



# INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

## Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

**Place:** Helsinki, Finland

**Date:** 17-18 January 2014

### Participants:

Sándor Tálás (ST) – chairman (HUN)  
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)  
Jiri Vransky (JV) – member (CZE)  
Magnus Wallenborg (MW) – member (SWE)  
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)

### On phone

Michaela Gigon (MG) – representing the Athletes' Commission

### No Show

Jan Cegiela (JC) – member (POL)

## 1 Opening

The meeting opened at 4pm on Friday 17 January

## 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 (Rakvere, August 2013) 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 IOF Protocol guide – the MTBO Commission has submitted a proposal for the October Council meeting to keep the age long tradition of top 6 riders taking part in medal ceremonies, as an important promotional feature. The proposal was resubmitted for the January Council meeting, because the MTBOC proposal was not voted on in October. JC requested to minute that he did not agree with the MTBOC proposal.
- 4.2 WMTBOC Long Qualification – the MTBO Commission has submitted a proposal for the October Council meeting to change the national allocation system to an individual qualification system. The Council requested more analysis and a refinement of the new system. The revised qualification system was submitted for the January Council meeting. JC requested to minute that he did not agree with the MTBOC proposal.
- 4.3 North American development – the MTBOC submitted a request for funding a 10 day long USA MTBO Clinic tour with a total of 4 presentations across the country.

## 5 International Event Calendar

- 5.1 World Championships 2017 – two applications were received from Lithuania and Russia. The Commission reviewed the applications and started the preparation of a detailed analysis for the March Council meeting.

- 5.2 World Cup rounds 2016 – four applications were received from Finland, France, Lithuania and Poland. The Commission reviewed the applications and decided on negotiation steps to assess the flexibility of organisers to adjust their dates for a more balanced year round World Cup program.
- 5.3 WMMTBOC 2016 – one application was received from Finland in connection to their World Cup application. The Commission decided that the decision on the WMMTBOC should follow the decision on the World Cup applications.
- 5.4 Plans for 2017-2019 – several countries expressed their interest informally to organize World Championships, including a potential non-European applicant. The relatively high sanction fee appears to be a key issue for organisers to commit themselves.

## **6 Event advising and event quality**

- 6.1 Evaluation of the 2013 international events – The event evaluation based on athletes' and teams' feedback was presented and discussed. The overall event quality was good to excellent for the WMTBOC in Estonia, and the World Cup Final and WMMTBOC in Portugal. The EMTBOC in Poland was below expectations, as discussed before.
- 6.2 Review of 2014 event preparation – The Commission listened to the report of the EA for the Swedish World Cup preparation and decided to step up its effort to make organisers focus on out of forest questions that are lagging well behind the timeline.
- 6.3 EA Clinics – One event adviser and organiser clinic was presented in Portugal in connection with the World Cup and WMMTBOC. The next clinic is planned in Bornholm, Denmark, in connection with the MTBO Camp. Another clinic is planned in the autumn of 2014 in Central Europe, tentatively on 4-5 October in Prague.
- 6.4 EA Newsletter – Newsletter #3 was prepared by UH and submitted to the IOF Office for distribution at the end of December, but yet to be sent out.
- 6.5 Application guidelines – basic application guidelines were requested to be prepared for WMTBOC applications.
- 6.6 Punching systems – SI Air+ and EMIT Touch Free were provisionally approved for World Ranking Events for 2 years. The MTBOC encourages the use of touch free systems to gain experience before approval for major events is discussed.
- 6.7 SEA appointments – current status:
  - WCup 2014 in DEN: Tibor Erdelyi (HUN)
  - WCup 2014 in SWE: Ursula Hausermann (SUI)
  - WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2014 in POL: Simon Seger (SUI)
  - WCup 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)

## **7 Rules and mapping standards**

- 7.1 R14 – revision of IOF rules – the work has been refocused on the revision of Foot-O rules. MTBO rules will be revised based on the experience of Foot-O.
- 7.2 Revision of World Ranking rules – The Council has decided to revise the World Ranking system for Foot-O to ensure that performance on major events gets higher scores. The MTBO Commission discussed the ideas of the Council with Mike Dowling, Vice president. The intentions of Council were understood. It was agreed that the World Ranking system for MTBO remains unchanged for 2014, and the MTBO Commission will propose a system aligned as much as possible with Foot-O for 2015.

- 7.3** ISMTBOM Sprint/Urban standards – the working group under the leadership of Emily Benham (GBR) is preparing a set of recommendations for mapping urban areas and sprint events. The working group will also address the question of rideability permissions in cooperation with JV.
- 7.4** Rule changes proposed from January 2014 were accepted by the Council. The main changes are equal winning times for both gender classes, the possibility to set up a technical zone, clarification on GPS use, and the introduction of an Orange start group (before the Red group) on World Cups and World Championships.

## **8 Strategic development**

- 8.1** Image of MTBO / marketing plan – a working group should be formed to address the strategic image of MTBO and to form a strategic marketing plan.
- 8.2** Development – a Masters Working Group was formed under the leadership of Keith Dawson (GBR) to advise the Commission and organisers on the need of masters, an increasingly important cohort for development.
- 8.3** Broader geographic base – it was decided that the geographical focus of the development work should focus on North America where strong local interest exists. A tour of MTBO clinics in the USA is planned for the summer of 2014.
- 8.4** A new format of a 75 min mass start event is to be developed with the aim of rounding out the World Championship program, and provide another potential path for on-event Long Qualification.
- 8.5** The long distance score event working group made some progress under the leadership of Miroslav Rygl (CZE), but the discussion needs to be broadened before the suggested provisional format rules are introduced.
- 8.6** Media / Social Media presence – the MTBO group on Facebook provides a very useful discussion platform. A working group to collect and manage the best social media items may need to be formed.

## **9 MTBO documents and support materials**

- 9.1** Organisers' guidelines – the document has to be updated to incorporate the 2014 rule changes
- 9.2** First MTBO Event – this document may be based on the similar Swedish document
- 9.3** Guide / interpretation to mapping standards – this work may be based on the outcome of the work of the Urban/Sprint working group
- 9.4** Templates for Bulletins – a basic template for major event bulletins will be published on the IOF web site as soon as possible.

## **10 Next meeting**

The next commission meeting will be held in Bialystok, Poland, on 28 August 2014.

*The meeting closed at 18:00 on Saturday*