

Newsletter to IOF MTB Orienteering Event Advisers

Dear IOF MTBO Event Advisers,

We are happy to publish the second issue of the Newsletter to IOF MTBO Event Advisers. We hope you find it useful!

Since the first issue a year ago a lot has been happening in MTBO:

- In January the MTBO Commission started working in a new composition and under the leadership of a new chairman. Sándor Talás (HUN) took over from Edmond Széchényi (FRA) as chairman; and Magnus Wallenborg (SWE) and Jiri Vraný (CZE) joined the MTBO Commission. With the existing members Jan Cegiělka (POL), Thomas Wieser (AUT) and Ursula Häusermann (SUI) the commission consists of six people.
- The MTBO community established a Facebook group which has been the most active international MTBO forum so far. If you are not yet on Facebook, sign up and join in!
- The commission has decided to develop a new event format: long distance team score event. Many countries stage events in this format (Bike Challenge in CZE, Trailquest in GBR, MTB Rogain in NZL, etc.). Marek Pospisek and Miroslav Rygl are leading the effort to develop the format. You may contact them at marek.pospisek@gmail.com and miry@miry.cz.
- The MTBO Commission is in a process to prepare a new sprint mapping standard. The work is currently being lead by Tibor Erdélyi (HUN), and the IOF Map Commission will be involved in the project at a later stage once the MTBO specific issues and possible solutions are clarified. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this work, please contact Tibor (etibor1@gmail.com).
- Although there is currently no approved touch free punching system for MTBO yet, touch free systems are being tested at national events in various countries. The MTBO Commission has agreed on ideal touch free standards and we hope that touch free systems can be certified and used at IOF events in the near future.

Rule changes

The new Competition Rules for IOF MTB Orienteering Events valid from 1st January 2013 have been approved. The most significant change is probably the removal of the qualification race for the Long distance at WMTBOC. It will be replaced by a system for allocating start slots. Other changes to the previous version (January 2012), which are relevant to your work as an Event Adviser, are listed below:

- If controls are not situated on paths, it must be stated in Bulletin 2 (rule 8.4).
- In rule 12.14 the publication method for the red start group has been revised.
- The scale of the map for the Long will normally be 1:15'000 (rule 15.2).
- Control descriptions are never used, even for off-path controls (rule 18).
- Controls shall not be sited within 60 m of each other (rule 19.4).
- In rule 22.17 quarantine zones are defined.
- The time limit for protests was reduced to 15 minutes (rule 28.3).
- The organiser must forward maps and results lists to the IOF within three weeks (rule 32.3).
- The Mixed Sprint Relay at EOC is explained in Appendix 8.

Documents for MTBO Event Advisers

- The updated version of the *IOF Guidelines for Organisers of MTBO Events* (including the MTBO Competition Rules) will soon be published on the IOF website.
- *IOF MTB Orienteering Event Advisers Handbook* (with an index to the MTBO competition rules): The new version, which is adapted to the rules valid from January 2013, will be available on the IOF website soon.

We encourage you to have a look at the IOF website and to make use of the many resources and documents that you find there and that may be helpful in your work as an Event Adviser.

Event Advisers – clinics and appointments

In May 2012 a joint FootO and MTBO Event Advisers' clinic was held in Portugal. It was attended by 6 MTBO participants. The next clinics are planned as follows:

- 24 July 2013, Sweden, the day after the 3-day MTBO event at O-Ringen
- 9 Oct 2013, Portugal, 2 days before the World Masters and World Cup
- March 2014, Prague or Bratislava, on a weekend (joint clinic FootO/MTBO)

For current or future events the following Event Advisers are at work:

- 2013: EMTBOC in POL: Tage V. Andersen, DEN; WMTBOC/JWMTBOC in EST: Sándor Talás, HUN;
World Cup/WMMTBOC in POR: Christian Gigon, SUI
- 2014: World Cup DEN: Tibor Erdélyi, HUN; World Cup SWE: Ursula Häusermann, SUI;
WMTBOC/JWMTBOC/WMMTBOC in POL: Simon Seger, SUI
- 2015: WMTBOC/JWMTBOC in CZE: Marian Kazik, SVK

Learning from experience

In the last newsletter incidents, where the Event Adviser had to take a particularly challenging decision, were described. In the 2012 season no such incidents are known to have happened. However, there were some points which the organisers might not have been aware of and which could have been improved with the EA's help:

- In relay competitions the controls must be combined differently for the teams (rule 16.6). It is very unfortunate if teams of the same nation - or teams which might be expected to be in a leading position - have similar overall combination. This can happen when relatively few combinations are used and they are distributed randomly. It is your task as an EA to check the course combinations (rule 31.8) against the final draw and ensure that adequate separation is achieved between teams who are likely to ride close to each other. The same goes for competitions with mass start.
- According to rule 16.3 the course lengths must be given as the shortest sensible route (optimal/ideal route). When this distance is known, it is also easier to set the courses to reach the winning times.
- In past World Masters Championships courses were quite often too short and sometimes not as demanding as they could have been. Keep in mind that the masters have the same winning times (in all classes) as the elite. Masters also enjoy route choice and navigational challenges.

Evaluation of World Cup events in 2012

Competitors and coaches were asked to give feedback on the World Cup events 2012 by completing an online questionnaire. 16 - 20 returns could be noted for each of the first three events (CZE, POL, HUN) and 7 responses were received for the final round in EST, which got a lot of praise and was considered a very well-organised event. The analysis shows the following:

- Most events were given excellent marks.
- Competitors were mainly happy with the most important aspects (terrain, courses and maps).
- At one event the maps were considered to be rather unsatisfactory because they were not up to date and the printing quality was poor. As snow disappeared only a few weeks before the event the organiser was short of time and it was therefore difficult for the EA to insist on any other improvements than last minute changes.

Tip: Try to anticipate possible problems and make sure that the organiser plans accordingly and keeps to the time schedule!

- It is also the details – such as a bike repair service, good signposting to the competitions and the food and price of the banquet – which make an event a successful one for the competitors.

The event evaluation is a useful tool for the MTBO Commission to keep track of the current quality of major events. The results of the evaluation will be used to improve guidelines for organisers and Event Advisers. You can find the evaluation on the IOF website at <http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/evaluation-WCup-2012-graphs.pdf> and <http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Evaluation-MTBO-World-Cup-2012-summary-of-remarks.pdf>.

Wishing you every success in your work as an Event Adviser,

IOF MTB Orienteering Commission, Ursula Häusermann