

Rules Group Meeting

2nd April 2024

Apologies:

None

Attendees:

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

Introduction

Review of actions:

- British Nights 2024 – CD, TS, GL, Alan Rosen to get together to come up with questions for gathering feedback from event officials. – AR has (or might be just about to) send out questions to officials. **ACTION: TS to contact AR to ask what is going to be asked in terms of feedback**
- **Rules Errata**
 - Release new version at the end of March containing a change sheet at the front detailing changes from the version released at the beginning of the year. **ACTION: TS & DM to familiarise themselves with map scale typo and draft correction.**
 - The group discussed the rules regarding the length of colour coded courses. Much discussion between the group has also taken place via email. Wording was added regarding correction for height climb in colour coded courses in the 2024 rules and the group agreed that it needs to be removed pending further review.
 - **ACTION: DM to remove wording added regarding course lengths and revert to previous version. Forward to PH to issue updated rules version.**
 - **ACTION: TS to document process of how documents held by BOF regarding rules should be edited and updated.**
- Southern Area Championships - CD to liaise with PH to suggest immediate introduction of thank you and feedback forms to officials starting with this event. CD discussed this with PH and he was happy to support the initiative but to beware of “scope creep”. This will continue as work in progress. **ACTION: TS to contact Alan Rosen to progress.**
- File structure and version control - TS to circulate his work so far for comment and TS requested feedback. **ACTION: TS to progress the work based on feedback from the group.**
- Competition Rules - BE to follow up with PH regarding the uploading of some competition rule new versions which should also clearly state “effective from” dates in wording of links on the website. This has been done and website now shows effective from dates. Peter Brooke has been updating links so no old documents are linked.
- Neighbourhood alliances - TS to share new wording with JROS contacts & ask PH for inclusion in BOF newsletter, BE to share wording with 2024 Sprint Relay Organiser, CD to share wording with 2024 JK Sprint organiser & 2024 British Relays Organiser. Wording drafted in the last meeting was circulated and the first relay affected (JK relay) has happened. The group looks forward to further feedback.

2024 Programme

Orienteering Rules Review – The group agreed to carry out a rules review by the end of July focussing on a few topics.

ACTION: GL to continue work on badly worded rules and feedback at next meeting

ACTION: AL to complete first draft of updated sprint and urban rules by next meeting

ACTION: CD to allocate other topics to Rules Group members by next meeting

The group discussed what the next steps should be regarding updating the colour coded distance tables. **ACTION: BE & DM to continue discussion on colour coded courses including option to remove colours from age class tables and tables/rules regarding corrected lengths.**

The group discussed the issue of event level attributes and agreed to progress discussion offline.

Competition Rules Review – the group agreed that feedback was required following major events to contribute to improvement of the competition rules and that there should be a mechanism for both gathering and considering feedback as it relates to the rules. It was suggested that documentation could be used provide a summary of each event at Rules Group meetings.

AOB

- JK 2024
 - TS received an appeal against the jury decision not to void the M21E course on day 2 of the JK. E&CC will meet to hear the protest. This may impact Rules Group in terms of how rules are interpreted. The group discussed some precedence in IOF world ranking events where courses have been terminated part way through the course. TS highlighted that E&CC must work with the BOF rules as they are on the day of the event and not what they think the rules should be.
 - The group discussed how the sport should handle situations where officials don't follow the rules and the issue of competency. This is the responsibility of E&CC/Event Officials group.
 - DM highlighted the benefits of the role of the IOF event advisor and this kind of role could benefit other Major events.
 - The group discussed the issue that certain rules are not being applied and best practice is not being captured or applied. There needs to be enforcement ability of the rules.
 - The group discussed the need for a mechanism for competitor feedback. **ACTION: All group members who would like to write down their own feedback (constructive & with recommendations) then please send them to TS.**
- Junior relays – BE raised the issue of the high cost of junior relay entry fees which may be discouraging entries. The group discussed the issue and BE agreed to write a personal note to JROS with his recommendations.

Date of next meeting Tuesday 14th May 2024