

# Rules Group Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Apologies:

Charles Daniel

## Attendees:

Freya Askham, Graham Louth, Barry Elkington, Terry Smith, David May, Sarah Mansel, Alan Leakey & Graham Nilsen

## Actions from previous minutes

### Rules review

The focus of the meeting is to ensure that the group has set up the documentation in order to publish a revised set of rules to become effective 1/1/2024. CD hopes to make a consolidated draft available after the first week of October including agreed changes and made available on the Rules page of the BOF website and to alert the membership to the proposed new rules. AL made the point that members should be directed to provide comments between set parameters for reviewing the changes and TS proposed that members should be directed to provide comments by completing a Rules Change Form.

It was proposed that the group review comments and changes proposed by each of the reviewing pairings offline via the Sharepoint. All comments will then be consolidated into a single document.

**ACTION: CD to let the group know when he will start the consolidation process**

Issues discussed which generated actions:

British Championship start times/start intervals to facilitate late starters. The group discussed the ambiguity in the current rules around start intervals (seeded runners vs all competitors).

**ACTION: TS to upload/share the waiver raised following 2022 BOC regarding start times**

### Start time selection and visibility

Last year, a change form sought to address the issue where some systems allow competitors to choose their own start times for high level events including Area Championships where other competitor's start times are clearly visible. The change seeks to prevent this happening. This would probably concern just level A and level B events.

**ACTION: All – review 2022-06 Rule Change form found in Rule Updates Changes & Waiver's/Rule Waivers & Changes folder on the Sharepoint**

The group discussed issues such as events which allow entries to be made up to the first start on the day of the event (e.g. London City Race). BE suggested that this is mainly a problem for certain Level B events where some competitors may seek to gain advantage and they all have their own separate competition rules so it could be written into these that competitors should not be able to choose their own start times. E.g. CompassSport Cup, Area Championships.

The group discussed the framework which defines what is required for different levels of events.

**ACTION: TS to look at previous Rule Change Forms to see if anything else should be considered by the group for inclusion in the current revision of the rules.**

## Major Event Feedback for 2023

GL circulated a document ahead of the meeting which was a summary of the feedback received from Major Events in 2023 potentially affecting the rules. No specific proposals were received but the group reviewed the summary produced by GL.

Rows 1 & 2 should be addressed by DM's work on age class allocation to courses.

Rows 3 & 4 **ACTION: GL to suggest new wording around start time intervals in Appendix A**

Row 5 The group discussed the interpretation of Appendix A 3.8.2 "The best ranked 20 premier class competitors on a course, irrespective of class" and agreed that a clarification is needed. It was agreed that seeding aims to separate those runners in each class who are likely to be podium finishers. Therefore, the rules should specify that seeds should be taken from the top ranked competitors in each class rather than those on the course, irrespective of class.

**ACTION: DM to produce a proposal for wording around selection of seeds on each course.**

Row 9 Discussion around the size requirements of numbers at punching stations. TS pointed out that the rules should not be dictated by equipment suppliers nor favour one supplier over another. It was agreed that since the IOF rules mirror the current BOF rules that a change would not be considered unless IOF changed their rules.

Row 10 It was agreed that there could be clarification of the sign off process for risk assessments. TS suggested that the group could consider developing or commissioning documents which much more clearly define the roles & responsibilities of controllers, organisers and planners. Particularly which officials have the final say.

**ACTION: 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.**

## BOF policies

- The group discussed the proposal that M/W10, 12 A and B should this just be White, Yellow and Orange at both BOC and BMOC. It was felt that perhaps recommended distances would be more appropriate than winning times.
- Transgender eligibility policy – PH shared the policy.

## AOB

1. Minimum control separation for sprint races. It was agreed that we should follow the IOF rules which will clarify our rules. GN confirmed that this change has been included in the proposal for the current rule revision.
2. The group discussed the allocation of age classes to colour coded courses which affects Level B events such as the Area Championships. DM said that this work would follow his current work on the major championships.

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