

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Montecchio Maggiore, Italy

Date: 28th August 2011

Participants:

Antje Bornhak (AB) – corresponding member (GER)
Jan Cegiełka (JC) – member (POL)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
Edmond Széchényi (ES) – chairperson (FRA)
Sandor Talás (ST) – member (HUN)
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)

Michaela Gigon (MG) – representing the Athletes' Commission

Excused:

Maria Cutova (MC) – corresponding member (SVK)
Johann H Jacobsen (JHJ) – member (DEN)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 9:00 on Sunday 28th August. The time-table for the meeting was set with closure latest at 17:00.

2 Approval of agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved with the addition of some minor points.

3 Approval of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (Helsinki, January 2011) had been approved by e-mail and no further amendments were made.

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

4.1 Appointment of SEAs for 2012 World Cup:

For CZE: Tamas Janko (HUN)

For POL: Boris Durco (SVK) - he is now unable to carry out this task and a new adviser will be appointed.

4.2 EA clinics in 2011. There were insufficient candidates so that the clinic projected for this summer was abandoned.

4.3 Juries were appointed for the 2011 events.

4.4 A mass start was approved for the long distance World Cup event held in SWE.

4.5 The Russian punching system was approved for use at EMTBOC in RUS on condition of approval by the ITC.

4.6 The special rules for 2012 World Cup (incl. programme) and WMMTBOC were submitted to the ESB who approved them.

4.7 The dates of the 2012 World Cup event in POL were moved forward by one week at the request of the organisers. The ESB subsequently approved this change.

5 International Event Calendar

5.1 Review of the first two rounds of the 2011 World Cup:

HUN: Both the sprint and the middle distance were good. The long distance was too limited due to land access problems. On the whole the event was well appreciated.

SWE: The terrain was perfect for MTBO, however, as the organisers lacked sufficient experience in MTBO there were some problems with regard to time management, mapping (scales) and course planning (forking mass start). In particular the long distance event with mass start was not successful. The lesson to be learnt is that in future mass start events should be approved only on condition that the terrain and course planning is well adapted for this type of competition..

5.2 Brief review of WMTBOC 2011 in ITA:

From the technical point of view the competitors mostly criticised the quality of the maps. However, the course planning was good and the competitions were fair. The organisers made a very significant effort on communications and on making the event visible. This resulted in TV broadcasts every evening.

5.3 2012 World Cup. The programme is now definite but its publication on the IOF website needs to be checked.

5.4 The 2013 calendar has at present only the EMTBOC in POL and the WMTBOC in EST. So as to secure an organiser for the third round of the World Cup, FRA, ITA and CZE will be approached.

ACTION: TW & ES

5.5 The 2013 WMMTBOC will be organised together with one of the major events on the calendar, preferably with the third round for which an organiser is sought (see 5.4).

5.6 WMTBOC 2014. There is as yet no application for this event though DEN has shown interest. Applications will be accepted until 1 January 2012 (*Note: this is the date given in the circular letter from the IOF*).

5.7 The MTBO commission supports the staging of an annual EYMTBOC from 2013 onwards. The commission does not support a EJMTBOC as the juniors already have annual World Championships.

6 Event advising and event quality

6.1 A combined Event Advisers' and Organisers' clinic will be organised in November 2011. Its objective is to prepare participants to be licensed IOF MTBO Event Advisers and familiarise experienced FootO organisers with the specifics of MTBO. A further clinic specific for Event Advising will be held in 2012, possibly in conjunction with FootO.

6.2 EA appointments.

- A replacement for the EA of the 2012 World Cup round in POL must be appointed as soon as possible.
- The EA for the third World Cup event in 2013 will be appointed as soon as an organiser will have been found.

ACTION: ST

6.3 The following EA reports have been received:

- Final report from the World Cup round in HUN
- Final report from the World Cup round in SWE
- Interim report from the EMTBOC 2011 in RUS

6.4 The planned event evaluation procedure will be initiated at the first World Cup round in 2012.

ACTION: UH

7 Map Issues

- The proposed new symbol suggested by RUS for rideable off-track areas is not accepted.
- At the next update of the map standards the green colour representing dense vegetation should be upgraded from 30% to 50%.

ACTION: JHJ

8 Rules Issues

8.1 The winning times for all the WMMTBOC classes should be the same as those of the WMTBOC.

8.2 To ensure fairness it is frequently necessary to resort to marshals to check that competitors do not take forbidden routes. In most cases it is almost impossible to check every possible infringement. To get around this difficulty the MTBOC would like to have silent GPS devices attached to the bikes in all major events. At present organisers cannot be expected to invest in this equipment for which they may not have much further use. The most efficient and economical solution would be for the IOF to have a set of devices which would be passed from one organiser to the next. The IOF secretariat will be asked whether the MTBOC budget could be used to invest in this equipment which could be built up over a period of a few years. The total cost would be of the order of 8 to 10 K€.

ACTION: ES

- 8.3** The rules for time-keeping with punching devices are satisfactory as they stand.
- 8.4** Touch-free punching devices may be an asset for MTBO if they are totally reliable. The commission will follow developments with interest.
- 8.5** The following rule change proposals have been identified:
- Rule 12.5: add "World Cup"
 - Rule 12.5: clarify that there is no RED group in WMTBOC qualification races. The text is unclear.
 - Rule 21.5: Start numbers should reflect the starting order in each race.
 - Should there be an upper temperature limit for competitions? (see MedC?)
 - The need to print maps on water-proof paper (advice will be sought from the MC).
 - Should there be specific penalties in the rules for embargo infringements by teams, parts of teams or team officials?
- 8.6** A complete list of rule change proposals will have to be submitted to council for approval by 31 October. Prior to this, the proposals must be vetted by the RC. Therefore, the commission must finalise its proposals by latest 20 October.

ACTION: JC

9 MTBO documents

9.1 MTBO flyer. UH will send ES details of the Swiss flyer. Photos will be requested from IOF.

ACTION: ES

9.2 Guidelines for Organisers of IOF MTBO events. The latest version of the guidelines which includes the input and corrections from commission members was approved and a number of suggestions for further improvements were made, including the need for an index.

Moreover:

- MC is asked to look over items such as ceremonies, media centre and services, arenas, etc.
- All commission members should:
 - Check the safety items in the text
 - Make a list of useful templates to include in the guidelines and feedback to ES by 15th October.

9.3 ST has created a dedicated You Tube address to house MTBO videos.

10 Development strategy

JHJ's report was noted. This item will require further discussion at the next meeting.

11 Next meeting

The next commission meeting will be held in Helsinki in conjunction with the joint meeting with Council. The date will be announced later but it will probably be 20 and 21 January. The following meeting will be held in conjunction with the WMTBOC in HUN.

The meeting closed at 16:30