

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Frankfurt, Germany

Date: 16-17 January 2015

Participants:

Sandor Talas (ST) – chairman (HUN)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
Ludomir Parfianowicz (LP) – member (POL)
Jiri Vransky (JV) – member (CZE)
Magnus Wallenborg (MW) – member (SWE)
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)

Excused:

André Hermet (AH) – member (FRA)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 4.15 pm on Friday, 16 January 2015. A special welcome was given to the new member Ludomir Parfianowicz, and it was noted that André Hermet, the other new member, could not attend due to an MTBO related event in France.

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved.

3 Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4 Matters arising and decisions taken since the last meeting

- 4.1 **EJMTBOC** were approved by the Meeting of the Orienteering Federations in Europe in 2014. They will take place every 2nd year together with the EMTBOC, the first time in Portugal in June 2015. The EYMTBOC was approved in 2013, and it takes place every year.
- 4.2 **World Cup anti-doping expenses:** In June 2014 the MTBOC sent a proposal to the Council to change some aspects of the anti-doping testing on World Cup races to ensure the sustainability of the process and to find a fairer way of financing. The current arrangements require the organizer of the World Cup that is chosen for testing to pay the cost of the testing (about € 1500 to 5000 depending on the number of tests). The Council decided to investigate further and come back to the matter.

4.3 **WMTBOC 2017 and World Cup 2016 appointments:**

There were two candidates for the WMTBOC 2017, namely Lithuania and Russia, and the General Assembly appointed LTU as the organizer of WMTBOC 2017. Consequently, the Council appointed LTU as the organizer of the last round of the World Cup in 2016. France was appointed to hold the first round of the World Cup in 2016.

4.4 **The Special Rules for the 2015 World Cup** were approved by the Council in Oct. 2014.

4.5 **Rule changes**

For the October 2014 Council meeting the MTBOC submitted four proposals for changes to the 2014 Competition Rules:

- Introduce Mass Start (with a winning time of 75-85 minutes) as a new competition format: The Council approved this new format.
- Include Mass Start as a medal competition in the WMTBOC and JWMTBOC program. An extra medal event would be to the benefit of both athletes and organizers and would also provide another competition for on-event Long qualification. The Council rejected this proposal, saying it would increase the workload of the organizers. (see 7.4 on the resubmission of this proposal with the support of all known WMTBOC organizers and candidates)
- 5-year age categories for Masters with a minimum limit of 10 participants (i.e. have 10-year age categories if there are fewer than 10 participants in a 5-year category). The minimum limit of 10 participants was an essential part of the MTBOC's proposal to ensure that the Masters World Championship title carries appropriate prestige.
The Council approved the 5-year categories from W/M40 to W/M75 but without the minimum number of 10 participants and without consulting the MTBOC on this. It should be noted that the majority of the commission members were against the introduction of the 5-year age categories unless there is a minimum limit of 10 participants.
- Relay competition for Masters with the proposed categories M120 and M160 for men, and X120 and X160 for mixed teams: The Council did not support this proposal but did not oppose the organization of an unofficial relay competition in conjunction with the WMMTBOC.

4.6 **Use of GPS enabled devices**

Since 1 January 2014 the use of GPS-enabled wristwatches or data loggers with no map or breadcrumb display has been allowed in MTBO. However, when the SkiO Commission submitted a proposal to use the same devices, the Council concluded that this rule change had been approved by mistake last year. The Council decided in October that article 21.6 will be changed back in conjunction with the rules project to combine and harmonize the competition rules for all four IOF disciplines. (see 7.4 on MTBOC requesting the change of this decision)

4.7 The MTBOC agreed that there is no need for a **temperature limit** in MTBO.

- 4.8 **North American development:** Together with Greg Lennon, Orienteering USA VP of Clubs & MTBO Director, MW conducted a promotional and educational MTBO tour in the USA from 19-29 September 2014. Its goal was to develop MTBO and to assess the potential for future high-level MTBO events in the USA. The tour was a considerable success and according to MW its impact was much bigger than expected. Details can be found in MW's report of 20 Oct 2014.
- 4.9 In the recent past it happened several times that the IOF Office sent out documents (guidelines, policies etc.) that contained misleading information with regard to MTBO. The MTBOC is concerned about that and decided to clarify again working procedures to ensure that the MTBOC is consulted before MTBO related information is distributed.
- 4.10 UH reported that she finished newsletter no. 3 for EAs by the end of December 2013 but that the IOF Office sent it to the EAs only 4 months later. Furthermore, an update of the EA's handbook was finished in April 2014, but it still has not yet been published on the IOF website so far.
The MTBOC appreciates the proofreading service of the IOF Office. However, the commission finds it unacceptable that this results in such huge delays or that documents are not published at all.

5 International event calendar

- 5.1 Two **applications for the World Championships 2018** were received from Austria and Denmark. The MTBOC reviewed the applications and started the preparation of a detailed analysis for the April Council meeting.
- 5.2 Four **applications for the World Cup rounds 2017** were received from Austria, Belarus, France and Portugal. The MTBOC reviewed the applications and decided on negotiation steps to assess the flexibility of organizers to adjust their dates for a more balanced World Cup program.
- 5.3 **World Masters MTBO Championships:** In 2016 the WMMTBOC will take place in Lithuania, in connection with the World Cup in September (exact dates not yet finalized). For 2017 an application was received from France.
- 5.4 For the **EMTBOC 2017** an application was received from France.
- 5.6 **Plans for 2018 - 2020:**
- For WMTBOC 2018 see 5.1.
 - Several countries expressed their interest informally to organize World Championships in 2019 or 2020.
 - It would be ideal to have a major event on the east coast in the USA in 2018 or 2019, in conjunction with national championships. As a World Cup might not attract as many participants as a WMMTBOC, championships for the Masters would be more suitable. There are interesting options of good terrain, for example also in Oregon (western USA) for a WMTBOC later on.
- 5.7 **IOF program review:** The Project Group announced to consult the MTBOC later in 2015. In MTBO the international event calendar is based on the World Cup and the WMTBOC; there are no other major events as in FootO (World University or Military Championships etc.). Therefore it is vital that there is a yearly WMTBOC, and it is also important to have an annual event for Juniors and Youth. Contrary to FootO, there is sufficient interest to organize World Championships in MTBO.

6 Event advising and quality

6.1 Evaluation of the 2014 international events

Although the quality of the competitions of the World Cups in Denmark and Sweden was good, there was potential for improvement regarding mainly out-of-forest matters (marketing, visibility, arena, prize giving ceremonies etc.). Sufficient manpower is a key issue to make an event overall a success.

The WMTBOC in Poland turned out to be a well-organized event, thanks to the joint efforts of a renewed organizing team, the SEA, the national controller, additional mapmakers and the support of the MTBOC.

As in previous years the competitors had the opportunity to give feedback on the World Cup events by completing an online questionnaire. The results of this questionnaire consist of two parts (graphs and remarks) and they are an important tool for the MTBOC when evaluating an event. They also give valuable information on how to improve and ensure event quality, not only to the MTBOC but also to EAs and future organizers. Only one part (graphs) is published on the IOF website.

6.2 Review of 2015 event preparation:

6.2.1 The Hungarian Orienteering Federation requested permission to use the SI Air+ touch free punching and timing system on the World Cup in HUN in May 2015. The request was supported by the MTBOC. The Council decided not to approve the rule deviation request, because the expected deadline for the approval process for the SI Air+ is in early 2015.

The Council does not agree with the additional information regarding the transparency of the entry fee structure in Bulletin 2 of the World Cup in HUN, and announced to deny the World Cup status of the event if fee transparency is maintained.

6.2.2 The organizers of the EMTBOC in POR are willing to increase the number of teams in the Mixed Sprint Relay to 2 teams per nation. The European Working Group will be contacted about this change.

6.2.3 The preparations for the WMTBOC in CZE seem to be on track.

6.3 **EA Clinics:** In 2014 two clinics were successfully held in the MTBO Camp on Bornholm DEN in April and in Prague CZE in October.

In 2015 two clinics are planned: one in Portugal in conjunction with the EMTBOC/ Masters and another one in autumn in Eastern Europe – both subject to minimum 6 applicants.

6.4 The **EA newsletter** no. 4 will be sent out in February.

6.5 The MTBO Medical Working Group is working on the **injury and accident database**.

6.6 SEA appointments

Current status:

- World Cup 2015 in HUN: Walter Dravetz (AUT)
- EMTBOC 2015 in POR: Mark Stodgell (GBR)
- WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2015 in CZE: Marian Kazik (SVK)
- WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2016 in POR: Jan Eg Pedersen (DEN)

Proposals for 2016-17 events were discussed.

6.7 Council's concept to ensure/improve event quality

Council member Owe Fredholm gave a presentation about event quality at the Joint Meeting and outlined the Council's view on how event quality can be ensured or

improved. Key elements of this presentation were as follows:

- Control
- Discipline commissions have the full responsibility for the quality of an event
- Introduction of a supervisor

Consequences for the MTBOC's work are listed in points 6.8, 6.9 and 8.2.

6.8 **Reports by EAs**

Since the MTBOC has the full responsibility for the quality of an event it is absolutely necessary that the commission is informed first-hand about all event-related matters and that SEAs and organizers keep in close contact with the commission. Therefore SEAs will have to send their reports to the commission as well and not only to the IOF Office. The EAs will be instructed accordingly in the next EA's newsletter.

6.9 **Event agreement / contract between IOF and organizers**

When drawing up the event plan, the official document setting out the key features of an event, it is helpful for the SEA to have a copy of the event agreement as the event plan is subordinate to it. At the joint meeting it was assured by the IOF President that all SEAs would get to see the event agreement in the future.

7 **Rules and mapping standards**

7.1 **Special rules for World Cup 2016 and 2017**

For both World Cups in 2016 - in France and Lithuania - the dates and the competition program (Long or Mass Start 80 minutes?) will have to be finalized.

7.2 **R14 – revision of IOF rules:** There has been no visible progress in the past six months.

7.3 Emily Benham (GBR) and her team are working on a proposal for the **ISMTBOM review**. Their work is at a very advanced level. The MTBOC has to clarify the approval process with the Map Commission and the Council.

7.4 **Rule change proposals** (see also 4.5 and 4.6)

The MTBOC felt that the Council had either rejected rule change requests or introduced new rules without consulting the MTBOC and without fully understanding some of the specifics of MTBO. The MTBOC therefore asked the Council to reconsider the following Council decisions:

- Permission to use GPS enabled devices without map display
- Mass Start as a new medal event at WMTBOC from 2016 (supported by all known WMTBOC organizers and candidates)
- World Masters 5-year age classes but only with a minimum of 10 participants (original proposal of the MTBOC)

The MTBOC was not involved in the discussion during the IOF joint meeting either, only invited to be orally informed about the Council's decisions as follows:

- No decision yet on the use of GPS; this matter will be dealt with in the Rules Commission.
- Mass Start as a new medal event at WMTBOC was rejected for the second time, this time on the basis on the major event review started in July 2014.
- The Council does not see the need to have a minimum limit of 10 participants when introducing World Masters 5-year age classes and confirmed the first decision to have 5-year age classes from 40 - 75 without a minimum number of participants.

- 7.5 The Council rejected the MTBOC's proposal to award **IOF diplomas** to the first to sixth placed athletes at every World Cup competition.
- 7.6 The MTBOC requested to use the title **Masters MTBO World Cup (unofficial)** for the competition series organized by the Masters Working Group of the MTBOC and taking place for the first time in 2015. This request was denied. The MTBOC agreed to use the term *World MTBO Master Series*.
- 7.7 The MTBO Commission noted that a **fee of € 50 for protests** was introduced by the Council for the World Championships, Junior World Championships, World Cup events, Regional Championships and World Masters Championships in all IOF disciplines from 1 January 2015 (article 28.4 in the MTBO Competition Rules).

8 AOB

- 8.1 As from now on, it is mandatory to use **IOF Eventor** for IOF elite events (WMTBOC, World Cup, WREs). However, for combined events - and in MTBO most events are combined - it is not practical at all and means a lot of extra work for the organizers as Eventor is only for athletes taking part in IOF championships.

Independent of the above, all athletes participating in IOF events (WMTBOC, EMTBOC, World Cup and World Ranking), shall obtain an Eventor ID by logging in the Eventor server.

- 8.2 The responsible team members for the special tasks were determined in the **commission remits 2015-16**.

As outlined in the commission remits, event quality is one of the most important tasks of the MTBOC. However, the MTBOC does not think that *control* and *supervision* (see 6.7) are the ideal instruments to ensure and improve event quality. The MTBOC believes that giving all possible support to organizers and having an open ear for possible problems is the better and more effective approach. Therefore the MTBOC would prefer to have a *contact person* and not a *supervisor*. The designated contact person of the MTBO Commission for all event quality related questions is Ursula Häusermann.

9 Next meeting

The next meeting is planned to be held in Liberec, CZE, on 20 August 2015 (rest day of WMTBOC).

The meeting closed at 11 pm on Saturday.

Sandor Talas
chairman

Ursula Häusermann
commission member