RULE 10 – THE COMPETITION

R10.1 Entries

R10.1.1 Entries shall be submitted in accordance with the entry instructions for the competition. An entrant shall provide a minimum of the following information: family name and first name, year of birth, age class or course to be entered, club, contact details and SI or EMIT number.

R10.1.2 A competitor may only enter one age class or course at any one competition.

R10.1.3 The final closing time and date for entries shall be determined by the Organiser and be publicly and prominently available in the event details, or at an event where entries are being accepted on the day.

R10.1.4 For C2 championship events, entries shall close at the stated final closing time and date, and no 'late' entries shall be accepted after that time.

R10.1.5 The Organiser shall have the discretion to accept 'late' entries at non-championship events.

R10.1.6 The Organiser shall have the discretion to refuse or revoke an entry, or to allocate a competitor to an easier course if they feel that the entrant would not have the skill and/or physical ability to complete the intended course.

R10.1.7 The final closing date forC2 championship events shall be no earlier than twenty-one days before the day of the competition, or before the first day of a multi-day event.

R10.2 Start times and Starting Order

R10.2.1 In an interval start competition, the competitors on each course shall start singly. For C2 championship competitions the minimum start interval shall be three minutes for Long Distance, two minutes for Middle Distance, and one minute for Sprint competitions. The start interval for all C3 and C2 non-championship competitions shall be determined by the Organiser and shall be no less than one minute.

R10.2.2 In a mass start competition, all competitors on each course, or on all courses, shall start simultaneously.

R10.2.3 In relay competitions, the first leg runners on each course, or on all courses, shall start simultaneously.

R10.2.4 In a chasing start competition, competitors shall start singly and at start times and intervals determined by their previous results.

R10.2.5 At pre-entry interval start competitions the starting order of competitors shall be as detailed in the Guidelines for that type of event, or as given in the event details.

R10.2.6 At C2 championship competitions, all competitors in the Elite classes (M/W 18, 20, and 21) shall start consecutively with an equal start interval and no breaks. The starting order for the Elite classes shall be the reverse of the competitors' ranking as determined by the OI Selection Committee, with the highest ranked competitor starting last. Overseas competitors may be slotted into the starting order by the Organiser based on their IOF Ranking. Un-ranked Irish and Overseas competitors shall be placed at the beginning of the starting order, with their order determined by a random ballot.

Where two Elite competitors require split start times, one should apply for an early start time where they will be placed in the earlier part of the start list with their start time determined by the random draw of the un-ranked Irish and Overseas competitors. The other Elite should have their start time determined according to their ranking but if the interval between the two Elites is judged to be too narrow, then the second Elite can apply to the Organiser to be started later. The second Elite should be allocated a start time after the highest ranked competitor with an interval of at least double that for the course.

R10.2.7 At C2 championship competitions, competitors on the non-Elite courses shall have their starting order determined by a random ballot. Where competitors have requested an early, middle or late start time, separate random ballots should be conducted for each section with the competitors who have not requested a particular start block being allocated at random across the three start blocks. The Organiser should determine how these are to be distributed within the overall start window. The start interval for competitors on a particular course should be the same with competitors evenly spread over the start window for the course. The random draw may be in public or in private and may be made by hand or by computer.

R10.2.8 For a pre-entry interval start competition, other than C2 championship competitions, the starting order for all courses shall be drawn at random. The draw may be in public or in private and may be made by hand or by computer. The draw should be made in three groups, early, middle, and late with the Organiser to determine how these are to be distributed within the overall start window.

R10.2.9 For an interval start competition, competitors from the same club in the non-Elite classes may not start consecutively. If they are drawn to start consecutively, the next competitor drawn shall be inserted between them. If this happens at the end of the draw or at the end of a starting group, the competitor before them shall be inserted between them.

R10.2.10 The starting order shall be approved by the competition Controller.

R10.2.11 The start list shall be published no later than three days before the competition and be available for inspection at the enquiry point at assembly and at the pre-start.

R10.2.12 The actual first start time and the start window shall be determined by the Organiser in accordance with the requirements of the competition Guidelines.

R10.3 Start

At events of C3 Competition status or above, the start and the map issue point or master maps should be sited in such a way that Competitors waiting to start cannot see the route taken by competitors who have started. The courses should be designed so that the competitors are unlikely to return past the timed start on the way to the first control.

At all events of C4 status and above the position of the centre of the start triangle shown on the map shall be identified on the ground by a control marker and be on a mapped feature. Where a map exchange or a 2nd set of Master Maps are used the position of the Start of the next section of the course shall be marked on the ground by a control marker if it is significantly away from the last control.

At events of C2 Competition status or above Competitors late for their starts through no fault of the Organiser should be started as soon as possible but should be timed as if they had started at the time given on the start list. The Competitors' actual start times should be noted and, with the specific approval of the Controller, may be used as a revised start time.

At events of C3 status and below, start officials may, with the approval of the Controller, change the start times.

If pre-marked maps are used, copies of the map showing no information other than any map corrections essential to the competition should be displayed and available for study before the start line.

In individual races competitors should receive their pre-marked maps not more than 10 seconds before the start time. Competitors should check to ensure that they receive the correct map.

At relay events, competitors shall not examine their pre-marked maps until they have started.

The changeover between the members of each relay team takes place by touch. The changeover may be organised so that the incoming team member collects the map of the outgoing team member and hands it over as the changeover touch.

Correct and timely relay changeover is the responsibility of the competitors, even when the Organiser arranges an advanced warning of incoming teams.

With the approval of the Controller the Organiser may arrange mass starts for the later legs for relay teams that have not changed over.

If a relay team is disqualified and has accepted its disqualification, or the jury has confirmed the disqualification of the team, no further members of that team shall be allowed to start.

R10.4 Out of Bounds and Compulsory Routes

Out of Bounds rules are given in section R1.3.3 RESPECT FOR PROPERTY AND THE PUBLIC.

R10.5 Finish and Timekeeping

The competition ends for a competitor when crossing the finishing line.

The run-in to the finish shall be bounded by tape or by rope. The last 20m shall be straight. The finish line shall be at least 3 m wide and shall be at right angles to the direction of the run-in. The exact position of the finish line shall be obvious to approaching competitors.

When a competitor has crossed the finish line, the competitor shall hand in the control card including any plastic bag and, if so required by the Organiser, the competition map.

The finishing time shall be measured when the competitor's chest crosses the finish line or when the competitor punches at the finish line. Sufficient punching (electronic or pin) devices shall be made available in order to prevent queuing of competitors on the finish line.

Finish times shall be rounded down to whole seconds. Times shall be given in hours, minutes and seconds or in minutes and seconds only.

For events of C2 status and above two independent timekeeping systems, a primary and a secondary shall be used continuously throughout the competition. The timekeeping systems shall measure times of competitors in the same class relative to each other, with an accuracy of 0.5 seconds or better. The time taken shall be to the completed second.

For events of C2 status and above with mass or chasing starts, finish judges shall rule on the final placing of competitors and a jury member shall be present at the finish line.

With the approval of the Controller, the Organiser may set maximum running times for each class.

R10.6 Results

Provisional results should be displayed at the competition assembly area as soon as possible after each competitor has finished.

The official results shall include all participating competitors. In relays, the results shall include the competitors' names in running order and times for their legs as well as the course combinations that each ran.

If an interval start is used, two or more competitors having the same time shall be given the same placing in the result list. The position(s) following the tie shall remain vacant.

If a mass start or chasing start is used, the finish positions are determined by the order in which the competitors finish. In relays this will be the team member running the last relay leg.

In relays where there are mass starts for later legs, the sum of the individual times of the team members shall determine the placing of the teams that have taken part in such mass starts.

Competitors or teams, who exceed the maximum time, shall not be placed.

Final results shall normally be published as soon as possible and sent to all competitors who require them. Results should be posted to competitors, as necessary, and published on the World Wide Web within seven days after the date of the competition, unless the Organiser has previously notified competitors that this cannot be accomplished for valid reasons.

The Results of events of C3 status and above should include the following information:

(1) Competition Title

(2) Venue

(3) Date of Competition

(4) Organising Club

(5) Competition Planner(s)

(6) Competition Organiser(s)

(7) Competition Controller(s)

The results should also show the length and the height climb of each course.

R10.7 Prizes

Prizes including prize-money may be awarded.