

Rules Group Meeting

25th June 2024

Apologies:

Graham Louth, Alan Leakey

Attendees:

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

Review of actions:	ACTIONS
a. TS contacted AR to ask what is going to be asked in terms of feedback. AR agreed to canvas the British Sprint attendees.	Closed
b. <i>TS & DM to familiarise themselves with map scale typo and draft correction</i> TS Needs to ensure that the correction is applied to the Table in Appendix D of the Rules at the next update. No changes have been incorporated into the website versions of the rules. DM said that he had asked for the documents to update 3 months ago but since BOF hold the original version that needs to be updated then nothing could be done until it is sent to him. TS has made that request of PH today. It was noted that other documents have not been successfully transferred to the new website yet either. Some members felt that the rules were not easy to find on the new website. It was also noted that no year is shown on the hyperlink to the rules. This had been added at our request on the old website but needs to be actioned on this new version.	TS to chase on getting original documents for updating, adding year to hyperlink and uploading of updated versions.
c. <i>TS to document process of how documents held by BOF regarding rules should be edited and updated.</i> Some work has been carried out but it is still a work in progress.	TS to progress work on this
d. <i>TS to progress the work on file structure and version control based on feedback from the group</i>	TS to liaise with DM via zoom or face to face meeting to progress.
e. <i>Feedback on "Badly worded" rules.</i> GL unable to attend this meeting	GL to feedback at next meeting
f. <i>AL to complete first draft of updated sprint and urban rules by next meeting.</i> AL has circulated a draft and some members have commented.	All members to send comments for AL to collate

<p><i>g. CD to allocate other topics to Rules Group members by next meeting</i></p>	<p>TS to action topic allocation</p>
<p><i>h. TS to contact David Rosen regarding IOF philosophy on course truncation & removing splits.</i> David Rosen clarified the IOF position to be that course truncation was not an option and was tantamount to removing splits.</p>	<p>Closed</p>
<p><i>i. 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.</i> TS asked if there were any volunteers to take this forward and propose guidance for discussion. It was agreed that this would be very difficult and that there are many scenarios where things could go wrong. It was agreed that BE would document what happened at the recent British Sprints where a control on the qualifier was in the wrong place. It was agreed that it would be worth contacting the the organisers of the JK (days 2 & 3) and Eddie Speak who was the SI expert at the British Sprints for their thoughts on developing rules guidance in this area.</p>	<p>BE to document what happened at the British Sprints when there were issues and circulate to the group for information/comment</p>
<p><i>j. Revision of Level A map template requirement.</i> TS passed on requested amendment of Appendix D 1.1.5 to PH.</p>	<p>TS to chase.</p>
<p><i>k. FA to send Minutes of Rules Group 23/1, 20/2 2/4 & 14/5 to Peter Brooke for publication on BOF website.</i></p>	<p>Closed.</p>
<p><i>l. TS to discuss competition rules with Alan Rosen to find out if any feedback suggests rule changes are needed.</i> Not currently progressed.</p>	<p>TS to progress after collation of feedback from British Sprints</p>
<p>Meeting</p>	
<p>3. Rule Waiver Requests</p>	
<p>W-2024-03 Reduce embargo time for BOC2026 Agreed by email.</p>	<p>TS to Reply to originator</p>
<p>4. Rule Change Requests</p>	
<p>None</p>	
<p>5. Rules review – topics & timings</p>	
<p>TS has not currently progressed. TS will try to progress in the next few weeks via email</p>	<p>TS to progress allocation of topics for review via email with the group</p>
<p>6. Proposal that emboldened text in Appendix A Para 7.7.5 “...For consistency it is preferable to enforce disqualification at all events. It must certainly be adopted for level A events.” should be deleted. TS explained that experience with a recent protest against a jury decision implies that people will read this to infer that the rule is optional for other levels of event, which is not the intent. It is an example of how the group should be careful that there can be potential misreading of rules</p>	

<p>7. Proposal for revised wording for a rule for relays such as “Each leg of a relay must be run by a different member of the relay team for the team to be competitive.”. There had been an email discussion of this issue during the day. The reasons for needing this rule include advantage gained from being out on the area in a previous leg could aid performance on a later leg (ref: embargos). A rule used to exist (1997 version) to enforce this in relays but had been lost in some previous revision. GN thought that re-introducing this rule may impact participation at relay events although the rest of the group did not agree that this would necessarily be the case as teams could still run non-competitively if they wanted a runner to do more than one leg. It was also discussed that the rule should ensure that an individual couldn’t run on more than one competitive team. BE had proposed via email:” <i>Rule 2.5.4 Relay – two or more team members run consecutive individual races (known as laps). A competitor is not permitted to run more than one lap unless specified in the rules for that competition.</i>” Needs to make clear that individuals cannot run for more than one competitive team.</p>	<p>BE to complete wording of the rule from email discussion</p>
<p>8. Consideration of whether rules are required to cover the scope and responsibilities of Commentary teams as they may impact the fairness of events. Following recent issues at the British Sprint Relays with disagreement between the event organisers and the commentary team, it was discussed as to whether rules could/should be written to define who has the final decision on what happens in these situations. It was agreed that in as many cases as possible these sort of issues should be addressed in advance of the event and could form part of the contract with the commentary team. TS has sent a summary of the points raised to him in an email to AR as this might be handled adequately by inclusion in the Major Events Handbook. There was also some discussion of the position of the final control at the relay event. Since there was only one radio finish control available incoming runners not on the final leg had to punch the finish after handing over to their outgoing runner (rather than before which is how the rules state that relays should be organised). The reason for this rule is that if an outgoing runner is not ready for the handover then their leg time is affected and not that of the incoming runner. It was agreed that there were multiple potential solutions to this problem including having more than one radio finish control available.</p>	<p>NOTE: Include final control/handover order in relays in rules review.</p>
<p>9. Job Descriptions for the positions of Chair of Rules Group and Chair of Event Officials Group have been written and advertised as News items on the BOF website. Indications of interest were requested before 28th June 2024. TS said that there had so far been no expressions of interest in these roles. He said that the current situation with him as acting chair of E&CC, Rules Group, Event Officials Group and Map Group was untenable. He asked the group to think of anyone who could be persuaded to take on the roles and to contact them.</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BE asked if there was a timetable for publishing the competition rules to be used by the 2025 organisers of the JK and British 	<p>Group to ensure republication of</p>

<p>Nights as these rules were published too late last year. It was agreed that there were currently no proposed changes to these competition rules and that they could be published. It was agreed that it would be useful to re-publish each year with the year stated in the title of the document so that it was clear which set of competition rules was applicable. In the change log it should state that “no changes” had been made if this is the case.</p>	<p>competition rules to include year for which they apply.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FA proposed that the group investigate the possibility of using a forum structure to facilitate discussions which take place between meetings. Long email threads currently develop which can be difficult to follow and sometimes conclusions and relevant points can be lost. The group agreed that this should be investigated and could add value to this group as well as other BOF committees/groups. 	<p>FA to investigate options for forums</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of next meeting possibly Tuesday 30th July (to be confirmed by WhatsApp poll) 	