



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION
MTBO COMMISSION

Rules and Guidelines

regarding

U23 World Cup and U23 World Championships

(for competitors up to and including 23 years old)

U23 classes at MTB Orienteering World Cup events

APPENDIX 12 (to the Competition Rules)

or

Special Rules and Guidelines (separate document)

DRAFT 8 – 17/5/2021

1 Definitions

General

- 1.1 The U23 World Cup and U23 World Championships are integrated into the existing World Cup rounds, i.e. they are always held in conjunction with the World Cup Events but an additional U23 results list will be generated.
- 1.2 U23 competitors are Elite athletes who are up to and including 23 years old. They compete in Women/Men and will be ranked in both the U23 World Cup and the Elite World Cup as well as the U23 World Championships and the WMTBOC – if within the number of allowed participants as defined in the *MTBO Competition Rules* or the *Special World Cup Rules*.

U23 WMTBOC

- 1.3 The Under 23 World MTBO Championships (U23 WMTBOC) are part of a designated World Cup round (see 2.1). The medals are awarded based upon a results list extracted from the results list of the competitions at this World Cup round (see 2.1 and 2.2).

U23 World Cup

- 1.4 The U23 World Cup in MTBO (U23 WCup) is the official series of events to find the world's best MTBO athletes up to and including 23 years old over a season, based on the individual formats Sprint, Middle distance, Long distance, Mass start. It is an Individual World Cup for women and men of this age group, there is no Team World Cup. There is a separately calculated points list for U23 competitors.

2 Event Programme

U23 WMTBOC

- 2.1 The U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships are staged every year as part of the World Cup round not in conjunction with either WMTBOC or EMTBOC.
- 2.2 The programme consists of the 2 individual competitions of this World Cup round. These can be a Sprint, a Middle distance, a Long distance or a Mass start competition.

U23 World Cup

- 2.3 The U23 World Cup is organised every year, integrated into the World Cup for the Elite. It is based on the individual competitions only (Sprint, Middle distance, Long distance, Mass start). The programme is the same as for the Individual World Cup for the Elite according to the Special World Cup Rules, but there is one competition less for the U23 (Long distance at WMTBOC, see 3.2).

3 Classes and Participation

3.1 There is one class for women (W23) and one for men (M23). All athletes who have their 23rd birthday in the year of the competition or later may participate in W23 or M23.

3.2 The W/M23 classes are offered at all individual World Cup competitions as a "sub-category" in the Women/Men class except the WMTBOC Long distance competition where no W/M23 classes are offered (see 3.3).

3.3 In addition to the number of participants entered for the Men/Women World Cup competitions (published annually in the Special World Cup Rules, currently 6 + 6), every federation may enter up to 2 U23 women and 2 U23 men. Only competitors who are entitled to compete in the classes W23 or M23 may be entered.

However, no additional U23 competitors may be entered for the WMTBOC Long distance as the number of athletes is limited for this competition (see 6.8 *MTBO Competition Rules*).

3.4 The additional U23 competitors are entered for the classes Women or Men and the entry procedure is the same as for Women and Men.

3.5 All competitors entered in Women or Men and who are aged 23 or younger will automatically be ranked in W23 or M23.

For the Elite World Cup (Women/Men) the best (currently 6) competitors according to the maximum number as defined in the Special World Cup Rules can obtain points. So if U23 competitors are among the (currently 6) best athletes per federation in Women or Men, they will be ranked in the Elite World Cup as well – if within the number of allowed participants.

3.6 The same principle goes for the WMTBOC competitions Sprint, Middle distance and Mass start: Although the U23 athletes compete on the same course as Women/Men, only the number of athletes as defined by rule 6.6 (currently 6 women and 6 men) are eligible to be ranked in the WMTBOC. So if a federation enters the (current) maximum of 6 Women/Men and 2 W/M23, their 6 best women/men – regardless of their age – are ranked in the WMTBOC, and all athletes who are aged 23 or younger will automatically also be ranked in W23 or M23.

4 Courses and starting order

4.1 Competitors in the classes W23 and M23 ride on the same course as Women and Men.

4.2 The U23 competitors are on the same start list as the Women/Men competitors, there is no special start list for W/M23.

4.3 The starting order and start groups are determined by the MTBO Competition Rules and/or the Special World Cup Rules.

- 4.4 If a federation enters the maximum number of participants (currently 6 per class) in Women and/or Men and also enters 1-2 U23 women and/or men, the extra competitors must start in the earliest start group.

5 Ranking U23 World Cup

- 5.1 There is a separate ranking for U23, i.e. all athletes aged 23 or younger who compete in Women or Men are automatically also ranked in W23 or M23. This means that U23 competitors are in the U23 ranking and in the ranking of the Elite World Cup – if within the number of allowed participants.
- 5.2 The calculation for the U23 ranking is the same as for the ranking of the Elite World Cup and is done according to the Special Rules for the MTBO World Cup.

6 Prize-giving and prizes

U23 WMTBOC

- 6.1 There is a prize-giving for the classes W23 and M23. It takes place in conjunction with the prize-giving for Women/Men.
- 6.2 The title of U23 World Champion is awarded in the two individual competitions held at this U23 WMTBOC (see 2.2) in both W23 and M23.
- 6.3 The first 3 competitors of both genders receive medals provided by the IOF. The first 6 competitors receive diplomas provided by the IOF.
- 6.4 During the prize-giving ceremony, the national flags of the first 3 competitors will be flown and the national anthem of the winner will be played.

U23 World Cup

- 6.5 There is a prize-giving for the classes W23 and M23. It takes place at the final World Cup round of the year, in conjunction with the prize-giving for Women/Men.
- 6.6 The first 3 competitors of both genders receive medals provided by the IOF. The first 6 competitors receive diplomas provided by the IOF.
- 6.7 During the prize-giving ceremony, the national flags of the first 3 competitors will be flown and the national anthem of the winner will be played.

