

# Rules Group Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Apologies:

Graham Louth, Sarah Mansel

## Attendees:

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

## Introduction

Charles started the meeting by thanking everyone in the group for their hard work this year.

## Correspondence

**Major Events Conference** - there will not be a major events conference this year but there will be a series of webinars one of which will focus on the rules. Charles asked for volunteers to appear in this webinar.

**Consultation on the Rules** - Response received from Andy Yeates. CD has sent a conciliatory response and invited him to present to the group. For context, PH invited him to have a go at re-writing the rules when he was contracted to BOF during the COVID period before Rules Group was re-established.

Other comments received – majority are helpful.

- Urban winning times – urban is not an IOF standard so no standardisation. Course lengths presented in the table are optimum distance but some planners interpret the table as straight line distances. UK urban league expect 40-45 minute winning times. NOTE: This would be a good topic to highlight in Rules Webinar
- Inconsistency in use of event levels A, B, C & D vs Major, National, Regional & local. It was agreed that this is confusing and Rules group would like to propose that they use the letter categories and not the names. **ACTION: FA to contact BOF office to amend website to add letters to event finder against names.**

## Actions/issues from previous minutes

**Sharepoint access** - CD raised issue of difficulty with Sharepoint access and how this has been impacting on his ability to work on the rules. This has been raised with BOF so hopefully will be resolved soon.

**CD to make contact with JROS to discuss liaising with Rules Group** – Mark Saunders has now taken on managing the competition rules for JROS in the same way British Schools maintain their own competition rules.

**Superveterans: CD to suggest the proposer complete a rule change form for the group to consider in relation to the current rules (Appendix B paragraph 2.4)** – Training packs may be more useful than rule changes. They are going to send some examples of issues faced in the Lake District.

**Control separation in sprint/urban races** – CD has a checklist to make sure that the required changes are captured in this current review of the rules.

**CD to let the group know when he will start the consolidation process** – has been consolidated but is in need of formatting.

**TS to upload/share the waiver raised following 2022 BOC regarding start times** – last year's waivers and rule change forms are available on the sharepoint. **ACTION: TS to work on wording for rule regarding visibility of start times and ensure inclusion in current rule revision.**

**All – review 2022-06 Rule Change form found in Rule Updates Changes & Waiver's/Rule Waivers & Changes folder on the SharepointB** – Annual process to review waivers to see if they should prompt a rule change.

**GL to suggest new wording around start time intervals in Appendix A** – Completed and included in update

**DM to produce a proposal for wording around selection of seeds on each course.** – DM has drafted a proposal and he will add wording in this current review of the rules.

**CD & TS to discuss inclusion/clarification of the requirement for an event at levels A, B or C to have a controller and that the controller's decision is final.** – Controller responsible for the overall safety of the event. **ACTION: Wording to be strengthened on the fact that events at these levels must have a controller.**

## Strand 2

CD emphasised that there should be a continuity from the current strand 1 work into strand 2. There is a good plan to go forward into next year and there will be a few months in which the group can think strategically. CD listed some ideas:

- Executive summary at beginning of rules document
- Review of rules in terms of plain English, quality and intent
- Compatibility with IOF rules – what are the reasons for differences – process, wording
- Increasing the user friendliness of the rules for level C/D events
- Hierarchy of documentation (rules, appendices, training, guidelines)
- Rule simplification

CD asked the group to consider these ideas for discussion at the next meeting.

## New rules version and rule change communication

The group discussed ways in which the rule changes will be communicated to the membership. Re-starting a regular controller's newsletter was suggested as were webinars and being part of the upcoming Major Event's Conference.

A draft of the reviewed rules will be made available on the BOF website for members to comment. Significant changes such as M/W winning time equalisation and emboldening of rules within the

appendices will be highlighted. Also the fact that the group have made an attempt to tidy up the rules in this new version.

**ACTION: DM to prepare our current revision (Version 3.11) for publication and review by the group**

## Competition Rules

CD has reviewed the competition rules for which we retain responsibility. New course length table needs to be included.

M/W18E – BE suggested winning time needs to be 70mins as used for JWOC selection races. Area champs will remain at 60mins (comment to be included as to why).

TS suggested highlighting that age class combinations are guidelines/suggestions.

British Sprints rules have not been touched as have been recently revised.

British Sprint Mixed Relays – Ronan & Julie Cleary have suggested some changes and so CD has requested that they formulate their suggestions in a rule change request.

**ACTION: DM to check that all items identified to be moved from main rules to competition rules have been included.** This will then be checked by all in the group.

## Rule waivers & change requests

A check should be made that responses have been sent to all those who have submitted rule change requests and waivers.

- Drinks stations – only applies at certain large events. The group agreed with Graham Gristwood's approach. It was agreed that wording should be included in rule 14 of the main rules so that both planners & organisers have sight of this rule. **ACTION: GN to draft something based on GG's suggestions and send to DM for inclusion in new rules version.**
- Title of Rules Document – proposal that the rules should be specific for Foot-O. Clarification required as to whether Trail-O rely on these rules. **ACTION: CD to check with trail-O team whether they use the BOF rules**
- Symbol rule – rules in appendix D have been updated to state that from 1:5000 to 1:4000 everything is enlarged. Larger scales are for improved visibility for older and younger competitors not to enable inclusion of more detail.

## AOB

1. Peter Hart has suggested that controllers be contacted after a major event to find out if there is any feedback. Alan Rosen is currently co-ordinating feedback from major events and any lessons about organisation and planning. PH is focusing more on accidents/near misses.  
**ACTION: CD to check with AR and PH regarding feedback collection**
2. A timeline was suggested for the current revision.
  - a. Deadline for re-formatting – 24/11/23
  - b. Contact PH for timeline for publication of draft revision
  - c. Comments received from members by 10/12/23

**Date of next meeting: The date will be decided following a WhatsApp poll of possible dates.**