

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Veszprém, Hungary

Date: 26th August 2012

Participants:

Jan Cegiełka (JC) – member (POL)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
Edmond Széchényi (ES) – chairperson (FRA)
Sandor Tálás (ST) – member (HUN)
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)

Michaela Gigon (MG) – representing the Athletes' Commission

Excused:

Johann H Jacobsen (JHJ) – member (DEN)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 8:30 on Sunday 26th August.

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved.

3 Approval of the previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting (Helsinki, January 2012) 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 Approval by the ESB of the 2013 World Cup programme and special rules

4.2 Appointment of EAs for World Cup 2013: POL – Tage V. Andersen; POR – Christian Gigon

4.3 Approval by ESB of dates for WMTBOC 2014 in POL (24-31 August)

4.4 First issue of newsletter for EAs in April.

5 Review of the Open meeting

An open commission meeting was held on 24th August at 21:00. Eight team leaders attended. ST presented an overview of the work of the commission and the participants were invited to comment and ask questions. Unfortunately there was little useful interaction to report and the meeting was closed at 21:30.

Open meetings can be useful to get the reaction of the teams to the work of the commission but the timing must be considered carefully so as to make sure that a majority of team leaders will be free and willing to attend.

6 International Event Calendar

6.1 It has been agreed with the organiser of EMTBOC 2013 (POL) to maintain the published dates for the event in spite of requests from some teams for a change.

6.2 WMTBOC 2015. The two applications received (CZE and POR) were analysed. Both are very satisfactory and come from experienced organisers. On technical considerations there are no criteria to rank one of the applications above the other. However, considering the long term competition structure, the commission advises appointing CZE for 2015 and inviting POR to reapply for 2016 when their application would most probably be successful.

6.3 The following 2014 World Cup programme will be submitted to the ESB for approval:

- Late May (or early June) in DEN (the organisers will be asked to confirm by submitting the appropriate application form)
- In conjunction with O-Ringen in SWE from 19 to 25 July
- The WMTBOC in POL from 24 to 31 August

The special rules will be based on those of 2013. They will be prepared for approval latest at the next meeting.

ACTION: TW

6.4 The 2014 WMMTBOC will be held in POL in conjunction with WMTBOC.

6.5 The deadline for applications for the 2013 WRE calendar is 30th September. The calendar will be submitted to the commission for approval by e-mail during October.

ACTION: TW

7 Event advising and event quality

7.1 Three clinics have been held during the past 9 months: November in DEN (13 participants), March in AUT (6 participants), May in POR (6 participants). The first two of these clinics were not restricted to event advising and also addressed event organisation.

7.2 No dates have yet been fixed for the next clinic though there should be one held in the autumn.

7.3 The commission proposes Simon Seger (SUI) to be the SEA for WMTBOC/JWMTBOC/ WMMTBOC 2014 in POL.

7.4 Other SEA appointments -

- Current status:

WCup 2013 (and EMTBOC) in POL: Tage V. Andersen (DEN)

WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2013 in EST: Sandor Tálas (HUN)

WCup 2013 in POR (and WMMTBOC): Christian Gigon (AUT)

- SEAs to be identified (and appointed by the IOF secretariat) during the autumn 2012 for:

WCup 2014 Round 1 in DEN

WCup 2014 Round 2 in SWE

WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2015 in CZE (or possibly POR)

ACTION: ST

7.5 SEA reports are singularly uncritical of organisations, particularly in view of opinions expressed by the athletes through the athletes' commission. The most important issue raised concerns the red starting group – this point is addressed in the proposed rule changes below and in Appendix 1. Points made by the athletes will result in advice to SEAs in the forthcoming newsletter to be published in the autumn.

ACTION: UH

7.6 For the WCup Round in CZE there were 16 responses and for POL 20. A flyer will be distributed at major events to encourage returning the form and it will also be put on the event websites. The event evaluation form is a very practical tool to assess the quality of an event, and analysis can be done easily as it is an online form. For the next season the form will be shortened.

ACTION: UH

8 Review of competition formats for IOF events

8.1 The 2-rider mixed sprint relay has been approved by the European Working Group for inclusion in the 2013 European Championships to be held in POL. The specific rules for this event are given in the proposed rule changes below and in Appendix 1.

8.2 The question of the introduction of the 2-rider mixed relay in future WMTBOCs will be addressed after the 2013 European Championships which are considered as a test. The WMTBOC 2014 organisers are prepared to put this event on their programme if the Commission and the Council so decide.

8.3 The commission unanimously decided to abolish the qualification races at WMTBOC and to replace them with selections based on the previous WMTBOC results and on the World Ranking list. The selection system is detailed in the proposed rule changes below and in Appendix 1. The explanatory text for the Council is in Appendix 3. In the first instance this selection will be used only for the LD events; it could later be extended to the other formats. Subject to approval by Council, this selection system will definitely come into effect at WMTBOC 2014. The Estonian organisers of WMTBOC will be asked if they already wish to use this selection procedure in 2013.

ACTION: ST

9 Map and Rules Issues (see Appendices 1 and 2 for the proposed changes)

9.1 Permitted off-track riding areas. During the meeting the commission members present came to a consensus on this subject. However, JHJ who coordinates map issues could not attend the meeting and subsequent e-mail exchanges showed that the time is not yet ripe for a definite solution on this question. Therefore it is deferred for further discussion at the next meeting.

For the record only, the suggested solution was as follows:

- Open areas: Symbol 403 (50% yellow) be used for open areas where off-track riding is permitted. For all other open areas symbol 401 should be used.
- Semi-open areas: symbol 404 be used with 50% yellow if off-track riding is permitted and 100% yellow if riding is forbidden.
- Narrow open areas and line features (such as forest rides) where riding is permitted be shown as tracks.
- FootO symbol 407 should be used over the 50% yellow for low vegetation in areas where off-track riding is permitted.

9.2 Other symbols:

- FootO symbol 522 in 70% black should be added to the standards to represent crossable fences such as cow fences.
- Symbol 402 is unnecessary and should be removed.

9.3 Course printing for MTBO course requires two levels of magenta. The implementation with OCAD is at present very cumbersome. OCAD will be requested to develop a relevant "patch" for its course planning software.

ACTION: ST

9.4 Proposed rule changes in addition to those decided at the last meeting:

- Rewrite 6.8 to read:
In the Long Distance competition there shall be a maximum of 60 start slots. The start slots shall be allocated to each Federation according to the following system:
 1. The maximum number of start slots for any one Federation is 4.
 2. Every participating Federation automatically has 1 start slot.
 3. The organising Federation automatically has the maximum of 4 start slots.
 4. Start slots are added for each Federation on the basis of the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC long distance event.
 5. The maximum of 60 start slots is then made up from the World Ranking list as it stands three months prior to the championships. For this purpose the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC are eliminated from the World Ranking.
 6. In addition to the allocated start slots, the current Long distance World Champions may be entered by their Federation(s) provided they are members of the Federation's team.
- Add as 11th bullet point to Rule 8.4 (Bulletin 2): "- whether there are any controls situated off-paths"
- In Rule 8.7 add "before" (... shall be published 12 months before the event ...)
- In Rule 12.14 change twice "runners" to "riders".
- Rewrite the 4th paragraph of Rule 12.14 to read "A list of the members of the Red Start Group – based on the entries - shall be published with Bulletin 4. The list remains unaltered even if some of the riders on the list do not take part in the competition or event."
- Change Rule 18.1 to read "No control descriptions are used in MTBO. Any off-path controls must be set so as not to require descriptions."
- Remove Rules 18.2 and 18.3.
- Rule 19.3: replace "in the event instructions" by "in Bulletin n°2".
- New Rule 19.4 (and subsequent renumbering): "Controls shall not be sited within 60m of each other, whether on or off tracks."
- New Rule 21.5 (and subsequent renumbering): for WMTBOC/WCup/JWMTBOC: "Each member of a national relay team must wear a team dress with identical design. Under no circumstances may competitors wear the team dress of another Federation."
- Old Rule 21.6: remove "and control descriptions"
- Rewrite Rule 21.11: "The organiser may require competitors to carry a GPS tracking device and/or a GPS data logger."

- Appendix 8, Point 2:
 - 2nd sentence, rewrite: “Relay, Long, Middle, Sprint and Mixed Sprint Relay”
 - Replace 4th sentence (“The long distance may”) by: “The mixed sprint relay shall be carried out according to the following rules:
 1. There shall be 4 sprint-type legs ridden alternatively by 1 woman and 1 man, the woman starting first;
 2. The 4 legs shall be approximately of equal length, each requiring a riding time of 10 to 15 minutes;
 3. A Federation shall be represented by only one team.”

9.5 The complete lists of proposed rule and map changes (Appendices 1 and 2) will be submitted to the Rules and Map commissions respectively before submission to Council. **ACTION: ES**

9.6 The Commission recommends the following characteristics for touch-free punching systems used in MTBO:

- Punching range: at least 2m
- Feedback: both sound and light. The light should be visible for at least 5 seconds.
- Chips should never switch off automatically before read out.
- There should be a backup as for example through recordings in both the carried chip and the station unit.

9.7 The commission examined the document submitted by Henning Spjelkavik for the IT Commission on the possible use of data loggers to ensure fairness. Two model types are relevant to this application:

IGotU 120 (GT-120) at 40 € and *photoMate 887 Lite* at 30 €.

The commission recommends that one of these types of data loggers be carried by all competitors in all major competitions. 200 units would be required for an investment of the order of 6000 € to 8000 €. This investment could be recouped through a rental charge to event organisers. Should these data loggers be implemented, detailed instructions for their use will be requested of the IT commission.

The Council will be approached with this recommendation.

ACTION: ES

10 World-wide development

A development clinic is planned in South America with the help of José Fernando Gomez Rueda, the IOF's regional development officer. This clinic could possibly take place in November. José Fernando Gomez Rueda has taken on the task of bringing together as many participating nations as possible and choosing a suitable venue.

11 MTBO documents

11.1 The text of the proposed flyer will be updated and sent to ST.

ACTION: ES

11.2 The organiser's guidelines updates were adopted as submitted to the commission. These will need to be completed with information from the WMTBOC 2012 organisers and then updated with the new rule changes as soon as these have been approved by Council. The complete guidelines will then be submitted to the Rules commission for checking and correcting and then to Council for approval. They will be valid as from 1st January 2013.

ACTION: ES

11.3 The Event Adviser handbook has been on the website for some months. Updating will be required when the new Rules become effective. Its existence is not yet sufficiently known so it will be mentioned again in the next Event Advisers' newsletter.

ACTION: UH

11.4 Other documents that should be developed during the coming congress period:

- The interpretation of mapping standards
- Map standards for sprint maps of urban or semi-urban terrain
- How to organise the first MTBO event (guidance for countries where MTBO is not yet known)
- Templates for the official information Bulletins

12 The MTBO Commission

The mandate for the commission ends in December and a new commission will be formed for the coming two-year congress period. The membership of the commission was discussed in view of feedback to Council for the appointment of the commission.

13 Next meeting

The next commission meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland, in January 2013 in conjunction with the joint Council-Commissions meeting.

The meeting closed at 15:40

Appendix 1

Rule change proposals, September 2012

The MTBOC proposes to Council the following competition rule changes for validity from 1st January 2013:

1. Rewrite last sentence of Rules 1.1 to read "Riding off tracks or trails is allowed only in areas shown on the map by the appropriate symbols."
2. Rule 3.2: Take out the sentence "The Long distance qualification race and a final".
3. Rewrite the beginning of Rule 6.6: "In the Middle distance and the Sprint every Federation may enter up to 6 women and 6 men"
4. Rewrite 6.8 to read:

In the Long Distance competition there shall be a maximum of 60 start slots. The start slots shall be allocated to each Federation according to the following system:

 - a. The maximum number of start slots for any one Federation is 4.
 - b. Every participating Federation automatically has 1 start slot.
 - c. The organising Federation automatically has the maximum of 4 start slots.
 - d. Start slots are added for each Federation on the basis of the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC long distance event.
 - e. The maximum of 60 start slots is then made up from the World Ranking list as it stands three months prior to the championships. For this purpose the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC are eliminated from the World Ranking.
 - f. In addition to the allocated start slots, the current Long distance World Champions may be entered by their Federation(s) provided they are members of the Federation's team.
5. Add to rule 6.10: "Incomplete relay teams may compete in the World Cup relay events but must have a later start time than the official teams."
6. Add as 11th bullet point to Rule 8.4 (Bulletin 2): "- whether there are any controls situated off-paths"
7. Add a bullet point to Rule 8.6: "The location of quarantine zones and the time when competitors and officials must enter and may exit them."
8. In Rule 8.7 add "before" (... shall be published 12 months before the event ...)
9. Rule 8.8 should apply to both WCup and WMTBOC. These are combined events which have the same bulletins. Rule 8.10 should then be removed.
10. Rule 12.14:
 - a. Change "runners" to "riders" (twice)
 - b. Rewrite the 4th paragraph of Rule 12.14 to read "A list of the members of the Red Start Group – based on the entries - shall be published with Bulletin 4. The list remains unaltered even if some of the riders on the list do not take part in the competition or event."
11. Rule 15.2: The map scale for Long Distance should be "Long: 1:15000 (exceptionally 1:20000 subject to approval by the event adviser)".
12. Change Rule 18.1 to read "No control descriptions are used in MTBO. Any off-path controls must be set so as not to require descriptions."
13. Remove Rules 18.2 and 18.3.
14. Rule 19.3: replace "in the event instructions" by "in Bulletin n°2".
15. New Rule 19.4 (and subsequent renumbering): "Controls shall not be sited within 60m of each other."

16. Remove rule 20.3 (this requirement is difficult to respect and is unnecessary in view of other rules, in particular rule 21.7).
17. New Rule 21.5 (and subsequent renumbering): for WOC/WCup/JWOC: "Each member of a national relay team must wear a team dress with identical design. Under no circumstances may competitors wear the team dress of another Federation."
18. Old Rule 21.5 start numbers: Define new minimum size of the figures as 7 cm. The present 10 cm is rather large and is difficult to fit on the bib.
19. Old Rule 21.6: remove "and control descriptions"
20. Rewrite Old Rule 21.7: "Riders must stay with their bikes throughout a race from start to finish, whether they ride, push or carry them".
21. Rewrite Old Rule 21.11: "The organiser may require competitors to carry a GPS tracking device and/or a GPS data logger."
22. New Rules 22.16 (and subsequent renumbering): Quarantine zones - the same text as in FootO rule 22.16 should be used.
23. Appendix 8, Point 2:
 - a. 2nd sentence, rewrite: "Relay, Long, Middle, Sprint and Mixed Sprint Relay"
 - b. Replace 4th sentence ("The long distance may") by: "The mixed sprint relay shall be carried out according to the following rules:
 - There shall be 4 sprint-type legs ridden alternatively by 1 woman and 1 man, the woman starting first;
 - The 4 legs shall be approximately of equal length requiring a riding time of 10 to 15 minutes each;
 - A Federation can be represented by only one team."

Appendix 2

Proposed changes to the MTBO map standards, September 2012

The MTBOC proposes to Council the following map standard amendments to be valid from 1st January 2013:

1. The map scale for the Long Distance should be fixed at 1:15000; the 1:20000 scale should only be an option that would need to be approved by the SEA.
2. There should be an option allowing printing the control numbering on the map surrounded by a white line to make it more legible to riders.
3. The need to print maps on water resistant paper, which is in the rules, should also appear in the ISMTBOM.
4. Symbol 406 (forest) should be 50% green instead of 30%.
5. FootO symbol 522 in 70% black should be added to the standards to represent crossable fences such as cow fences.
6. Symbol 402 is unnecessary and should be removed.

The commission has not yet been able to define symbols for off-track riding areas. This will be a priority for the next congress period.

Appendix 3

MTBOC to Council, September 2012

WMTBOC Long Distance event: the replacement of qualification races by a selection procedure

Rationale

In order to limit the total duration of the Long Distance event at WMTBOCs the number of start slots has always been restricted to 60 for both women and men. These 60 competitors have until now been selected through a qualification competition held at the championships.

Experience with the qualification event has not been altogether positive for various reasons. The event is not popular with the athletes and with a maximum entry of 6 competitors from each country the starting field in the finals weighs heavily in favour of the more developed MTBO countries. Moreover, the organisational work required (maps, courses, arena) makes this event not cost effective.

At its meeting on 26th August 2012 the MTBOC decided the replacement of the qualification event by a selection procedure based on the previous World Championship results and on the World Ranking. A mix of the previous WMTBOC and of the Ranking list was chosen so as to avoid the disadvantages inherent in each. The variable parameter in the procedure is the number of start slots taken from the previous WMTBOC. Simulations show that with 15 the WMTBOC and the World Ranking contribute starting slots equally.

The selection procedure

The selection system adopted is as follows:

1. The maximum number of start slots for any one country is 4.
2. Every participating country automatically has 1 start slot.
3. The organising country automatically has the maximum of 4 start slots.
4. Start slots are added for each country on the basis of the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC long distance event.
5. The total of 60 start slots is then made up from the World Ranking list as it stands two months prior to the championships. For this purpose the first 15 finishers at the previous WMTBOC are eliminated from the World Ranking.
6. In addition to the 60 start slots, the current Long distance World Champions may be entered by their Federation(s) provided they are members of the Federation's team.