

EMTBOC Poland



WMTBOC Estonia



World Cup Portugal



1. Event Programme

I prefer to have the "normal" relay as last event. It's a nice finish of the week racing in teams. The sprint relay could have been on the rest day like it was in Russia two years ago. But of course it was good to have a spare day for the women's extra sprint. Anyway that isn't something we should expect to happen and leave space for in the program. Rest day was originally scheduled well. But due to cancellation of Women sprint ==> women had no rest day! It was good that the elite class was able to ride alone in the forest most of the time. But because of the canceled sprint race there was no rest day for the women elite class. Two teams from each country have to be allowed to participate in mix-relay event.

I think organizing mix-relays in the last day of the whole race week is a bit nonsense - most members of each national team don't have the possibility to race. Cegiela was defending with argument, that it is because of safety..well, I didn't see too much safety on the street next to the stadium, where the finish was-there is one of many concrete examples, just a few decades of seconds before the second and third team was coming, a car was allowed to pass the street against the direction of riders!!

Maybe it would be better to change the order of relay and mixed sprint relay. It's more spectacular and interesting if the event is closed with the relay competition!

Rest day may not be needed as there are so many sprints

I prefer the relay as the last event. And a rest day after only a sprint and a middle isn't really making that much sense.

Suggestion to forthcoming program: Sprint - long - rest day - middle - relay.

I like it when the world champs end with the relay, and I don't think a rest day is needed so much after a sprint and a middle distance.

I don't think we absolutely must have a rest day. It's getting more and more expensive to participate and some athletes pay for themselves. If 4 competitions 4 days in a row is too hard, then

Very fine areas and courses especially middle and long for masters.

Some map errors should not have been present.

Relay for masters was missing :-)

For me I have the pleasure to read and to see the other French biker from the time elite.

And the best was in Hungary with all the world champion ship (young, elite, master) = a big fest for the MTBO.

Having both World Cup and masters together is preferable in many ways. More people at the arena, more options to travel together etc etc.

I didn't notice the World Cup participants at all except for during the Sprint, but no problems.

The recommended order of the competition is the middle distance, sprint and long-distance.

No long-distance before sprint!!

In programme is printed: Tuesday 8th October 09.00-19.00: Opening Hours of the Event Office in Grândola (EC) 10.00-15.00: Training event but when we went Tuesday ~ 09:30 to the Event Office it was closed. However, we found a girl who showed brand new Bulletin 4; opening Hours is 14:00-19:00! After the

that are almost rest days.

No restday for girls.

I'm not sure whether mixed relay should be in the program. Aside from re-race for Women's sprint, no problem with programme.

No rest day for the woman because of the repetition of the sprint, but I found the original plan good.

Sprint relay at the end is not a good choice. Many teams left EOC before, lot of people has to spend extra expensive day here for nothing.

On the both relays, the open competitions started so close in time to the EMTBOC races, so it was difficult to coaches to do a good job and also participate. The map standard of the last days open sprint was under critic, including unmarked impassable water and unmarked private area with mad people violating rides.

The rest day was too late in a week. And in general there are too many races. How is it possible for anyone to race 5 days out of 6 in general? Due to a repeated race, women had to race without a rest day (so 6 races in a row?!), which is even harder to imagine or survive.

The rest day was originally well scheduled but all women had to re-race the Sprint and that was not at all a good thing.

Long and Long with mass start is better combination than Long mass and Sprint Mixed Relay.

We didn't have rest day, so it is hard to value it. Planning was good but performance was really tough for me - 6 disciplines in 6 days.

Mixed relay should be the first competition, not the last one.

There was no rest day for women elite because of sprint event repetition.

I think that it would be better with the sprintmix-relay in the beginning.

No programme is good when you have to change it because of organization error.

The rest day for W21 was denied because of the new sprint

the athletes must choose which competitions they prefer to take part in.

I prefer to have Relay as the final-event.

In the first part of the Week there were no open events and no spectators...

Nothing negative to point out.

Relay Races should be at the last day.

Maybe open race at all competitions?

exercise ~14:30 we went to the Event Office to get numbers information etc. ...but without avail. Officers said not today ... until tomorrow!?!? Why change, why we didn't get information on Tuesday?

There will always be some participants who will feel affected. And if we want spectators for the World Cup, it might be divided more. For example in middle distance the course planning could have been done better regarding this; world cup participants (at least women) coming down a speedy downhill and master coming up the same way, which could have generated dangerous situations. Still we not are more compete. It's perfect to be in same track.

In my opinion it is always dangerous and unfair to put master and elite riders in the same forest at the same time! If you are behind a master in a single trail up- or downhill you will lose a lot of time. On the other side it's dangerous, I nearly crashed with three master riders because they were standing at the controls and reading maps...

I think it's not a good idea to start the races at the same time.

I think that the order must be sprint, middle, long.

On small tracks Masters and WCup riders should be separated, e.g. Elite in the morning, Masters in the afternoon. There were times when our paths crossed and I had to move out of the way, but I also think that it prevented the masters from cheering the elite riders at the finish.

I think Long should be last, but maybe just a

competition. As we discussed at the commission meeting, the mix relay sprint is placed wrong. It should either start the championship or be placed on the rest day. Bad luck that we had to rerace the sprint on the rest day, but it wasn't the worst distance to rerace when we had to. ;)

personal preference. Some Masters had no control downhill or/and in corners, so I had a crash with one of them on middle.

## 2. Event Centre

The staff was quite responsive. The infrastructure was there, but had its problems. Free internet seemed to have its problems at first, worked quite well in the end, although only in the main building and not everywhere inside there either. There wasn't enough staff on the first day when people were coming to the accommodation and it seemed to stay a bit short. One guy from the organizers staff, with a broken knee, had to do almost everything himself to get us sheets and towels to our cabin. I think, staff tried to do their best. They were very competent and helpful but too few to make a good overall work with no mistakes. Few people are involved. Most of the staff of EOC was good. Internet connection was collapsing some time. Very poor internet connection. It was almost impossible to get in contact with the event manager, but the other staff personnel were very helpful. Staff were often very very busy. There were some issues about the staff because they did not work like a team. Sending 2 mails without answer to event office and event director First of all i Bulletin 3 it said that we would have WiFi i our houses. We didn't have it and the one at event center didn't always work. And the staff didn't know a word English so the communication with them was hard. There should have been a free internet access also in the accommodation that we booked (the staff said just that the wifi will reach 40m from the main building, which was not the case..). And the internet worked sometimes well, sometimes it didn't work at all. Staff (event secretary at least I guess) was trying to be very helpful, but there so much you can do when the hotel wasn't co-operating.. The staff in the event center did a really good job but sometimes the organization was a bit late and it took long to get the start lists and further information. The stuff was not 100% competent, but it was very helpful In the beginning we had the feeling, that they didn't know exactly what they have to do, but it improved much

Some problems with communication because some of the staff's at the arena had a bad English. I was never in the event center. Great organization. No internet in EC. Very eager staff and very helpful. Nothing to put a finger on! Hardly ever have I seen such friendly, helpful and competent staff who did their job with a lot of enthusiasm. Some very creative ideas at the EC as well! Vote 10/10 for the staff, the best ever.

Weren't really there, but seemed ok, except English-skills were lacking a bit from time to time. Staff very helpful. It was a problem that the last bulletin came very late, and there generally were problems with the internet access on many hotels. Also irritating that the announced opening of the event center at Tuesday the 8/10 was postponed , but not a major problem. Very nice and helpful people and a big applause to the cycle mechanic, he was the most helpful man I have met for a long time. Well organized. I think there was access to internet. I think good wifi is preferable but not always easy to provide. We found it difficult to get wifi access in any of the 3 centres used at WMMTBOC I did not find

during the week and the event office was very helpful. the infrastructure was ok, but the staff was not competent enough. Also it would be good that for such big events the organizing committee should be bigger. Internet is not at hard detail to fix. Organizers may bring an extra wifi router or two. For media, it is absolutely crucial to have good connection. There may also be an idea of setting up a real press center inside the event center. Please ask me for some ideas how this can be done if you like. At World champs in Ski-O this winter, we made news TV-reports from all distances available all over the world (including nordic channels who broadcasted news reports and kazakh, bulgarian, russian and estonian TV thanks to working internet and a small press center. Staff: Very helpful, but most of the time they also didn't knew what was going on... :-( Big problems with most things during the first days. Towards the end of the week a few things improved. WLAN was quite slow and not always working when many people used it. The internet access was very unstable, but it was the problem of the hosting facility! free internet access didn't work every time well In some cases staff felt a bit unprepared, but they found the solution quickly and were really helpful. There was no internet access in houses as was written in the bulletin The problem in the staff was the organization lack, I think that they were people whom they knew to work but they did not leave them to make. There were no national flags anywhere hanged honourably. There was no decent award ceremony place. All took place in a not that big parking lot, with the cars and with people passing by with their domestic worries. (in the middle of accommodation, in a parking lot) - so no decent and honourable place for the flags and award ceremony. And no rising of the flags while the anthem was being played. Just the winners flag was being lifted from horizontal to vertical on a wooden stick by hand. Wifi was really POOR!

internet access. Didn't think it was available. arriving in Grandola by train for me was very difficult to find the event center, was not in the sport area, but near in the fest area, not enough marked from there. Was well marked only from highway. Some questions was not answered... fully up ! :) I ask, why do not we have received written instructions? The only written instructions for hanging from the ceiling in the Event Office. The pictures of bulletin 4 were very very unclear! Absolutely miserably, pitiful From what I heard the opening times of the EC were not as published. All the people from the Portuguese staff was pleasant (no stress). Thanks for this beautiful week!

### 3. Accommodation and food

Didn't use organiser accommodation but we were provided with electric and showers for our housecar at a very good price. We decided not to use organiser accommodation due to higher than normal costs. Portugal accommodation was no good and the food it was very expensive. Food was much cheaper in the restaurants in town, so we ate there. Accommodation was OK but quite expensive for that kind of standard. Camping house with very little space for 30€ per person. There was too less space in the rooms and in

We always had to fight to get enough food. On the first day they had enough to feed the double amount of people but on most of

There were several hotels listed, but all at very different places. It is always nice not

the whole cottage for so many people. There was no desk and chairs to sit indoors. It was only possible to sit outside of the house. The food package was way too expensive! We only had it one day because there was the same food in the morning and in the evening. The lunch was good but the warm part of the dinner didn't reach for all of the people. As participation in championships was self-financed, not all of our team members could afford to stay in organisers provided accommodation, so I should solidarize with my team. Therefore I provide only partial feedback including bike storage I used during team leader meetings. Prices were just crazy. I did not live at the accommodation for that reason. I rent a good hotel-standard room in a guesthouse in the village for 700 pln for 7 days. Like many other, I did also have all my meals on restaurants in the village, as it was much cheaper than the food provided. First days due the wedding the A accommodation could not sleep well and there were a lack of food also. Accommodation was good, food too. But too expensive. The value/money ratio could be better. The prices were not reasonable. As always is with the organizer Jan Cegielka. Prices are always higher for orienteers than directly via the accommodation place. This is why we stayed at different place, sacrificing the common atmosphere of being together for a twice cheaper and actually better quality accommodation. I did not stay in the official accommodation, my answers are irrelevant! Food in the event centre was too expensive There was a wedding party in A-accommodation - loud music did not allow many people to sleep before 4.35 AM one night. There was heavy rainfall last night. A lot of water started coming into the room. Bike storage was filled with organiser's stuff during competition days and it was no longer possible to fit all the bikes into crammed room. One of our team members got injured due to lack of space in bike storage. We paid 30 euro each person a day to eat unhealthy food for lunch and bread, low cost ham with preservatives, cucumbers, tomatoes and sausages every night. Disgusting. Bike storage was in the front court yard closed with a door that everyone with a minimum of power could easily open. 2-days wedding, ending the night before model event was unacceptable. OUR TEAM OPTED TO MAKING ITS PROPER FOOD, WAS CHEAPER AND WITH THE ADVANTAGE TO EAT WHAT THE ATHLETES NEED FOR THIS KIND OF RACES. Beside the wedding party there was no capacity for the Sunday evening food be served to competitors. Rooms for 2 persons were very small in the cottages, not standard B. The accommodation cabins were unsatisfactory, the upstairs rooms had 3 beds in there, but there wouldn't have been possibility to accommodate a third person in such a small room. We had to ask for the sheets and towels. The kitchen was OK as was the bathroom. The downstairs room for 3 persons seemed cramped too. The lunch was OK, but the dinner had its problems: not enough, no hot food at first and after that

the other days you did not get enough if you were not among the first at the queue. Our accommodation wasn't bought via the organizers We didn't use any of the organizer's accommodation though. Very nice with lunch at the competition area. Though being in red start group it would have been nice to be able to get it/or some food before the race. Food at the hotel was nice - and there was enough - most of the days. The sitting area for the banquet was to small Lodging was a bit too simple, however pretty expensive. Bike store was too small. But the food was superb. None! Art Hotel were very accommodating in the team needs. We were well looked after in both comfort and catering. We were in the Vacation School because there were not enough rooms in the three hotels of the city. We saved a lot of money

to be spread to much, to see other competitors. But of course it is not always possible to find enough beds at one place. No rating on food and accommodation since it was outsourced. I have had my own hotel reservation. Zeltplatz in Alcazer do Sal. We don't take the accommodation because we find another solution not so expensive. You have no vegetarian foods :( Actually I lived with most Danes in hotels far away (> 50 km) from the event center, hence the irritation regarding late bulletin 4 and

just a few choices. Price for the food seemed high because of the problems. I think people would gladly pay the same amount if the food was plenty and there were more choices. Bike storage didn't seem too reliable, we had plenty of room for bikes inside in the cabin lobby. We stayed separately, not in official accommodation. The only meal I can value is banquet - that was excellent! Food too expensive I don't like when organizers seem to have bought up all available accommodation and sell it to almost double price compared to normal to competitors. The food was miserable especially when we paid 30 euros a day which is a huge amount in Poland. Dinner was just a second breakfast when the high price made us expect a high standard proper dinner. In World Championships in Poland 2008 the food was excellent, but after that it has almost always been bad in Poland, why? (if we had paid half price, i.e. 15 euros a day I wouldn't have complained and seen the dinner as just an evening snack) We had booked B2 Rooms. house #9 no place to place clothes than the bed There was no indoor dining room (no chairs, no table) -- we had good luck that it was not raining in the morning. We had booked catering for 1 day, after teamleaders meeting was no more warm food available. after some discussions an extra portion was cooked, but it didn't reach for all. Catering was not worth of 30€/day/person! We have had own food and stored the bikes in our car. Lived in a housecar. Very satisfied with the help from the organisers with the help for this. in the camping houses were only one shower and toilet for 10 people, no w-lan, no possibilities to sit inside the hut nor to cook and little space to deposit things - luckily the weather was good and we could use the outside possibilities. we tried official food one day: not bad, but it was not enough to serve each participant accommodation and food far too expensive for this quality! Accommodation description was false. You can't say accommodation has wifi when you have to go to event center for it. You also can't say 2 person room with shower and bathroom when it means that they are shared with 3 rooms. Sofa is not a bed. First 2 evenings there where only slice of bread for dinner and some didn't get even that. Still it cost 30e per day. No cleaning at the rooms during the Whole week! Regarding the food it wasn't made for athletes, for sure. Pretty much the same for breakfast and dinner! Lunch = ok! We didn't use the bike storage. The descriptions of the accommodation in the first bulletins was a bit misleading, we thought that we had booked a hotel and it turned out to be a camping house (not with 2 person rooms with own shower/toilet but 6 person camping house with 1 toilet and shower) The lunch was ok and there was enough of it but the dinner was more like the breakfast and at the first nights there definitely wasn't enough of food for everyone. Later on the week the food improved a bit. 240e/person for a week in a 6 person cottage is definitely too much and 30e a day for food i would expect a bit more than 2 breakfasts and a lunch

but we would have wanted a better accommodation. Rooms were tiny and only one toilet for six people. Food is always almost finished when we went to dinner after the technical meeting...it happens very often that the time of dinner is the same of the meeting. Bike storage's door was always open 24h/24h, at ground floor with ridiculous windows, easily openable. We didn't use organisers accommodation. Quality of the food was ok in general, however hotel staff did not prepare enough for all athletes (Hotel Wesenbergh). Finns used Nurga külalistemaja for accommodation which was a good choice for us. We had a few days, where the accomodation hadn't prepared enough food. They didn't have enough food for everyone on two days. The room service was not good. Only the

changed opening hours.  
No accommodation and no food used.  
Not applicable as arranged ourselves.  
We organised our own accommodation and food, which was good.  
We used our own accommodation.  
The Banquet Food was poor.  
Poor value in comparison to general prices in Portugal - small amount & little choice (especially for vegetarians).  
Didn't use, stayed at hotel Monte Xisto - everything was fine there.  
Have no opinion on food at the arena or other hotels.

in Poland. About the bike storage i can't say anything because we took our bikes inside the camping house (frustrated with the organisation). I don't think it's okay that there wasn't enough food at dinner in the first afternoon, so that only few and the fastest athletes got spaghetti and bolonese. Anyone could come to the bike storage and pick my bike. After first night I rather had my bike at our flat. The prices were for the provided quality of food and accommodation too high! Beds were very bad. Also showers and tap were unfunctional. Food was quite ok but you can't eat "breakfast" at every meal. The lunch was overall good standard but you don't pay 30 euro to eat potatoes every day. You could go downtown and eat much better food at much lower price, so why is the price so extremely high?

rubbish was taken away.  
Housecar - no accommodation/food used.

#### 4. Transport

Most of the competitions was near the EC, on the same field. So there was no problem to find it. Parking on middle distance was horrible. There were no signs from Krasnobrod City Center to the Event Center, so it was difficult to get there for the first time! We found everything what we need :). The greater challenge was to find event center (no any sign in city center). Signposting for the middle distance started only very close to the race center. With only the map in the bulletin it would have been rather difficult to find it. All other races were so close to the event center that signposting was not needed. It wasn't that easy to get to middle distance (thanks for the GPS-nav) and no organizers to guide there when we came. Just barely space to get to parking field over the ditch. Parking at finish quite crowded too. Good thing was most of the races were near the EC. There were no decent signs to the champs areas. An orienteering flag is enough for a weekdays organized mass orienteering event, but not for a championship. There wasn't anywhere, even in the village of the event centre, any posters, any signs, any plaques saying there is a European championship held here. The parking spaces sometimes were just funny - a little piece of land with no decent entrance, scary to brake a car (in the middle distance), no sign it is a parking lot, no people helping to park (for our car the event director was doing it!)  
The prestart arena was not completely signed in the terrain on middle distance competition there were no signs to find to the event office and the official accommodation.

Not too many signs but information on the bulletins were ok. Just the Middle..

Some signs could have been more visible, overall the signs were good. Signposts could have been bigger. Parking wasn't always that well organised (in long distance area) but luckily everyone could fit their cars there. Hardly any signposting. One without GPS or own map had hard times. Map handout to the venues would have been beneficial. Middle a little short and long a little long for women elite

Would be easier for to get addresses, as my GPS can't take coordinates Better information on the competition centre in the the bulletin. Release of the last bulletin at least 2 weeks before the competition or give a written bulletin at the check-in. I'd prefer to have a simple map in the Bulletin showing the way to the finish arenas. Had no issues following the signs, although some basic directions might have been useful as a backup. All that was provided was GPS coordinates. It was difficult to find the Long Distance location for

Only necessary to travel to middle distance. Minimal sign posting/ directions. Other days no problem. Very little marking, but easy to find anyway. It worked out, but for middle distance, it was with a feeling of unconsciousness we took off from the main road with not very much of signs on it. Sign was CP flag and 8x8cm arrow. Parking was not organised. only middle Distance race was outside. Parking at finish area was more or less chaotic Poor indicated way to arenas, especially in middle race. It was good to have most competition just near the event center. No signs but good description to the locations.

based on winning times but times felt ok when out in forest. Parking not always very good but OK.

friends and supporters who came later to cheer at the finish No problem. There were signposts & GPS coordinates. But we are orienteers - a map is much more useful to me.

## 5. Feedback on different competitions

relay: results at a bad place, not all results of the woman on the screen Middle: First control in middle was bingo. That brought many riders to a pack already on first control. Most of riders in the top 20 rode in a pack. Butterfly would have been very suitable. Long Massstart: In a massstart event the last 10 percent of the course should be the same for everybody. And different loops should have about the same length. It has to be avoided that two riders from the same nation have the same course with same forking (e.g. Svoboda+Hradil, CZ; Simoes+Ferreira POR) Sprint unsafe with traffic and children. Also there were too many competitors at the same time with small bridges and etc. Middle unsuitable terrain with bad map. Can't have mass start long with only 1 ident per control. Long maps didn't have numbers on back to check and numbers on inside were different than the racenumber. Relay terrain was ok but map bad. Some maps had 2 last controls with other crossed out some just had 2 different last controls! Course planning on all events was based too much on cutting through terrain that wasn't good for bike riding. That made for a lot of broken bikes. Sprint: No shelter in finish area; too much riding off the tracks Middle: Not all paths on the map; classification of the paths sometimes not

Forbidden area markings on sprint map and terrain clearly wrong. Middle map really difficult to read as course was too long for single map. Would have needed a mapchange. There is no need to put controls in the same line with other parts of the course. Relay terrain a bit too small for relay. Courses and forbidden areas made a feeling that coursesetter was trying to make traps for competitors. There was a rumor that in relay one control was moved during competition. The spectators control in the Long was quite dangerous as riders were coming from both directions (and coming down the hill fast) and going away in both directions, some were reading the map or grabbing a bottle, turning their bike etc. It was only with luck that no serious crashes happened. The competitors' bottles at the refreshment point in the Long (at spectators control) were too close to each other and on a much too small table. I don't agree with the jury's decision to disqualify all the riders who rode through OOB for some metres in the Sprint. It's clearly the organiser's fault if the percentage of disqualified riders is so high, and the competitors shouldn't be punished for that. As an organiser (or also a jury member) you have to

use a dot in the exact position of control in the map (Symbol: 840) I did not had a start quarantine but the warm-up area looked okay. Middle distance a lot of glass was on the ground. The finish quarantine in the sprint for masters did not look fair. Everybody could walk through it and talk with the riders. Bulletin 4 too late and possible to access from my accommodation In middle there was some confusing fences that were drawn wrong in the map (or left out) near control number 6. and some paths that were not totally correct. Elite courses looked a lot



suitable Long: Number of the maps not the same as the startnumbers --> no control if you have the right map Relay: No shelter in start/finish area; chaos with the two last controls --> see Danish women Mixed Sprint Relay: Dangerous around the spectator control/finish FAIRNESS (or lack of it): \* Competitors were not informed that sprint location was changed 2 days before the race. \* Gate closed in women's sprint - race nullified. \* CP3 in ~50 meters in wrong place in men middle. CP was on right road, but one route choice was to approach CP with cut through forest. Many people did mistakes. \* Middle - hand drawn corrections on the map. Fallen trees drawn differently for maps of different competitors. \* Long - stupid forking in the beginning (S-1-2 vs S-2 (directly), where 50% of competitors got the opportunity to follow the competitors of another forking. \* Relay - several hand drawn corrections on the map. For Danish women, there were two last controls. Corrections were drawn differently, than for other teams. Denmark lost medal there. START: Sprint - men - 1st CP visible from start. Sprint - start delayed by 10 minutes. Middle - no K-point - map error right at start. Most people started confused. Long - start delayed. Confusion with map numbers (not according to bib numbers). Relay - start on too steep slope, where 1st leg had to run. ALL RACES: \* Mistakes on the maps on all races. \* A lot of trash on the tracks, which resulted in many broken bikes. \* A lot of ambiguous tracks were used, which were not mapped correctly. \* Several fastest route choices included 'cut through forest' - passability and land forms were mapped poorly. \* Several good and stable competitors failed because of unfair or lottery conditions. the marshals didn't take their job serious! there were many dangerous situations on the roads/junctions because the marshals didn't stop the

be aware that as a rider in the middle of a competition - when you're fully focused on your race and riding at high speed - you can't see things as you see them sitting at your desk. I don't understand how it can happen that a control is moved during a competition (as it happened in the Relay). It would help if there were confetti or something similar on the ground by the control so at least there would be something left if the control is stolen.

The sprint forbidden area mistake was bad, in the long distance the controls where you could bring your own bottles were not ideal for the race (after 10% and 90% of race), the relay terrain maybe not ideal for relay, after the relay there was a rumour that one of the 1st controls in the 1st leg was in the wrong place and it was moved.. not enough toilets at sprint start. There was also no possibility to use the forest as it was in the middle of town. I did not start at the long. :(

Some maps were hard to read specially control 8 for middle distance. On all maps it was difficult to read the contour lines. If some area are forbidden during a race it could be good if the organizer put a line on the terrain.

For relay a control was at the wrong place for the first leg and at the good for the last leg. This is not fair!!

The sprint race it seems to me not the most fair race, the first starts had been sufficiently wronged in relation it the second half of competitors. the difference of final times was well visible gotten by the first athletes in the sprint race, the same did not passed in the other races, the conditions in terrain not suffered great alterations during the race like the sprint. Not the ideal conditions to a

better especially for the long with far better route choice legs. Middle area was compromised by position of the finish with the long flat simple area to finish especially on the older shorter courses. A remote finish in the terrain would of been better. Sprint area was not really suitable in my opinion. Cont 83 and 38 on same track just 50 m from each.. its stole me maybe the gold !!

- Once more the courses in the Masters classes were mostly much too short!

- Some courses (e.g. W60 in the Middle distance and the 2nd part of the Sprint in W50) were not challenging.

- There was no need to have a start interval of only 1 minute in the Sprint for the female Masters because there weren't a lot of participants.

- I don't think it's a good idea to have the same start list on the first and third day but just in

cars or even make them to slow down! in many parts of the sprint and long distance it was a stupid course setting because there were small tracks with contraflow and even in many turns there were dangerous situations. The terrain for middle didn't seem too appropriate at the end. No other possibilities than to ride it through with people you came into it together. Sprint-terrain for men was OK, the original plans seemed worse. For ladies no that much of a sprint as cutting through -exercise. Long terrain OK. Sprint relay a bit easy because of already used terrain and in easier parts of it. Long distance did not offer long route choices due to the mass start and the one-man-relay system. The city of Zamosc wasn't suitable for the sprint race, but the new area at the event centre was good. Finish area did not offer shadow. Crossing of the ME and WE directly at the start line in sprint, wasn't necessary, one could have changed the start slots to avoid this. Very Little atmosphere and quite primitive courses, except the middle distance. Very bad relay map/course drawing. Don't have a visible map start from time start. Don't have more than one control on the same track (between 2 crossings). Have approximately the same length of the gafflings. Make the marshalls at the start be as quiet as possible. One control in wrong position in women long distance race, the one on the valley. The sprint was a dangerous race. No marshals, route choices on unstoped vehicled roads. Lucky that only one competitor was hit by a car and it was without injury. On the long and sprint relay there was a little improvement, but still no signs and prewarning for cars, only few marshals. Dangerous crossing of the public road near the stadium. On the relay - mix of public corridor and obligatory route from last control to finish. With no marshals again. Luckily there was

world champs. About the long distance i did not leave mi feedback because i was one of the athletes code not participate whit this new stupid model. It is not just for the athletes. start area was not quiet in middle and long Sprint: out of bound areas shouldn't be a trap Relay: Control No. 33 was on wrong place and moved after first leg to the right place! The race had to be cancelled by a hair's bread!

1. Too much control points in the grass tracks. Impossible to read the map on the bike in some parts of the terrain. Foot-O will be faster.
2. Middle needs the changing of the map. Configuration is interesting for runners but not suitable for bikers. Slow speed and stopping. Because of these one competitor may catch the other one and as a result the "trains" at the finish.
3. Wrong position of the first control in relay(33). Then removing of the flag to another place. Very bad.
4. Too long prestart quarantine times for red group. Impossible to spend 2-3 hours before start for 3 days sitting at one place and to show your best. The results from the M20 and W20 should have been put on wooden display boards as well, like the men/women elite. It seemed kind of lame that it was on a tiny piece of paper. Map printing in sprint dubious ... white area around OOB led to 50 competitors DSQ. In sprint could have marked forbidden area in terrain as specified in bulletin. Maybe make a finish quarantine zone, so the late starters (red startgroup) dont have to be in the start quarantine zone for a really long time. relay: one control was at the false track (just for the first leg) relay: I found it good, that it was allowed to do the warm up on the map from the model. in the

reverse order. Bad use of terrain on middle (not technical), bad big screen (small resolution, too little GPS, too much focus on random Portuguese riders!), bad map for middle (I noticed 4 major errors in path's), glass shattered all over middle warm up-area. I was very disappointed that the course lengths for my class were very short. Many competitors times were much shorter than the estimated winning time in all 3 disciplines. I travelled a long way from Australia for the events, trained very hard for the event and my courses were far too easy. I did enjoy the terrain and maps, but would like to see winning times (longer courses) that properly challenged us. We W50s are very fit ladies and would like to have appropriate challenges. Courses for W60 too short, especially the middle!

only competitors and they know how to behave in such situations... Middle: Making a proper map in the middle area is almost impossible with all the forest work. Southern part was OK, but why use so much in the north? No toilet paper at the toilets at start. Long: Last fork was 3 min different (average of Top10 girls). It's not nice to have the longer one on the 2nd loop, especially because of the steep climb there. This time I was on the lucky side and had the long one first. Ideal route to/from 3rd last control went on a nice single trail - quite dangerous because you have people pushing the bike uphill against full speed downhill riders on a very narrow track. No toilets. Relay: Dangerous situations in finish run in because spectators and other riders blocked it sometimes. Map was really poor in some parts. Having crossed out controls at the European Champs should really not happen!!! Mixed Sprint: Area was too well known to the girls.

On 2nd loop no orienteering was necessary anymore, even I who didn't ride the 2 Sprints knew most of it. Too different forks, too long parts with just riding and no thinking. Very sharp corner over pavement in the finish run in. Ideal route to 1st control went through private garden which was marked 50% yellow on the map! No toilets. Sprint was 10 min late! At long in the beginning there were too little stations to punch! The finish area was unsuitable (small, not even talking about any atmospheres, no place to sit, socialize, get rest, no shelters) in the middle distance! At the long distance, which was a mass start, the riders of the same nation were given the same courses! - that is certainly not fair!

"not ideal" for the long distance is only because there were required 2 stations on couple of first CP's. Terrain for mixed sprint relay should have more

relay 1 control in the wrong place fairness in sprint not ideal because of the forbidden area which was not clear in the race (even if prewarned) For my opinion, in middle, (long) and relay competition, there were too many controls on the course. O-technical challenging courses are really fine, but it should not be that all distances becoming a long sprint competition. Relay had most troubles: a bit too packed start-finish-area, a control in wrong place, terrain broken into many pieces by forbidden areas. It worked out just perfect:) Relay control in wrong was unfortunate, but does not alter the overall picture of a great WOC All good except for the control in the relay that had been moved. I think one little mistake on the long map: there was a track (control 43) going through between two tracks. in the map it is marked as a short and ending track. It did not look that it was created by shortcutting competitors. the arrangement of the spectators control and the ride-in to the finish was very dangerous. I had to stop not to produce a crash! the crossing point was surrounded by hedges. at the start quarantine on middle, and long distances I cannot find any water. and the warm up area on middle dist. was not ideal. every quarantine should contain at least 500-1000 m staright road. Start groups system is not fair. The estonian terrains with high grass and invisible narrow paths favors the last starters. With this start system by groups you could find slow riders (turkish, hungarians, americans, japanese) close to the red group just and for example in our case with 3 guys Giaime Origgi (13th last year in long) had to start as 19th. If we were 6 guys he could start in the late group as he deserved. In Sprint race the mowed paths in the beginning were not fair

Grading of tracks was often a little unreliable but I am not sure how much recent rain impacted on the sand conditions. Courses had too much climb & too little technical challenge (especially on Long). I spent too long in quarantine (and on all 3 days) - not really fair selection of starting order, but not a major issue. The courses for men 60 middle and sprint was too easy, they were rather for large children with almost none alternative choices. Furthermore it is very irritating that the length of long courses at every masters VM since the start in Poland in 2010 has been too short. This year it was won at 1.21 (81 min), this is definitely not a long course. Try to tell arranging clubs that old people may ride a bit slower, but our endurance is top, and if a long course should

details - no such long distances following a lake; in mass start races there should not be such a big difference between first and second loop; quarantine zones / finish area should provide shelter - we were just lucky to have good weather Terrain was good, map making was poor. The original sprint was dangerous due to only one minute start interval, men and women starting at the same time and a course where competitors were riding a lot in both directions on most paths and roads. It was also very unfair (specially women's second sprint) due to the good visibility in the forest and tricky navigation in combination with just one minute start interval. Also the middle distance was unfair due to a course setting (and not so good maps) where many competitors made big mistakes early in the race. That type of course would have needed a longer start interval. Generally many things seemed to be done in a hurry without paying enough attention to important things. The first sprint (in Krasnobrod) was actually very suitable for sprint and it was almost fun. The women's second sprint was in a not so suitable forest with not so good course (shortcuts after another in a forest where the tracks weren't too clear). The middle terrain was poor. Though there had been forest machines and rain, it would have still been poor terrain. Weird course also, first long legs and then 10 really short ones in a dense path network. And if the terrain is confusing and unclear at some parts organisers then shouldn't take the controls to that kind of area on the map. Now it seemed that they had been on purpose putting controls to bad areas on the map. The relay was better one than the ones before (map, course, terrain). It might have affected that the terrain was a bit clearer to the last starters. In the long distance the map was again not so good at some

because when we came back at the end of the race they were not any more narrow paths but highways...it's not fair! Mowed artificial paths created by the organizers are NOT FAIR at all! Even in the Middle distance there was a lot of difference in the ridability at the end. Long course for WE had no route choices, only an half one going to the 9th but 99% of the girls rode on the obvious one on the left. Too many tricky controls for a long distance and 3 long stupid legs with no route choices! The map was not suitable for a world long distance race. Dangerous situation directly after start at Sprint race with, construction work combined with low traffic on the road. I was a really good organisation. The sprint map was not printed correctly and a lot of competitors got disqualified even if there was a clear space on the map between the line and the building. This should not happen in world champs. If 50 riders are disqualified, there's clearly a lot that has been done wrong! 50 riders can't be wrong. A long way to ride on open field is not a fair choice from the route planner. On the middle distance probably the last riders could take big advantage of this, but I don't see it as a very big problem. The relay course was not very well suitable for the discipline. There were so many controls that the differences remained very small. Very much superb competitions. Maybe too much cross at the sprint, especially at the finish. I prefer relays in forest, but I think the semi-urban relay was well done after all. Control in a wrong place during Relay. I was met a car during sprint...in a fast corner. Too little quarantine zone during the Long. To the last control in middle we have to take the start corridor Much more place needed for warming up!!! Especially the middle

challenge our physics it must be at least 2 hours, or even longer. One only uses less than 1/2 the energy on a bike compared to running. Also look at sprints that was finished on less than 20 min.

1. In the map for M50 long distance an arrow covered a primary route choice!
2. The speaker was too dramatic and it should be a speaker who knows the World Cup riders.
3. The sprint courses I've seen were without any route choices.

I think the terrain and place was good, but the course setter too much for foot orienteering! 2 controls very close together with similar numbers on M50 long - 124 v 126, lots of competitors punched both or misspunched. Having a quarantine zone before start is not ideal. It makes the competition unfair if some participants have to wait 1 1/2 hour before starting

parts and I'm not sure if the terrain was good for one-man relay start. Generally acceptable/good. Final controls could have been on tables rather than in the grass at the extreme edge of paths. Issue with locked gate in sprint.

was a joke. Too many controls on the courses.

under less optimal conditions. Seek to avoid that in the future.

## 6. Maps

Maps was printed adequately to level of competition. Unfortunately, there was too many mistakes on each map. Unmapped roads, bad orientation of mapped roads, unmapped obstacles etc. Never heard so much complains to map quality as there. plastic maps for relay difficult The passage in the womens sprint maked the nr 4.. The maps changed for each day, used wrong symbol size for small roads, missed important information for shortcutting. paper of maps should be the same for any competition: water proof but foldable - the papaer of the model event would have been the best choice; @"clear where to pass": closed door in sprint (but, however, i'm just happy that the sprint did not take place where it was supposed to be); shortcut in (open) mixed sprint where land owner obviously didn't know, that the meadow next to his garden was considered to be ridable by the map drawers In he sprint and middle the priting quality it was very bad, the rest of the maps it was fine. The plastic material for the maps in relay and Long distance is not suitable for MTBO because it's very difficult to get it into the mapholder! Overprint was a joke because there was hand made repairs with a red pen in relay and in middle distance. In such terrain with lot of forest work the competitions should be concentrated on smaller parts of the forest (e.g. middle and relay could have been concentrated on the better half of the terrain with two loops. Maybe it can be helpful to organise middle and relay in the same terrain Almost all maps had another quality/paper. Waterresistant paper rather good, but the handling with it was miserable

On the middle distance in ME we had a control (nr 8) in the middle of direct line to control nr. 5, the solutuion that was used to cirkle the line (4-5) around control nr. 8, was not the best way, it would have been better to make a single point on the line and dra the point away from control nr. 8, so you would get a single angle on the line, instead of a cuved line. The paper quality and the color quality were very good. The sprint distance disqualifications were in my opinion a huge joke. Some riders did go far into the forbidden area and broke clearly the rules, but a big part of the disqualified riders rose close to the building where there was a clear opening on the printed map. I understand that it was a technical problem with the printing that made it look like there would be a gap even if there wasn't. But that is no excuse for what happened. 50 riders saw a gap on the left side of the building and took a route choice that seemed to be ok. Then the organizers say it should have been forbidden and disqualify these riders. I can't understand this! The whole forbidden area looked unnecessary and seemed to be there just to make a trap for the riders. Also in my

due to the dense path network in the middle I would have preferred 1:10'000 scale for all categories middle map was not correct in some parts The middle distance map had a lot of fails. A fence in the the terrain but not on the map. A lot of crossroads and junctions where the map not was as the nature. The scale 1:15000 is to small in masters classes >=50 for middle distance. OK in long distacne. fehlende Pfade, umgepflügt.... All maps were supplied in plastic bags. I feel this is not necessary in MTBO as nearly everyone has a map board with a clear cover. The extra layer of plastic only makes it harder to see, particularly for older competitors. Why you don't put a point at the

(very difficult to fold, you cannot perforate the map, the map reflects in the sun...) the plastic paper was difficult to put into the map holder in the right way and without problems. but otherwise the maps were good. The kind of plastic material that was used of the maps have been tested and not applicated in Scandinavia, for a reason. The printing shall not be able to get lost of the maps. Some discrepancy in new and old roads, pathes. Not always nomenclature was appropriate to reality. I didn't like the plastic maps (difficult to fold) Long distance map would not have stood up well to excessive handling - printed on plastic so ink will flake off after excessive use. Sprint maps not waterproof (due to late arrangements). Middle map the best. Waterproof, easy to handle. Most maps were too big for their need. Courses were considerably smaller than the map size. Added unnecessary printing costs. Controls in terrain ok (needed extra controls at first controls of long distance). it is difficult to fold the thick plastic map - so it was not ideal The maps were durable, but too "plasticity". No possibility to punch through the map. Lots of mistakes still in the maps and new changes sometimes unfair. In long, middle and relay maps were not correct. Maps were different from race to race in the same terrain or even in the same race on different loops or classes. Not up-to-date. Paths missing. Riding classification sometimes not as found in nature. Relay and long maps were too large and impenetrable. Middle map was too large. Map accuracy was poor. material for printing used for relay and long was unsuitable - too dense materia and not possible to punch the mapholders buttons through it. Also size of long distance map for ME course could have been smaller, as course did not covered all printed terrain. Maps of a very poor quality. The zamosc sprint map was very difficult to ride on. As mentioned the relay map was pretty much a scandal! It was unusual material for maps, and it was some problems to load them in mapholder. Details-details-details. The junctions and the "something on the road" signs are with

opinion this kind of significant forbidden area should be marked in the terrain. The rules say it has to be marked if it is an important forbidden area that could affect the race, this area clearly did do that. On the middle distance there should have absolutely been a crossing mark at every allowed crossing point over the road. There wasn't one on the way back from the northern part of the map, which led to minor confusion and insecurity for many riders. This was not a major problem in the race, but still something we don't want to see at the world champs! Too thick paper, it was difficult to fold and punch trough. Top dollar maps. Many paths had not the right ridability. You never knew if narrow paths were slow or "highways". The use of symbol of forbidden area was not appropriate. In long distance they signed as forbidden the road north but the bike path was allowed...they didn't tell it at the technical meeting and riding the bike it was not easy to understand that the bike path (from 9th to 10th in WE long distance) was allowed. Overprinting in long distance was HUGE. Forbidden area at sprint wasn't good to see in real Too many embargoed areas which were not marked good enough in the terrain. Especially in Sprint it easily happens that you ride faster than you can read the map and end up in an embargoed area where you should not be and this time it was too late. There was a little gap between houses and the other printed colours which actually made

middle of the control?  
With the point you don't have discussion - According to the rules the maps must be printed on water-resistant paper. Having the maps in a sealed plastic bag (which was difficult to open - no scissors) is not the same! - The scale in the Middle distance should have been 1:10'000 for all Master classes whose courses could be fit on an A4 format. - I understand that the maps for the trainings may not have the same standard as the competition map (i.e. they were quite poor). However, the map of the Model Event should have the same standard as the competition maps. How else can competitors learn about the mapping style? - The purple crosses shouldn't look towards the north but they should be aligned to the tracks. 1. Several overprinting and the idea with a plastic bag which was closed wasn't good. Uncrossable fences were very difficult to see. Four major errors in

whom I am not satisfied. Completely bad map on middle distance event (every tracks in first half were the same quality, made probably by tractor the day before) Mistakes in the map on sprint distance. If it is not possible to map an area correctly then you should simply not use it! Too much forest works in the middle distance area - its not possible to make a fair race there. Lots of extra tracks in the terrain that were not on the map. Relay map was very poor in some areas. Compare Long, Sprint and Mixed Sprint maps in the area around the hotel: Its drawn differently on each of them. I dont think they made daily actual maps for each race and that the area changed so much during the week. For the first time Jan managed to print the tracks over the circles and connecting lines. Unfortunately also the numbers, which should be upper purple went under the tracks, so that the numbers were almost unreadable in some places. Paper of Long, Mixed Relay and Relay was almost unfoldable plastic. Middle Distance paper was like model event and much better. Bad mapping on all maps. Paths missing, incorrect distances, and different maps of the same terrain on different days. Also all competitors didn't have same kind of course markins. We rode on parts of the same map 3 times, and they wernt alike at all (sprintx2 and long distance)! On the long distance there was a path missing on the one map with the first loop compared with the other map with the second loop. Next time please make sure that last minute changes on the maps are corrected on all maps (thinking on the relay danish maps)! The quality of the map on the relay was too strong, we could clip through it, otherwise it was fine. Generally maps were missing some paths and other were impossible to find. Interesting to see that when we used the same area for sprint, sprint really and long distance the track standard was different on the different maps over the same area! (can't change over one night?!) The sprint map was not mapped as there was no intention for the route choice we took, because the road was supposed to be crossed

distinguishing the houses from the rest of the map easier but it also looked like there was a gap between house and embargoed area. No matter what you say at team leaders meetings but competitors in competition mode don't think about last day's information anymore. I think that we have some difficult to read contour lines But without that, it was fantastic maps, adapted for each race and really interesting. Only a couple of missing tracks or unclear parts. Maps were really clear to read but courses were made so that it was difficult to see where to go next. Sprint - poor print with OOB Relay map was difficult to read in the urban area and around the castle One graveyard in relay was also a trap for several riders and not mapped accurately. To me course drawing for middle (road crossing) not on the level, heard a couple of similar comments. Problems with the sprint map: gap between forbidden area and building, scale good for forested area, not urban. I think one little mistake on the long map: there was a track (control 43) going through between to tracks. in the map it is marked as a short and ending track. It did not look that it was created by shortcutting competitors. middle map showed also one little path a bit different than in nature. later after a corner of a main track and less climbing compared to nature. In general (long and middle) dotted and short dashed tracks have been much faster than I would guess from the map reading. Clearly

middle (1 -> 2 M21: Path on western route choice was wrong difficulty; 6 -> 7 M21: Path disappeared (almost in center), around control 10 M21: Path moved sideways, just after control 12 M21: Singletrack ended 30-40 m further N). Sprint: A plotter mark in the middle of a pathsystem?? (3->4 M21A) In several places career description was drawn against the instructions description. especially 510 Visible path junction Our long distant map did not show the latest canches - I prefer on MTBO maps to have the little dot in the center of the control circle. I prefer 1:10.000 maps for M50 On the long course a farmer had ploughed an open area (Yellow) and some tracks with good rideability. Its okay that the changes could not reach to get on the maps, however a notice in the start area should have been present. Some waycross was not in real harmony On middle

out and it wasn't (we had to climb an iron gate!). For junior classes there was a gate closed, which made them to go back and lose 2min in sprint. Maps in the middle distance and relay were not ok - they weren't exact or didn't represent the area properly. The maps of Krasnobrod (sprint, repeated sprint, long, mixed sprint relay) were all different! With different trail categories, marked/on other not marked trails, etc. Plastik is not good material for MTBO-map holders. Maps were printed on a sort of weird plastic...

because of good weather, but I think this should be in the map at least at this quality of event. However, quality of maps was highest level compared to other major events in the past years! The colors on the sprint looked a little funny.

distance was a spot after the crossing of the road where the map was not adequate. Distances between crossings and a lake to pass...

## 7. Time-keeping and results

I did not care about the online results and the split times in the evening. The split times of the first competitions came a few days later. Some difficulties on having results on internet and bigger problems with split times. I guess the correct results were published, but not the splits, and the live result didn't function. Had to wait at least for sprint splits. Online results sometimes worked, sometimes they didn't. At finish was only a projection of results. Very often it was not clearly readable. This time I think we saw on major problems. Readability of results in finish area was bad; GPS tracking would also be nice to follow the competition in finish area. Maybe not a question for this part, but the organizers were not aware of basic competition rules regarding how to count multiple nation teams in relays and to check whether teams handled in correct entry forms for the competitions or not. In mass start long distance the map delivery was not correct and a lot of people had to ask for new split times. Live results mostly not available on the internet. No issues. No large results board, only live results in tent. Only a digital screen at the finish and sometimes some categories were missing, like women on long distance. Online results didn't work at all on some days. It got better towards the end of the week. LIVE results should have worked. Took long time to get up official results and much longer time for splits. Splits were not on the internet or team leaders meetings especially on day 1 and 2. The results were shown in the finish area only in a small tent with a screen, were not

Very nice wooden boards for the results :-). Online results could have been better visible, otherwise everything was good. Very disappointed to see the JWOC competitors not shown the same respect as the Elite competitors with results. They have paid significant money to attend only to have their results stapled on an A4 piece of paper to a stand. It would have been nice if the same way to display results had been used for the juniors as well as the one used for elite classes. Very good and already in the early afternoon. The result list of the junior classes could have been bigger. Perfect! I would like to have the juniors results on the wooden board

Split times should always be posted as "extended" form where you can see your position at the control as well as your time. WinSplits is also a very professional format to display split times. I'd prefer larger display. Also stopped showing results at some point - not great if you are a late starter. Route gadget and split analyser would be great to have as well. Display of results was not ideal. There should be at least one separate page for each class. For the elite riders a big board would be nice. These things worked ok. Only printed results sheets were used, which were adequate. Obviously a "live" screen showing results would be better. Is it possible to get "WinSplits online"? Overall good service. I'm not sure what the big screen was for? Results,



many people could get in, no benches. Online results did not work in the beginning. It was hard to follow at all from at home. Everything improved during the week. The live results wasn't fully working. I did not use internet in event time.

as well.

tracking, nice pictures? Big screen useless and sometimes long to get names on wooden board

## 8. Team officials' meetings and information during event

Sometimes the start list came only in the morning of the race. Seemed like there were some problems with making the entry deadlines, from both team leaders and organizers. The good part was short meetings, but information was changed from bulletin 4, almost every night which confused a bit. Issues at team leaders meetings - many decisions being made during meetings. Some arguments amongst team leaders on correct methods. Resulted in unusual long distance start format. Organisers seemed to be trying to keep everyone happy. There was always some delay with start lists, start numbers for relays etc. Start lists were often not yet available prior to teamleaders meeting. 1 Competitor missed in start list. After adding missed competitor, NO new startlist was published, ==> confusion of competitors regarding their correct starting time. Womens middle start times were changed during competition without any information from organisers. The team leaders' meeting was every day held by the Danish IOF Advisor, I think he is a bit deaf and his English is really poor and his pronunciation as well. Jan Cegiela speaks very bad English. Every day corrections on the bulletin, we had to tell them to change the start of the long mass start, the finish of the Mix Sprint Relay. Even the IOF advisor didn't know

At the team officials meetings there were several times different information than on the website. The website should always have the latest information. The start lists came quite late to the website. 1. In some moments we prefer pictures, not many words. I mean the sprint distance, the forbidden area near buildings. I appreciated it very much that the presentation given at the teamleaders meeting was available online so promptly. The website was always updated and it was easy to find all information, even for spectators or participants at open races. Start lists were correct according to this system but not fair. And we don't understand how it's possible that Piero Turra in the first group always starts as second or third at maximum..... I was not a team official. The admin was in top class and well prepared all days.

Did not attend meetings. Disappointed to find out that I missed an Event Advisors Clinic (the day I arrived). Nothing posted on IOF website until close to the event (after flights booked) I did not have a GPS, so it was not good only having GPS coordinates to get to events. Signs were sometimes not good. We should have been given a hard copy of the final bulletin when we registered. When you are traveling it's impossible to print out bulletins. It would have been useful for copies of the key info from bulletin 4 be available for travelling competitors with limited access to internet and printers. WMMTBOC All information must be given in writing to each competitor!!! A big applause for the technical director and for the referee (Christian Gigon) For the master we have a good impression because they make the same job for the elite that for the master. In France we say "we don't have the fifth wheel of the state coach - The Masters must also get a printed copy of the latest bulletin! If each Master has a bulletin, it's not necessary to have an information session for Masters. - It was nice that there was a separate information session for Masters, but getting information about all 3 competitions was a bit difficult to memorize. - I don't think it's a good idea to have the same start list on the first and third day but just in reverse order (refers to Masters). Information session

any rule about long mass start and so on.... My favorite quote: Tomorrow start numbers tomorrow! Team-Leaders meeting was well organised, but more information about things that happened/changes could have been spread around. Sometimes more news about the competitions on Facebook than on the event web page. The start bibs were not given at the team leaders meetings the evening before - only before the first race. The start lists were not always given at the team leaders meetings, same with official results.

was very helpful and informative! Did not participate If any highlights was given - they should have been published at the bulletin board at the arena or on the website beforehand It would be useful for the Masters to be given Bulletin 4 upon accreditation. There were some map details which were posted using a black-and-white photocopy of the bulletin. I don't think that giving each master a bulletin in color would bring too high a cost. If necessary another 2-5 EUR could be added to the accreditation fee.

## 9. Publicity, media, press

Generally conditions were quite poor for media, but there wasn't a lot either. Were there any interviewers??! Only results and an OK speaker in the arena. The races got some TV-coverage, that was good. Maybe there could have been more effort, not that many locals in organizing committee maybe affected this? No comments, haven't seen any. If media representatives had been present, this had been under critics. I made some short tv-reports and sent to Sweden after Cecilia's gold medal, but I used the internet at my guest house for that, as it had been impossible on site. No media coverage. No ordered bib numbers. Poor commentary - no general information about athletes, prev. results etc. Sporadic commentary, difficult to follow event. There was no media. No photographers, no interviewer, no signs in the city, nothing. Starting numbers not according to start order. Thats probably the

The monitors on witch the split results was posted was to small or to few, since it was impossible to se anyone outside top 10. Clearly there was a professional speaker that knows a lot about mtbo and people taking part. This makes it very easy to follow, even better than only GPS-Tracking. No wifi free at the finish arenas At the Sprint and also at the Long the competitors' area should have been taped off more carefully. As there was no tape some spectators were standing or sitting in the competitor's area (or even put their bikes there!) without being aware of it. Apart from Rakvere the event was not very well visible (no posters, banners etc.). Did the inhabitants in Tapa for example even know that a world championship takes place in their village/town? It was nice to have these two speakers but sometimes they missed the ride-in of strong competitors and only realised it later. They should have done more job-sharing: One looks out for important riders and the other does the talking. 1. We must find the balance between on-line and pre-start quarantine. Competitions for competitors! I think that the woman speaker, had a very

Why only news in Portugese on facebook? Super annoying... It's a problem that Master and Elite races are together, also for the speaker... - The speaker's way of announcing somebody with a fourth best-time was confusing. Why not say "He/she is in fourth position"? - Unfortunately there weren't a lot of spectators. Having the Masters competing at the same time didn't help. It was a pity for the big arena at the Long, there were hardly any spectators at the ride-in. Good to use a TV screen but it seemed under-utilised. I didn't see any GPS

simplest thing to make a race easier to watch for a spectator and its even in the rules that it should be so. No GPS-tracking. I dont think there was much media coverage, so there was no problem with anybody disturbing the competitors. There was no special facilities for media at all. No GPS tracking at all. Start list was the same for all races. Etc. There was no media. Or at least nobody saw them. There was once a photographer in the forest, but he didnt disturb. Long distance and mixed relay was confusing to follow from outside because of huge forking differences! Obviously not even the People of Krasnobrod were informed about the MTBO competitions, no public work at all!

negative attitude towards the spectators and riders. One time when a japaneese guy came in (last) and the spectators were silent, she said on the speakers with a very sarcastic voice "and great cheering for the japaneese guy that comes in last". I think that is very rude of her, and she should not spectate at these kind of events again. Also she did not comment on most of the riders that came in, and i think that is very unpleasant. For many of us juniors, a big part of the world champs is just riding the event and being recognized. I think you heard too much information in quarantine like interviews with earlier starters, times at radio control, winning times My friends at home really loved the GPS-tracking and followed all the races. There was TV coverage daily? Otherwise than the opening ceremony, the event not that visible in Rakvere?

tracking on the screen (maybe it was there when I was racing) The big screen was a good attempt but not very successful in the broadcast. The speaker was a bit confusing announcing irrelevant positions such as "fifth best time" etc. This is too much detail which makes it difficult to follow.

## 10. General organisation

In the middle there was no bike wash. No bike mechanic services provided by the organizer and no bike repair shop in the nearby. No bike wash in middle arena, after the muddiest race. Somewhat understandable as almost in the middle of the forest. Still some bike wash at least nearby would have been OK. EC-bike wash was only 1 hose, we have dishwashing brushes and cleaning liquid with us, so no problem there. Didn't see any local bike shop there, usually people have spare parts themselves, and those that aren't with you are the kind even bike shops rarely stock. No mechanic One hose for washing isn't enough. Bike was was only on event centre. There was a long queue after races. Bike wash was only one hose to all 150-200 bikes, no bike repair shop on arenas was presented. there was no mechanic or bike repair shop at all! and there was no bike store in the village. the bike wash at the accommodation was only 1 station! There was only one water hose, so there was a long queue every day. It would have been

Very little information was given about the open races on the website. Also when asking organizers about the open competitions, no-one knew anything, not even who I could ask from about the open races. The information about delayed start times on the long distance came when the first racers should have started and no-one knew even where the start was just half an hour before the competition. The tracks and maps were good in the open races. I did not participated on the open race I did not use any of the above, so I can not rate it properly. The bike mechanics could not bleed my brakes, and therefore i had to race the world champs without a rear brake. They did not have the proper tools to bleed

we don't use this service Excellent service provided by mechanic!! The bike mechanic was excellent - the best so far! The local bike mechanic was absolutely fantastic: competent, efficient, friendly and helpful. well done and more by the cycle mechanic. Did not notice or needed any of these services

great with 10 or more bowls and some brushes, so many could wash at the same time, because they only had to fill the bowl. Just one water hose in the event center, no bike wash at finish areas. No bike service provided and no information in a bulletin where the next service shop might be. too few possibilities for bike wash, no mechanic services I did not noticed any bike service station neither at event center or start area. Need information in order to give proper answers. I knew, that there will no bike shop, I did my own repairings ( which was excellent. ) I did not participate on the open races, I don't know.

my brakes, and they could not get it either. Bike wash area was packed on the long day before some of the athletes had finished the public long. As some countries had limited long race slots so they put their athletes into the public event. With flights back to Australia leaving early Sunday it made cleaning bikes very difficult. It was very nice that the best in the public races got prizes as well.

## 11. Ceremonies and banquet

There were no prizes handed out to places 4 to 6. Only a piece of paper (diploma). Maybe there is no incentive to come to the prize giving. There should be for everybody a small prize coming on the (big) podium. No diplomas for the relay, just the first 3 teams got the medals. Banquet was probably the best part of the Champs with a band that played various music until late in the night. Free beer was also good. Every Prize ceremony was late and flags were missing. Also missed the flower ceremony which was cancelled every day. Didn't take part in the banquet. I did not participate in dancing part of banquet because of injury Prize-giving ceremonies were never on time. Prices were clearly too expensive compared to the quality of the competitions. Maybe too little info how the banquet works: first course buffet, second course served to table. Food was generally better than other meals. Great addition: soup before the midnight, liked it. Didn't know about the open bar schedule, I was amazed of free beer first time I ordered. There were no flower ceremonies at all, even though the bulletin said it would be. I missed it. The prize-giving ceremonies always started 15 min late according to the

Although the prize-giving ceremonies were organised well the backyard (or "garden") of the Art Café was much too small. A lot of people didn't go to the prize-giving anymore after the first day because you couldn't see anything anyway. It's a shame when there's such a nice big square nearby. Better have the ceremony there with a makeshift podium that can be removed every day. Where is Luca's sweater??! I missed the flower ceremony at the competitions arena. Didn't get any of the food at the Banquet. There wasn't enough room for every one to sit down. So ended up outside talking to the others competitors instead. Would have been nice if we all could have been seated inside. I think that would have made the prizegiving better as well - because everyone would have been able to see it. Place for ceremonies could have been in a more public place. There was too little food and it was very cramped. 30 EUR is a bit much for a dinner. Place of the

Ceremony a little away from race venues but otherwise a nice setting at the castle. The banquet was poor. Too little food, poor organisation of food serving and the entertainment was too loud - resulting in most people leaving really early. Poor value for money. Not vegetarian foods. The prizes (local products) were generous - thanks a lot! It was quite the opposite from the cheap tin horn (made in China) which the competitors got at the WOC in Estonia... The desert didn't last for all Banquet should not be before the last day of racing. I didn't go to the banquet The prize

schedule. Only the flag of the winner was shown, it should be all 3 on top of the podium. The banquet evening was the only day when we got a proper dinner like I had expected to get every night. The banquet was included in the high entry fees, I guess the mandatory competitor and officials fee was for the banquet, 60 euro/ person, so it was just crazy high. I don't know the price of the banquet but the food on the banquet was as the other days. The price of the food is as in Sweden, but the standard was much lower. The ceremonies were held in time, but there were problems with some anthems, especially the Swedish. I did not attend the banquet. The anthems of some countries were a bad joke! They were not useable for an official ceremony! The banquet was good organized and there was enough food for all! Free beer?? I'll apply for citizenship! Seriously - no problem here! Prize-giving relay: Just the top three on the podium, no diplomas for places 4 to 6?! Excellent music at the banquet! I have never seen any live music band performing that long! The national anthems for the prize giving ceremonies were just a joke. Sweden got to hear to different versions of the anthem, one in some kind of accordion-drum version and one with two extra verses that no one except right wing extremists uses. It is not hard to just do some research by asking the teams of which anthem to use, and it is not hard to find it on Spotify or other service either. I have uploaded some anthems in the Facebook group, which can be used by organizers. Strange versions of some national songs. But overall the organisation of the ceremonies was good. I did not take part in the banquet, but probably paid for it. Flower ceremony would be nice

banquet not ideal, also the organisation with the food at the banquet wasn't very good. The food was good, but there wasn't enough of it. Every time they came with more food to the table there was almost a small fight to get at least something. The price for the banquet was absolutely not reasonable. 30€ for a piece of pie and cake is not ok. I heard there had been wine too, but it didn't last for long. To get food was chaotic again. 4 corners of the tables all equipped with plates, but different meal compositions along the two sides. So only 2 corners with plates would have made life much easier ... quality was good, quantity was ok, but some did not receive main meal. General organisation was at very high level. I think we should have a flower ceremony at the race site, when the athletes are just finished and all happy!! Not enough food at the banquet. It was really a big fight to get something. Funny enough it was also our Hotel (Wesenberg) that catered it. Serving of the food at 9pm after athletes had been racing and drinking isn't a good outcome. The organisation at the buffet was disgraceful which led to a disgraceful reaction by athletes and officials. I had far nicer meals at the Art Hotel for far less than what was charged for the banquet without having to see scenes of animalistic food gathering by starving attendees. The organisation for food was bad. The location was a little bit too small for the prize giving ceremony.

giving ceremonies were often late of schedule, and it seemed that the organizers wished that athletes would be ready 10 minutes before the ceremony should start though the organization wasn't ready until an hour. So there was a lot of waiting. Why did the organizers prevent me from taking the Finnish flag on the podium? The beginning of prize-giving ceremonies were in late ~ 20 -30 minutes, why? More water please and put it in the end of the event, so we can drink! With regard to masters WM: why can't we get comparable rules as senior WM or at least to junior WM. Why only 3, and not 6 on the podium, why no relay?? WM tricot, perhaps in a different layout?? Is it more honourable to win when you are 19 than when you are 40 ??

## 12. Overall rating of the event

These European Championships were catastrophic and I don't want to go back there never again. It was the worst kind of event organizing I ever saw. Some points as a spectator via internet: At home we are very interested in such a championship like EMTBOC and what our athletes are doing, how is the race going on, results just in time, news, reports - pictures? Till today there are NO race and ceremony pictures on the event website. As a minimum event website should have an area for pictures. NEWS on event website: After each race, apart from the official results, the website should aim to contain a short race report and pictures. NOTHING in Poland: News about race decisions like canceling the race WE Sprint, but NO information at all in Poland. Only publishing in NEWS, that results are now online and write a remark to see navigation „results“ is very useless and inadmissible. Looks like organizers did not prepare the event in advance. Some mistakes wouldn't be there if they had better preparation. The event centre team did a very good job and improved during the week. Even in the finish arena they helped the competitors. Atmosphere among athletes was really great. Tension really high between competitors and the organizing committee. Seems like it erupted pretty violently too. I know Jan would have wanted to organize a better event, lack of resources limited so much. Question is what to do in such a situation. To call it off or try to do as much as you can and hope for the best? This time it backfired badly. With a little luck could have been a great event. The atmosphere was actually quite good between the competitors but on that scale I would like to say that never again to Poland.. The event was really badly organized, big mistakes on the maps, missing tracks, missing locked gate, all the maps were different from one day to another. Same area was everyday different!!! Unbelievable. Due to good weather, positive people and helpful organizers I think it was a nice event. It's always something that could be better, but it's important with maps, courses and security. I think the courses were better than it used to be, very challenging. It was just the sprint mix-relay that were too easy. This level for organization is unacceptable for elite events. Some Estonian men already declared that they never-ever will come to competitions, where Jan C is the director. Next year World Champs need extra

Not as well organized as the World Cup last year in Värskä, still pretty good. It was an overall fantastic event. One of the best World Champs ever organized! Thank you for a very nice event! The hassle and disqualifications in the sprint was ridiculous. At least most of the Finnish team will remember these competitions as the one where the organizers failed with the sprint, instead of the good track they had built in Tapa. There were clearly big mistakes done as almost 50 riders were disqualified. The meaning with a sprint race is not to get as many riders as possible disqualified! This should not happen on this level, 50 riders can't be wrong. There was also a clear printing mistake on the middle distance map, but this wasn't big. Anyway this should not be allowed to happen in WMTBOC. In the relay there was apparently a control in the wrong place first, but the organizers then moved it. This type of simple faults should never ever be possible in the

My only dislike was the entry and payments method. There was no online entry system. Payment by international bank transfer is unsatisfactory in this day and age when there are much more efficient and easier ways to pay – credit cards or PayPal for example. It cost me extra money to arrange for my bank to send the correct amount of Euros, and then the Portuguese bank took money as well so that we had to pay even more when we registered, so our final entry fee was far above what it should have been. It is expensive enough coming all of the way from Australia. But apart from that, I really enjoyed the WMTBOC in Portugal and really appreciate the excellent work the organizers put in. I would prefer to have categories all 5 years at least in the male master categories. Thanks once more to the organizers.

attention and there should be very strict controlling system, how the IOF regulations and conditions are followed. A lot could have been better, but I think most of it was okay, and I think its nice, that there are countries that want to organize the competitions! Anything can go wrong. I dont have high expectation ( after all it is an amateur sport ). The only thing, what can ruin a race - bad maps and not well plannes courses. It could have been a great event but it was just made with too few organizers in probably too short time without taking enough advice fromfor example the event advisor. There were just so many small things that would have changed so much. Hope things will be better next time in Poland. I hope that we will not see such a championship again. It's not worthy for the athletes and the federations. Generally poor. Organisers beset by many external factors. Generally an uncontrolled event, caused by small org. team. Almost no atmosphere at event. Most athletes finished courses and left each day. I hope WOC in 2014 will be organised to a high standard. I hope the organisers from EOC 2013 learn from mistakes and follow EA guidelines/thoughts. because of the problems at the starts and the missing start lists and so on the atmosphere was not the best. the speaker tried his best, i´m sure. but all in all if i would have known what is waiting for me i would not have done this long trip to get to this event! There were simply too many things that went wrong. And the most important thing: Correct maps with good courses simply did not work out. I have participated in all World and European Championships since 2005. EMTBOC 2013 was by far the worst event ever! I do not want to take part in WMTBOC 2014, since it is organised by the same group of people (Jan Cegiela), who organised EMTBOC 2013. The Polish organisers seem greedy and organise races only for money. There was a lot of mistakes. Kevin Haselsberger and Ingrid Stengård made some really good remarks of the event to Portugese orienteering <http://portugueseorienteeringblog.blogspot.pt/2013/06/emtboc-2013-more-reactions.html> There is not very many things that really have to work, but those few, such as maps and events are really crucial. If the organizing team is that small, I think the work of EA is much more important and to next years world championships, IOF needs to send the best present EA. On the light of this competition there will be no sense of training for next years World Championships in Poland as maps, terrain

world champs! The checkpoints should be checked, and then rechecked several times. Overall the competitions were very well organised, but a few mistakes clearly affected the quality of these world champs. Also different information on the website and team leader meetings about quarantine times was confusing. ... It seems to be a very good event if one has to look at the banquet to find some weak points ;) . Thank you for a very good World Champs! No remarks worth mentioning It was a really great world champs, well organized and everything was planned and it always seemed like there was a plan and it was going according to that plan. Everybody from Rakvere orienteering club was helpful and did their job to the best. the only problem was, that some of the officials (at starts for an example) did not speak english, and therefore it was hard to get answers to my questions i had at the start. But all in all - a super world champs. maybe the best yet. There are always things that

well organized and prepared, thanks to organizer team!!! Well done Portugal, looking forward to EMTBOC in 2015 and WMTBOC in 2016. Really nice group of people organising/assisting. Whilst small for a World class event, there was a nice atmosphere. Maybe it was helped because it was a small event. When the organizers do not know how, then the Event Advisers must guide! This did not work in these games!!! GREAT Thank You all !!!! Except from a bit short and easy courses the event was very fine, and the arranging persons really worked hard and succeeded in a very nice event In my opinion the event was very well organised and the organisers were helpful and friendly at all times. Nevertheless I can't give the rating 'excellent' because I'm disappointed about the courses in my class W50 (too short and mostly not really

and course planning are too poor for fair and predictable racing. was my first MTBO champs - atmosphere in my team was very good but generally i had the feeling that most riders werent happy with the organisation in comparison to other years good terrain and event center but it was not made the best of it... what about cancelled sprint in zamosc? we have to avoid such ideas which could hardly be used for a fair competition; urban terrain is hardly suitable for a fair and save sprint.

can be improved but all in all this WMTBOC was very well organised with a lot of attention to details. Thanks a lot! A top World Champ event. Thumps up for the Estonians :- )

challenging). However, I had a great time in Portugal and I'm definitely looking forward to doing MTBO there again. Muito obrigado, dear organisers!