



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Rakvere, Estonia

Date: 28-29 August 2013

Participants:

Sándor Tálás (ST) – chairman (HUN)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
Jan Cegiełka (JC) – member (POL)
Jiri Vransky (JV) – member (CZE)
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)

Invited

Michaela Gigon (MG) – representing the Athletes' Commission
Ludomir Parfianowicz (LP) – representing the Polish Federation

Excused

Magnus Wallenberg (MW) – member (SWE)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 7pm on Wednesday 28 August

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved.

3 Approval of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (Helsinki, January 2013) had been approved by e-mail and no further amendments were made.

4 Matters arising from the minutes and decisions taken since the last meeting

4.1 World Ranking rules were modified. Total score is calculated based on 4 best results.

4.2 The Annual Meeting of Orienteering Federations in Europe approved the establishment of European Youth MTBO Championships (M15-17 and W15-17) from 2015 every year, to be organised together with the EMTBOC in odd years and with the WMTBOC in even years.

The European Working Group did not support the introduction of the European Junior MTBO Championships, hence it was not discussed on the meeting.

4.3 World Championships 2014: the Council decided that based on the experience of the European Championships 2013 either the Polish Federation should change the organising team or they cancel the WMTBOC 2014. The MTBOC has decided that the cancellation of the World Championships is not in the best interest of the sport and thus unacceptable. On this basis the MTBOC supported the revised arrangements.

5 World Championships 2014

The MTBOC with LP as guest discussed the learnings of the EMTBOC 2013 and the preparation of WMTBOC 2014 under the changed organising team. It was recommended that the positions of national controller and the head of mapping are filled with non-Polish candidates. It was also agreed that the MTBOC will follow closely the developments of the organisation of WMTBOC 2014.

6 International Event Calendar

6.1 It was agreed that Portugal's application to host the WMTBOC in 2016 is fully supported.

6.2 It was also agreed that Hungary's and Portugal's applications to host World Cup rounds in 2015 are also fully supported. Portugal also applied to organise the EMTBOC in 2015.

7 Event advising and event quality

7.1 The event evaluation based on athletes' and teams' feedback was presented and discussed.

7.2 EA and organizers clinics were planned in Sweden in connection with the Oringen. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to low level of interest. The next clinic is planned in Portugal in October in connection with the World Masters MTBO Championships. A joint MTBO-FootO clinic is planned for March/April 2014 in Prague/Bratislava.

7.3 SEA report from World Cup 2014 in Sweden was discussed.

7.4 SEA appointments

- Current status:

WCup 2013 in POR (and WMMTBOC): Christian Gigon (SUI)

WCup 2014 in DEN: Tibor Erdelyi (HUN)

WCup 2014 in SWE: Ursula Hausermann (SUI)

WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2014 in POL: Simon Seger (SUI)

WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2015 in CZE: Marian Kazik, (SVK)

7.5 The next issue of the letter for EAs will be sent out in the autumn.

8 Rules and mapping standards

8.1 R14 – revision of IOF rules is an on-going project. The Council has decided to completely revise the team established in 2012. Currently the R14 team has no member with MTBO experience and there was no indication that there would be one invited later. The Chairman of the Council assured the MTBOC that there will be a possibility to comment on MTBO related rule changes.

8.2 Rule changes proposed from January 2014

8.2.1 Winning times equalised. Based on the request from the Athletes Commission the winning times for women will be equal to men in all formats and age groups. Winning times for masters equal to that of Elite, for Juniors 20% shorter, and for Youth an additional 20% shorter.

8.2.2 Technical zone can be set up at the discretion of the organizer. Competitors may use equipment deposited before closing time (normally start time). No help can be provided to competitors even in the technical zone.

8.2.3 GPS enabled cycle computers and watches can be taken to the course, if they have no map screen or breadcrumb display.

8.2.4 Orange Start Group for 11 to 20 best riders is introduced for World Championships and World Cups on events when Red Group is used. Same principles apply as to Red Group.

8.3 It was agreed that the World Championships Long distance qualification rules are revised to allow for the possibility to qualify based on results on the results of the previous World Championships (Long), World Ranking, and the results of the on going World Championships (Sprint and Middle).

8.4 Touch free punching: SI has been active during the summer and lent out its new touch free system to organisers in different countries. So far the experience was positive, though there were several teething problems reported. It was clear that more experience needs to be gathered both by organisers and competitors before full approval of the system.

8.5 ISMTBOM review is on going to create a colouring system for rideability that can be used both in areas where off-road riding is normally allowed and where not. Recommendation is expected for January.

8.6 ISMTBOM Sprint standards: there was no visible progress in the ad hoc working group. The status to be checked.

9 Strategic development

9.1 High IOF sanction fees were identified as a strong deterrent to good organisers to apply to organise IOF events from World Championships to World Ranking Events. It was agreed to request the Council to lower the sanction fees by 50% in order to foster competition among organisers, and thus foster the development of MTBO events.

9.2 New formats for World Championships was discussed

9.2.1 The mixed sprint relay introduced on the EMTBOC was discussed. The format looked interesting, but it would require a very special area to make it challenging for the second loop riders. The number of participating teams can be increased to approximately 30 using some type of allocation method based on relay results of previous year. The inclusion of the format in the WMTBOC program was seen as premature.

9.2.2 The MTBOC agreed that an individual mass start event would be more desirable for World Championships with a winning time between current Middle and Long winning times (~75min). It could be also the main event to provide qualification opportunity for the Long final.

9.3 Long distance score event working group made little progress. Miroslav Rygl was agreed as new leader. The plan is to develop rules to be tested in the 2014 season with the objective to stage a World Cup series soon after.

9.4 Broader geographic base: the USA team has indicated their interest to step up MTBO development effort in the US. It was agreed that the focus of the development effort in the Americas should be shifted from South to North America.

10 Next meeting

The next commission meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland, on 17-18 January 2014.

The meeting closed at 16:00 on Thursday