

# Rules Group Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Apologies:

None

## Attendees:

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

## Introduction

### Review of actions:

- TS to contact BOF to set up a Rules Group internal email address – **has been set up but there may be some issues with reliable email delivery.**
- TS to draft a file structure and naming conventions – **covered in agenda**
- CD/TS to agree with PH how feedback from major events should happen in time to feed into annual rules review – **addressed in Major Events conference with majority support.**
- TS to ask JROS to come up with wording for rule around alliances for relays including JK Relay, British Relays, Sprint Relays. – **complete and outcome covered in agenda**
- CD to review contributions and send responses/thank you emails as appropriate. – **completed**
- DM to draft email to all controllers drawing attention to webinar series and new rules documentation. To be distributed by BOF office to all qualified controllers - **completed**

## 2024 Programme

CD shared his revised programme for work the group will undertake in 2024.

**Errata** – CD asked the group to decide on how to deal with the small error regarding map scales found in Appendix D after publication of the rules document. **ACTION:** It was agreed that an updated version would be released at the end of the month containing a change sheet at the front detailing changes from the version released at the beginning of the year. This would be labelled version 3.12 “with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024”.

**Southern Championships 2024** – The group discussed the issues faced with results at the Southern Champs following transposing of controls. It was felt that learning from this issue should be captured by a feedback mechanism as discussed at the Major Events Webinar. **ACTION: CD to liaise with PH to suggest immediate introduction of thank you and feedback forms to officials starting with this event.**

**British Nights 2024** – **ACTION: CD, TS, GL, Alan Rosen to get together to come up with questions for gathering feedback from event officials.**

**Orienteering Rules Review** – CD asked for suggestions for this year’s review process. AL has already taken on a review of Urban & sprint rules. There is still work to be done to remove errors, duplication and to make sure information is in the right place. There was a suggestion last year that BOF rules

could be based entirely on IOF rules as in some other countries. It was suggested that the group should:

- Pick a few key topics to revise each year which would simplify communication of changes upon publication.
- Annually review waivers & rule change requests received in the last few years.
- Consider what is missing from the rules e.g. definition of and age class. This could include developing a glossary for the rules document.
- Undertake read-through for rules housekeeping in June/July each year.

## File structure and version control

Lessons from issues with Sharepoint and file structure have prompted an initiative to improve the organisation of our documentation. TS has documented the current file structure. Master copies should be the ones held by BOF as uploaded to the website and should be the basis for all amendments.

TS proposed developing a “house style” using the technology available in MS Word. Once converted to a defined style it would make maintaining formatting and consistency in the documents much easier. BE suggested that the effort in converting all the competition rule documents to a consistent style should not be underestimated. **ACTION: TS to circulate his work so far for comment and progress the work offline.**

It was noted that both version numbers and “effective from” dates are required and working copies also need version numbers.

There was concern that links to old versions of BOF rules documents can still be found via Google searches.

**ACTION: 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.**

## Neighbourhood alliances for Juniors

The group received a revised waiver following consultation between TS and JROS. There has also been a BOF consultation which received 59 responses representing 54 clubs. Responses were broadly supportive of allowing alliances with variations in what should be considered “neighbouring”. It was agreed that the waiver to support a trial for one year would need very clear wording. The group reviewed the wording proposed in the revised waiver and amended it to the following:

*“Clubs from the same Association or geographically adjacent clubs are permitted to form combined teams (“Alliances”) for participation in junior relay teams. A different alliance can be formed for each team at each event. Alliance teams are competitive and will be eligible to win trophies.*

*Clubs may only combine to enter “Alliance” teams if they have already entered as many complete teams as they are able to in each class.*

*In circumstances where combined teams are formed clubs must pick their best runners for their own club team or teams before seeking to form an alliance to give their additional junior orienteers the opportunity to run in the competition. Any attempt by clubs to do otherwise may lead to their alliance team being declared non-competitive. The spirit of this initiative is, therefore, that clubs form teams from their own members and are encouraged to develop their own club juniors; it is not the intention for ‘elite’ teams to be formed.”*

**ACTION: TS to share new wording with JROS contacts & ask PH for inclusion in BOF newsletter**

**ACTION: BE to share wording with 2024 Sprint Relay Organiser**

**ACTION: CD to share wording with 2024 JK Sprint organiser & 2024 British Relays Organiser**

## Urban & sprint rule review

AL asked for input from the group on 3 topics as part of his review of the urban & sprint rules:

1. The urban course table currently contains references to colour coded courses. It was agreed that this wasn't used or appropriate and should be replaced with classes used in urban league races.
2. The rules currently contain a mixture of target winning time formats (forest long – target time, middle & sprint – target range). Since there is no IOF standard to follow it was agreed that urban should have a target time (not range) to aid simplicity and consistency.
3. The group discussed whether control circles should be offset to indicate which side of an uncrossable (must not be crossed) feature the control is placed. It was agreed that the delineating factor for offsetting in these circumstances should be if the event uses the ISSprOM specification and would therefore include both sprint & urban events.
4. The group discussed whether the rules dictate use of text over pictorial descriptions in any cases. It was thought that there are currently no rules regarding this.

## Webinar feedback and actions

The group will review feedback once collated by Jo Fermor Worrell from all 3 webinars.

## AOB

- The group discussed the complexities of determining competition eligibility of members of clubs with affiliations to more than one regional association and members of both closed and open clubs. It was agreed that this topic should be returned to at a later date.

**Date of next meeting to be between 19<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> March – date to be agreed via WhatsApp poll**