

Rules Group Meeting

23rd January 2024

Apologies:

Graham Nilsen

Attendees:

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

Introduction

Charles started the meeting by confirming a successful year in 2023. The group successfully published an improved set of rules and the revised competition rules are almost ready for publication. Both the M/W winning times survey and rules consultation provided good feedback from members. Improvement opportunities include better file discipline and use of sharepoint.

ACTION: TS to contact BOF to set up a Rules Group internal email address

2024 Programme

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

Orienteering Rules/Competition Rules - BE raised concerns that the rewriting/consultation/issuing should happen earlier in the year to ensure that they are ready for use particularly in the planning of the major events of the following year. It was agreed that the group would aim for issue in September/October.

File structure and version control – improved organisation of our documentation. **ACTION: TS to draft a file structure and naming conventions.**

Strand 2 – To improve the way we present information **ACTION: CD/TS to agree with PH how feedback from major events should happen in time to feed into annual rules review** The IOF require timely reports/feedback from all their major events officials.

Planning Tech package – There were concerns that this was outside the scope of Rules Group and will be led by others whilst Rules Group will have valuable contributions to make. Event Officials Group is in need of a chairperson to drive consolidation of available courses/training materials. It was agreed to remove this strand from the programme.

Ultra Vet O – a strand of work to look at the rules regarding the physicality of courses for older competitors.

Urban Rules Review – Concerns were raised during the rules consultation and rules for urban and sprint races continue to evolve. AL to pick up this strand from April 2024 to remove duplication and bring the rules up to date.

Safety – sections regarding safety in the rules need to be improved and could be more organised within the document.

Level of events – a strand of work that was started (TS Spreadsheet) earlier in 2023 and requires more discussion.

It was agreed that a “leader” for each strand of the programme should be added.

Strands to be added include a review of waivers/rule change requests and a review of other issues.

Neighbourhood alliances for Juniors

It was agreed that we want to encourage juniors to participate but there are differing schools of thought on the benefits/issues of allowing alliances. When approached by TS, JROS was in favour of a trial year. **ACTION: TS to ask JROS to come up with wording for rule around alliances for relays including JK Relay, British Relays, Sprint Relays.** It was agreed that it was important that the option to form alliances should be well publicised via BOF and the event organisers. It should also be noted that this option will not be extended to seniors and that the trial year will be implemented via a single waiver not a rule change.

Competition Rules for 2024

Rules are almost ready to be published. No further actions.

Orienteering Rules – close out for 2024

Consultation thank you – ACTION: CD to review contributions and draft responses/thank you emails as appropriate.

Communication of new rules version – DM highlighted the need to ensure that all event officials are aware of the new rules. ACTION: 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.

Issues where the group ran out of time to discuss in 2023 – this year will provide opportunities to discuss “parked” items such as levels of events. It was proposed that this issue form the body of the agenda for the next meeting.

Rules change requests/waiver review

It was agreed that these should be reviewed as part of the 2024 programme.

Date of next meeting to be between 19th- 29th February – date to be agreed via WhatsApp poll