

Rules Group Meeting

25th April 2023

Apologies:

Alan Leakey

Attendees:

Freya Askham, Charles Daniel, Barry Elkington, Terry Smith, Graham Louth, David May, Sarah Mansel, Peter Hart.

Introduction

Peter Hart told the group that the board has approved Charles as the Chair of the Rules Group and also approved the make up of the group. PH congratulated and thanked Charles.

CD introduced his "Strawman" document which he has drawn up to help focus the group. CD noted that for the past 10 years individuals have been assigned by E&CC to review the rules but there are advantages to a diverse group working on the maintenance of the rules. CD proposed that the group should agree how to work effectively together. He suggested two strands of activity: Minimum "maintenance" of the rules in preparation for 2024 season and "improvement" of the rules. The maintenance activity includes creating, sharing, inviting comment, incorporating comments and communication of the rules. An opportunity for communication may be to present at the major events conference proposed for early autumn this year.

Strand 1: CD drew attention to the list of issues (4.6 Special Items) in Terry's initial Rules Group Document circulated to the group before the last meeting. This list is likely to grow as CD is going to write to the organisers and controllers of the major events of the 2022 & 2023 to see if there are any rules issues which have arisen from these events. These issues should be considered by the group.

Strand 2: CD proposed that this should be an annual activity and proposed that a face-to-face meeting would be the best way to launch this. Break out groups could be used to read the rules together and characterise area which need to be addressed. Since the group has 8 members the subgroups could have 4 in each. The first group would address the first 16 sections plus appendices A, C & E (slightly more organisational), the second group sections 16-31 plus appendices B & D (slightly more planning). CD proposed that this review should be carried out before the next meeting. DM stressed the efficiency of face-to-face meetings.

GL asked if the purpose of the group has been agreed and asked what will be announced to the membership. TS agreed that the Terms of Reference need to be agreed and then published to the website. CD suggested that a review of any agreed Terms of Reference should be planned for near the end of the year. It was agreed that the meeting should move on to agreeing the Terms of Reference.

Terms of Reference

Terry Smith led the discussion of the Terms of Reference and number of updates and changes were agreed and made including:

- Several references to the responsibility to review the rules

- The maximum tenure of the Chair to be 3 years
- Members of the group to be appointed by E&CC
- The ability to invite non-voting attendees as approved by the Chair
- Taking out the responsibility for writing a handbook on technical aspects
- Inclusion of responsibility to liaise with other groups such as Event Officials Group
- Updating the wording on protests to ruling on appeals against Jury decisions
- Clarifying the responsibility to review changes to IOF rules and consideration of whether appropriate to reflect in BOF rules
- Removal of reference to the need for KPIs
- Inclusion for the need to refer decisions of strategic importance to the Board for guidance

Equalisation of Men's and Women's Winning Times

David May led the discussion of equalising Men's and Women's estimated winning times. He stressed the need to make a decision on how to move forward with agreeing the target winning times for Age Class events. **A proposal needs to be made to the board on whether winning times for men and women in general should be equalised following the equalisation of winning times for Men and Women at IOF and WMOC level.** In order to inform this decision DM proposed a survey (draft version was circulated to the group before the meeting). CD made the point that it is difficult to write surveys without inbuilt bias. SM pointed out that for 10A and 12A the numbers in the winning times table were in kilometres not minutes. FA proposed a change to the title of the survey to make it more specific to the winning time issue. PH asked to review the questionnaire before it was circulated to the membership. GL proposed inserting a question about whether the respondent attends level A & B (National or Regional events). The group agreed that the survey should be circulated to British Orienteering Members and **Action : DM & PH agreed to take the detail offline.**

AOB

The group reviewed the most recently submitted Rule Waiver Form from BOK to reduce the 12-month embargo period for the area proposed for the JIRCs Relays 2024 to 351 days to allow for a previously scheduled NGOC local event. TS proposed that we grant the waiver and the group unanimously agreed. GL pointed out that it would be the competitors who are being granted the waiver as they are technically breaking the embargo but it was agreed that the organiser had done the right thing in applying for the waiver.

Date of next meeting : Thursday 1st June 7-9pm