

Rules Group Meeting

14th May 2024

Apologies:

Graham Louth

Attendees:

Freya Askham, Barry Elkington, Terry Smith, David May, Alan Leakey & Graham Nilsen

Introduction

Review of actions:

- *TS to contact AR to ask what is going to be asked in terms of feedback* – TS circulated V2 of the google form for comment. DM suggested that it was very organiser specific and controller defects are not picked up by the form. TS said that the open questions gave officials opportunities to share what they wanted to. GN said that he filled it in as a controller without any issues and was able to feed back on planning. DM suggested that the words “Including planning” could be added. Any further comments can be contributed at a later date. It is intended that Rules Group will have access to the feedback to inform future rule change decisions.
- *TS & DM to familiarise themselves with map scale typo and draft correction.* – TS agreed with conclusion of DM & GN to update the symbol size for 1:5000 sprint maps which should be maintained at 100% of the ISSprOM specification i.e. they would be the same symbol size as the 1:4000 map. The rules are intended to ensure that maps aren’t being drawn at 1:4000 and then reduced to 1:5000. Mapping specifications should be contained in Appendix D so planning rules should direct to Appendix D.
- *DM to remove wording added regarding course lengths and revert to previous version. Forward to PH to issue updated rules version* -DM sent revised version (as per last meeting) to PH for publication. There will be a new BOF website early/mid June and changes (map scale typo and course length change) will appear here.
- *TS to document process of how documents held by BOF regarding rules should be edited and updated.* – Currently given way to other priorities
- *TS to progress the work on file structure and version control based on feedback from the group.* DM offered to help in this area **ACTION: TS to share his work so far with DM and for TS & DM to share proposal with the group**
- *GL to continue work on badly worded rules and feedback at next meeting* – Defer to next meeting
- *AL to complete first draft of updated sprint and urban rules by next meeting* – AL currently cross-referencing rules with Long & Middle rules. AL noted that Urban races are still very variable. – Defer proposal to next meeting
- *CD to allocate other topics to Rules Group members by next meeting*
- *All group members who would like to write down their own feedback (constructive & with recommendations) then please send them to TS.* – Nothing was received by TS so it was agreed that Alan Rosen was doing a good job of organising feedback. The British Sprints is due to be used as a pilot for competitor and event official feedback. There were concerns that the feedback form would only go to the person who did the entry (usually an adult) so

junior feedback may not be captured. DM noted that the feedback form should be able to be filled in more than once from each IP address.

AOB

- Truncating Courses – GN asked if decisions had been made on what would happen in the future in terms of acceptability of removing splits or truncating courses at level A events. Is the philosophy results at all costs or demonstrably fair competition. It was noted that the IOF forbid the removal of “sections” of the course which could be deemed as more specific and clearer. The group thought that it would be worth speaking to David Rosen to gain insight into the philosophy from an IOF perspective. **ACTION: TS to contact David Rosen regarding IOF philosophy on course truncation & removing splits.** BE raised the point that these options represented 2 extremes and that there could be a “sensible” solution found for different circumstances. AL suggested that there could be a minimum percentage of the course used before truncating a course is allowed. The group has previously agreed that we should adhere to IOF rules at least in principle. DM reported that he had asked members of the IOF Foot-O committee what happens with regard to removing splits/truncating courses in other countries but he received no detailed replies. DM proposed the development of a set of tools to help the jury cope with various situations to make fair decisions. The groups should take advice from the BOF board as this could have significant impacts. GN raised the issue that there isn’t guidance in the rules for organisers to produce start lists (e.g. for finals at British Sprints) where there are issues/protests in the heats. **ACTION: Group to develop specific guidance on steps an organiser can take to get a start list for seeded races based on previous results where there are protests.**
- Typo in Appendix D – **ACTION: TS to get the updated version into the system**
- The rules state that Level A events should use a map template as provided on the BOF website however the JK does something different and it varies year on year. CompassSport Cup final doesn’t use BOF template. The group agreed that the rules be changed to say that British Championship Events should use the British Orienteering layout design and the reference to all level A events using the template should be removed. (1.1.5 Mapping). **ACTION: TS to talk to PH regarding making this change in the rules**
- **ACTION: FA to send Minutes of Rules Group 23/1, 20/2 2/4 & 14/5 to Peter Brooke for publication on BOF website**
- Group workstream discussion – is there anything else that will be worked on this year to contribute to rule changes? Has any feedback from British Championships or British Relays been seen that could prompt rules changes? GN raised the issue that in the British Relays rule there is a section on seeding. In the main rules British Relays are not listed as an event for which seeding applies (App A 3.1.1). Seeding is not as relevant at relays due to gaffling and GN proposed that the seeding rule be removed from the British Relays competition rule. **ACTION: TS to discuss competition rules with Alan Rosen to find out if any feedback has prompted potential rule changes and a gap analysis can be reviewed at the next rules group meeting.** BE noted that competition rules need to be updated in good time for next year’s organisers.
- TS has produced job descriptions for the roles of Chair of Event Officials Group and Chair of Rules Group. PH to publish and advertise roles.
- **Date of next meeting possibly 25th June (to be confirmed by WhatsApp poll)**