current IOF approved events that fall into this category.

R2.3 Age classes for competitions

Formerly Rule 7 (Amended March 2010, July 2013 and March 2017)

In March 2010 the age classes listed in 2002 Rule 7.5, were extended to include classes for M/W75 and M/W80.

No B classes were to be provided for M/W 10, M/W 12, and M/W14 due to the low level of entries in these classes. For similar reasons no Short courses should be provided for M/W 70, M/W 75, and M/W 80 classes.

Under previous Rule 7.2.5 any Short or B course should have been be technically easier than the corresponding Long or B ones, and to be of approx. 50 to 75% of its length. This was changed to the same technical standard as the Long or A course and two-thirds of their length.

Rule 7.13 confirmed the provision of Elite classes for M/W 20 and M/W 21 competitors at all C2 events. The previous Rules had no provision for the Elite classes.

Under previous Rule 7.2.7 courses suitable for novice orienteers should have been provided at C2 events. As has become the practice at the recent C2 events, colour courses have been provided for these competitors. The new Rule 7.12 endorsed this practice with the recommended courses being Light Green, Orange, and Yellow.

With the introduction of Sprint events, no Elite, Short, or B classes should be provided in this format, as is the international practice.

Rules (2002 version) 7.11, 7.12, and 7.13 were amended to include Middle Distance events.

In July 2013 the age classes were further extended to include M/W85 and M/W90 to bring them into line with IOF age classes.

In the March 2017 revision, the provision of M/W90 classes was dropped from the event Guidelines with the proviso that a class could be created at the discretion of the Organiser.

Also the provision of non-championship Short and B courses at C1 and C2 competitions is now at the discretion of the Organiser with a recommended limited number of courses.

R2.5 Irish Relay Championships

Formerly Rule 8, Classes for the Irish Relay Championships (Amended September 2007, September 2008, and July 2013)

Replaced Rule 7.3 in the 2002 version of the Rules

With 18 potential classes allowed for in the 2002 version of the Rules, and limited competition in many classes, the format was simplified in September 2007 to provide seven classes that would have more competing teams in each. Three handicap classes were introduced where competitors of different ages could form a team, and need not necessarily be from the same club.

Apart from the Women's Premier class, teams in all of the other classes can be made up of male or female competitors, or both.

With the competition moving to an Open one, the wording of the 2007 version of the Rule was changed in September 2008 to include club teams from IOF affiliated clubs.

In July 2013 with the inclusion of M/W85 and M/W90 age classes, these were incorporated within the handicap scoring.

R3.1 Event eligibility and entry

Formerly Rule 5 (Amended September 2008 and January 2013)

Formerly Rule 6 in 2002 version of the Rules

It introduced in paragraph 5.2 the ruling on competitors having to declare themselves non-competitive if they believe that their knowledge of the terrain would give them a substantial advantage over other competitors. In the previous Rules (6.2.4) the responsibility for declaring a competitor as non-competitive rested with the Organiser or Controller.

The Rule 5.3 applies to all C2 competitions that include the Irish and Regional Championship events. Previously for Irish Championship events, non-OI or NIOA competitors, or OI or NIOA competitors who did not meet certain citizenship or residency requirements (6.2.2) should have been declared as non-competitive on entry although in practice this did not happen. To encourage more overseas people to compete in Irish Championship events, they became Open competitions from September 2008.

In Rule 5.5 the citizenship and residency requirements for a competitor to be declared as *Irish Champion or Irish Class Winner* were simplified in January 2013.

R4.1 Representing clubs in competitions

Formerly Rule 6.6 (Amended September 2008 and January 2012)

With the Irish Relay Championships becoming an Open competition, Rule 6.6 allowed club teams from an IOF affiliated club to compete.

Rule 6.7 specified the requirements of members for their club team to be declared Irish Champion in the Open, Womens' Premier, Junior 48, and Junior 36 classes. With the Handicap 6,12, and 18 classes having no requirement for team members to be from the same club or to meet the requirements of Rule 6.7, the winning teams in these classes will not be termed as Irish Champions.

This Rule was amended further in January 2012 to include club members who can claim Irish citizenship but live outside Ireland.

Rule 5: Competition Officials

Formerly Rule 5 (Revised April 2017)

Introduced in April 2017 Rules for the additional posts of Event Co-ordinators, and Senior Certified Event Controllers.

Detailed more fully the responsibilities of the principal event officials.

Split the competition responsibilities between the Organiser and Planner with the former responsible for all aspects of the event up to the start line and from the finish line, and the latter responsible for all aspects from the start line to the finish line. They have a shared responsibility for the risk assessment of the event, and taking mitigating action when necessary.

R5.5 Certified Event Controllers

Formerly Rule 9.1 (Amended September 2002 and December 2010)

Formerly Rule 4.3 Grading of Controllers in the 2002 version of the Rules

Under the 2002 version of the Rules, Controllers were graded in categories of C1, C2, and C3, that indicated the level of competition that they could control. With a relatively small number of graded controllers, it was decided to move to a single grade, with the expectation that the experience of new Controllers would build through progressively controlling C4, C3, and eventually C2 events.

In December 2010 an addition was made to Rule 9.1 requiring that all Certified Event Controllers should be a member of an OI affiliated club.

R7 Maps and Map Register

Formerly Rule 8 Maps and Course Marking on the Map of the 2002 version of the Rules

On examination of the former Rule 8 and Appendix 3 Registration of Orienteering Maps, it was found that certain parts of the Appendix were more appropriate to be rules while part of the Rules were related to their practical application and more appropriate for inclusion in the Appendix. This has been recognized in the new Rule 7 Maps and Map Register and Appendix E Maps and Map Registration.

The principal changes are:-

In the previous Rule 8.1.4 all maps, whether used for competitive or non-competitive events, were to be registered with OI. Under new Rule R7.2.1 only maps with terrain greater than 0.5 sq k need be registered, while those of smaller areas only need to be registered if they are going to be used for C1, C2, or C3 competitions. The purpose of this change is to do away with the need to register maps of areas that will only be used for C4 club or training events.

In former Appendix 3 para 6.2 the registration period of the intention to map an area was 2 years for an area of 4.0sq k or less, or 3 years for a greater area. In new Rule R7.2.3 this is now 3 years for maps of all areas.

In former Appendix 3 para 6.7 the registration right of a club lasted for three years from the date of the registration of the completed map or three years from the date of the last open competition on the area. In view of the investment by clubs in producing maps, these periods have now been extended to five years (Rule R7.2.4)

A registration requirement of Appendix 3 para 3.3 was that the registering club was to hold full copyright to the map. This is no longer a requirement as the issue of copyright should be the sole responsibility of the club in their arrangements with the surveyor and cartographer of the map.

For the resolution of disputes, the former Appendix 3 para 8.2 required the Appeals Board to have at least three members, two of which should be from the OI Executive. This has now been changed in AE.3.6 to one member being from the Executive.

To enable the re-establishment of the Map Register, clubs have been asked to register their completed maps that they intend to use for orienteering competitions by 30 September 2013. From this information the Map Register will be compiled and will be published by 20 December 2013 that will be the effective date of registration for the Registration Right of the map.

Rule 8

Updated May 2021

Rule 9

Updated May 2021

R10 The Competition

In January 2017, the Rules relating to Entries, Start Times and Starting Order, and Late Starts were revised and brought into line with modern practice

R10.1 Entries

The new Rules specify the minimum information to be provided by an entrant. Introduced is a rule for C2 championship events where no 'late' entries shall be accepted. The closing date for C2 championship events is changed from not more than 14 days before the competition to not more than 21 days to allow more time for the Organisers.

R10.2 Start Times and Starting Order

The Rules now provide guidance on the preparation of start lists. Also included are the minimum start intervals for C2 championship events of 3 minutes for Long Distance, 2 minutes for Middle Distance and 1 minute for Sprint competitions with longer recommended intervals for the Elite classes.

A key element in the allocation of start times for Elite competitors at C2 championship competitions is that they shall all start consecutively with equal start intervals and no breaks. Their starting order shall be defined by their ranking with any un-ranked competitors placed at the early part of the start window and their start order determined by a random ballot.

The procedure for allocating start times for competitors in the non-Elite classes at C2 championship events is now defined with the starting order on each course determined by a random ballot.

In the previous Rules the start list had to be published at least 5 days before the competition. This is now changed to at least three days before the competition, or before the first day of a multi-day event.

R.11 Fair Play

Introduced January 2017

Introduced to give detail to the concept of 'fair play' in accordance with the IOF principles.

Updated May 2021

R12 Complaints

Introduced January 2017

Separates with more detail the rules for complaints and protests that were covered in previous Rule 12: Protests.

R13 Protests

Replaced R12.2 Protests January 2017

It provides a separate set of rules for protests compared with the previous rules that dealt with both complaints and protests

R14 The Jury

Replaced Rule 13 The Jury January 2017

For C1 and C2 competitions at least two of the Jury members were previously required to belong to clubs from outside the region where a competition was held, and one of the members should have been the course Planner. To give the Jury a more independent view, and to be more practical about the availability of Controllers, this is now changed to where the three jury members should not be members of the organizing club.

The previous Rule did not have any rules relating to the adjudication of protests at C3(league) or C4(club) competitions. The new Rule makes provision for this.

In the case of C3(league) competitions, the Jury shall consist of three Certified Event Controllers, two of whom should not be a member of the organizing club.

In the case of C4(club) competitions where a protest is made, the Organiser may appoint a Certified Event Controller of that club who is not an official at the event to adjudicate.

R15 Appeals

Revised January 2017

The previous Rule R.14 required appeals at C3(league) competitions to be adjudicated by the Regional Council while those for C1(international) and C2(championship) competitions were to be adjudicated by the OI Technical Sub-Committee. This is now extended to C3(league) competitions.

The new rules include C4(club) competitions where an appeal should be adjudicated by the executive committee of the club that registered the competition.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A Course Planning Principles

Amended December 2010

This replaced the previous Guideline 2 Principles of Course Planning and is based on the June 2010 IOF Appendix 2 Principles of Course Planning. It brings it up to date in terms of current planning practices. It also deals with the particular requirements of orienteering in Ireland.

APPENDIX E Maps and Map Registration

Formerly Appendix 3 Registration of Maps in the 2002 version of the Rules

Amended June 2013

See the comments in R7 Maps and Map Register above regarding the changes in June 2013.

GUIDELINES

GUIDELINE G1 C2 LONG DISTANCE OR 'CLASSIC' EVENTS

Formerly Guideline 5 (Amended December 2010, July 2013 and April 2017)

The new Guideline simplified the previous 2002 version by reducing the number of courses from 23 to 12 by consolidating the age classes while still maintaining the required technical and physical standards. It recommended providing M/W21E classes for all C2 competitions, and applied international standards and recommended winning times to these and the surrounding age classes.

For the older age classes particularly, winning times and Course Length Ratios are tailored more towards the abilities of regular competitors in Irish competitions.

In July 2013, with the addition of age classes M/W85 and M/W 90, these were allocated to course 9 in the table on course standards. The recommended winning time range was reduced from 40 to 50 minutes to 35 to 45 minutes partly to reflect the recent performances of competitors on that course.

In April 2017 a major revision of the Guideline was completed and this incorporated the associated changes in the Rules regarding Competition Officials (Rule 5). The responsibility for staging a competition including the completion of a risk assessment is now shared between the Organiser and Planner. The other changes include the introduction of Elite classes for the M/W18 and 20 classes, the specification of 1:15,000 scale maps for the Elite classes and 1:10,000 scale maps for all other classes, the discretion of the Organiser to decide on what non-championship courses should be provided, the provision of indicative course lengths and climbs as a guide for Planners and Controllers, the increase in the number of courses from 12 to 14 to provide more variation for the older age classes, and the introduction of policies for shadowing, start time allocation, and 'late' starters.

GUIDELINE G2 IRISH MIDDLE DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Formerly Guideline 21 (Introduced February 2013, amended July 2013, July 2015, January 2017 and April 2017)

The Guideline is based on the IOF Guideline with the recommended winning times for most classes being in the 30 to 35 minute range. The course length ratios have been set using the recent average speeds of competitors in each of the age classes.

In July 2013, with the addition of age classes M/W85 and M/W 90, these were allocated to course 7 in the table on course standards. The recommended winning time range was reduced from 30 to 35 minutes to 25 to 30 minutes partly to reflect the recent performances of competitors on that course.

In July 2015 the course/class combinations were re-configured to provide exclusive courses for the M18E, M20E, and M21E classes (Course 1); and for the W18E, W20E, and W21E

classes (Course 3). The Course Length Ratios were adjusted to reflect recent running speeds. As an additional guide for planners, Indicative Course Lengths and Climbs were included.

In January 2017 the previous wording 'preferably from a different regional Council or Association' was dropped. Paragraphs were introduced on Risk Assessment, Start Time Allocation, and Late Starts. The name of the Men and Women's Open classes were changed to Men Short and Women Short to make it clearer that they were not premier classes and that they were not championship classes. A few of the older age classes were re-allocated to different courses. As a guide for Planners and Controllers, indicative course lengths and climbs are included. On the Elite courses this is based on the assumed running speeds of the M/W21 Elite winners while on the other courses the assumed winning speed is an average of the assumed speeds for all of the championship classes on that course.

Following the revision of the Rules in April 2017 regarding the shared responsibilities of the Organiser and Planner, wording to that effect was introduced.

GUIDELINE G3 IRISH SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Formerly Guideline 21 (Introduced March 2010 ,July 2013 and April 2017)

This Guideline is based on the IOF Guideline, with the allocation of classes to courses being derived from the Long Distance Guidelines, with differences in recommended technical difficulty for the M/W 12 and M/W 10 classes.

In July 2013, with the addition of age classes M/W85 and M/W 90, these were allocated to course 5 in the table on course standards.

In April 2017 new sections on Responsibility (G3.3) and Risk Assessment (G3.4) were added.

Guideline G4 IRISH RELAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Formerly Guideline 6 (Amended September 2007, February 2013, July 2013, February 2016 and April 2017)

In September 2007 partially replaced Guideline 6 of the 2002 version of the Rules.

Replaced the 2007 limited Guideline in February 2013 with a complete Guideline.

In July 2013 it was amended to allow for the inclusion of the M/W85 and M/W90 age classes in the handicap system.

In February 2016, the recommended system for the forking or gaffling of courses was changed from the fairly basic system as was detailed, to the use of software systems that can provide a much greater number of forking options. The purpose of this was to reduce the potential for competitors to follow others. The Course Length Ratios were dropped and were replaced by Indicative Course Lengths and Climbs.

Following the revision of the Rules in April 2017 regarding the shared responsibilities of the Organiser and Planner, wording to that effect was introduced together with a new section on Risk Assessment.

Guideline G9 Complaints, Protests, Juries, and Appeals

Revised January 2017. Formerly Guideline 19 Juries, Protests, and Appeals

Paragraph G9.1 It sets out the procedures for the Juries as defined by the new Rule 14 The Jury.

Guideline G10 SUBVENTION TO OI CLUBS FOR STAGING MAJOR EVENTS

Formerly Guideline 20 (Introduced May 2009 for application to events after 1 January 2010. Amended December 2010, January 2013, April 2013 and April 2017)

This Guideline formalized the practice of subvention payments being made by OI to the organising club of certain C2 multi-day events such as the Irish Championship weekends.

In December 2010 it introduced the requirement that the Controller should submit a report on the event to the Controller of Technical Standards within 3 weeks of it being held.

In January 2013, the provision of drinks at the finish was moved from the Mandatory to Desirable section.

From April 2017 all competitions in receipt of the Subvention should be controlled by a Senior Certified Event Controller.