

Event Cancelation

When shall be competitions voided?

Event cancelation guidelines



- IOF Rule 26.13
The organiser must stop, and postpone or cancel a race if at any point it becomes clear that circumstances have arisen which make the race dangerous for the competitor, officials or spectators.
- IOF Rule 26.14
The organiser must void a race if circumstances have arisen which make the race significantly unfair.
- IOF Rule 2.7
Sporting fairness shall be the guiding principle in the interpretation of these rules by competitors, organisers and the jury.

Guiding questions:

- Has the problem affected the results so badly that the race is no longer perceived as reasonably fair with credible results?
- Is it probable that the results will be challenged and the challenge upheld?
- Does the perceived unfairness outweigh the requirement to declare a result and celebrate the winners?

Some factors to be considered



- How many and what proportion of competitors were affected? A problem that adversely affected 10% or more of the field could be taken as an indication that the race may no longer be fair.
- Were the affected competitors potential medalists?
- How large and serious was the effect of the problem? A few seconds are more significant in a sprint than in a long distance race.
- What is the status of the competition (from WRE up to WOC)?
- Is it fair to competitors not affected by the problem to void the race?
- Which outcome would do least harm to the image of the sport?
- Could the competition be rescheduled at a time fair to the competitors, organisers and IOF?
- Was the problem an organiser error or was it something outside of the organiser's control?

There is no single factor to consider to void a competition

Some examples 1/2



- Halfway through a race, a wildfire starts that is likely to affect the competition area.
 - Stop the race on safety grounds and void the race.
- In the final, a gate in a high fence which should be open is unexpectedly locked. Some say they lost up to 30 seconds because a) it confused them and b) it took quite some time to climb over it.
 - If this was the same for everybody:
This is unfortunate but the results should stand.
 - If there was an alternative equal route choice:
This renders the competition unfair. It must be voided.
- In the sprint final, two of the leading runners lose a minute because a narrow alleyway is completely obstructed by a party of tourists.
 - This is unfortunate but the results should stand.

Some examples 2/2



- After most of the starters have set off in the WOC Long final, there is a sudden downpour and a stream near control 1 which the runners must ford becomes very dangerous so the organiser prevents the last six runners from starting for their own safety.
 - The last 6 runners will be the fastest in the heats and therefore contain the likely medalists. 6 runners is 13% of the field. However, the problem is outside of the organiser's control and the remaining runners had a fair competition with a reasonably worthy winner. The results should stand with due recognition that some competitors were deprived of the opportunity to take part.
- When planning the WOC Middle final, an extra control was added at a rather late stage in the planning process. The last starter in the final is mistakenly given a map from a previous print run which doesn't show the extra control.
 - This is very unfortunate but the results should stand since there is still a worthy winner. A public apology must be made to the affected competitor.