

Minutes of the MTBO Commission Meeting

Place: Malmö, Sweden

Date: 22-23 January 2016

Participants:

Sandor Talas (ST) – chairman (HUN)
Ursula Häusermann (UH) – member (SUI)
Ludomir Parfianowicz (LP) – member (POL)
Jiri Vransky (JV) – member (CZE)
Thomas Wieser (TW) – member (AUT)
Emily Benham (EB) – Chair, Athletes' Commission

Excused:

André Hermet (AH) – member (FRA)
Magnus Wallenborg (MW) – member (SWE)

1 Opening

The meeting opened at 3.00 pm on Friday, 22 January 2016. A special welcome was given to Emily Benham, the new chairwoman of the Athletes' Commission.

2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda that was circulated before the meeting was approved.

3 Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

4 Matters arising and decisions taken since the last meeting

4.1 SEA appointments for 2017-18

World Cup 2017 in AUT: David Hlavac (CZE)
EMTBOC 2017 in FRA: Tiago Fernandes (POR)
WMTBOC / JWMTBOC 2018 in AUT: Simon Seger (SUI)

4.2 Development document first MTBO event – applications

The call for applications to write the development guide has not been successful. More information see 9.2.

4.3 **Principles for SEA Appointments**

The Council had decided at its meeting in October 2015 that commission members may not be appointed SEA/EA unless through the specific agreement of the Council. The MTBOC submitted a joint request with FOC that commission members may be appointed SEA/EA without any restrictions also in the future.

The council stated at its meeting in Malmö that commission members could be appointed as SEAs, but discipline commission chairs and Athletes' Commission members should not be appointed SEAs.

4.4 **Commission Remits**

The special tasks for 2016 were updated, and the remits were approved by the Council at its meeting in Malmö.

4.5 **IOF Athletes' Licence**

The Council has implemented an Athletes' Licence starting with the ski orienteering season 2015-2016. This licence is an agreement between the IOF and the athlete. It is needed for athletes participating in Senior World Championships and World Cup competitions. The licence fee is € 30.00 per year and it will go directly to the IOF Anti-Doping fund which is part of IOF Anti Doping plan.

5 **MTBO related information received from the IOF Council**

5.1 **Consultation on the MTBO competition program - responses**

- There was strong support for adding a mass start competition as a medal event at WMTBOC. Prior to a decision being made a number of details in the answers would be forwarded to the MTBOC for recommendation.
- There was strong support for a 3-round World Cup program, particularly from member federations. The overall World Cup program should be determined by the MTBOC and have a mix of MTBO formats.
- There was support for adding either a mass start or relay competition to the program of the WMMTBOC, with a preference for a relay. Council however noted that this would require a decision in principle about masters' competitions, since masters' athletes compete as individuals and not as a part of a national team. The consequences of such a decision would need further consideration.
- There was also support in the consultation answers for organising WMMTBOC as a separate event from other elite MTBO events as soon as this was viable, by participation numbers and financially. However, most responses indicated that this was most likely not viable at the current time.
- The program of the future EMTBOC was less clear with a slight majority of answers showing support for an EMTBOC program with a maximum of 4 competitions. Further discussion and consultation may be needed to determine the best way forward.
- Finally the consultation indicated that there might be interest in establishing a Pacific or Oceania MTBOC.

5.2 **IOF Eventor**

The Eventor entry system is now also valid for Masters, starting with the WMMTBOC 2016.

David Wästlund explained the new entry process via IOF Eventor. As it is the organiser's responsibility to upload the latest information in Eventor and to manage the entries, proactive support must be increased. EAs also have to have some knowledge about Eventor; UH will add this information to the EAs' Handbook.

- 5.3 The organisers of WOC/WTOC 2018 (LAT) requested a change of dates due to a problem with forest access on the original dates (27 July-5 Aug). The WOC/WTOC 2018 was planned to be moved to 4-11 August 2018. This however creates a complete **overlap of dates with WMTBOC 2018** which cannot be allowed. The Council returned the issue to FOC and TOC to resolve in consultation with MTBOC if necessary.

For the WMTBOC 2018 organiser it will not be possible to change dates. The Austrian WMTBOC organisers clearly stated in their application that the dates are non-movable as the event centre with the central accommodation is only available during that week.

5.4 **Diplomas at World Cup Events**

The MTBOC had asked the Council for a decision on a proposal to award World Cup diplomas to the top 6 athletes at World Cup competitions. The Council approved the proposal and asked the Office to make necessary changes in the Protocol Guide and make the practical arrangements for implementation.

6 International event calendar

6.1 Applications

A **World Championships 2019**

Applications were received from Denmark and Hungary. The MTBOC reviewed the applications and started the preparation of a detailed analysis for the April Council meeting.

B **World Cup rounds 2018**

Four federations applied for a World Cup round in 2018. Two federations will have to confirm their application by the middle of February.

C **World Masters MTBO Championships**

An application for the WMMTBOC 2018 was received from Hungary, in conjunction with the World Cup round 2018.

6.2 Current upcoming events

The status of current upcoming events was discussed and the MTBOC decided on action where necessary.

A **World Cup FRA, May 2016:**

The EA made his first visit only in November; Bulletin 1/2 was late and there were several other shortcomings which have been addressed in the meantime.

B **WMTBOC POR, July 2016:**

Everything seems to be on track. A mass start competition is planned (see 5.1).

- C **World Cup LTU, September 2016, and WMTBOC LTU, August 2017:**
There was some delay with the bulletins, and the organisers have problems to create a website which is worthy of a major IOF event. An improved (joint) website has been promised by 1st February.
- D **World Cup AUT, June 2017, and WMTBOC AUT, August 2018:**
Both SEAs have started their work and there was a first information exchange between the SEAs and the organisers.
- E **World Ranking Events 2016:**
TW reported that the application process via Eventor is practical and that its use makes his work easier.
- F **World Masters Series (WMS) 2016:**
The WMS 2016 consists of 15 competitions, see www.mtbo-commission.com/world-masters-series.html
In order to give the WMS a more professional touch and a higher recognition, UH suggested to introduce some simple rules (e.g. when to void a race). Furthermore, all Masters who want to be ranked in the WMS should register for it and thus have the possibility to decide in which class they want to get points.

6.3 **IOF program review:**

In MTBO the program review includes the question whether the format Mass start can become a medal event at the WMTBOC. As the Council does not want to treat the disciplines individually the program review will be handled as one package and as such it will be put before the General Assembly in summer 2016. The 2016 and 2017 WMTBOC organisers POR and LTU are keen on offering a mass start competition and will hold this format anyway, regardless of whether it will be official or unofficial. The MTBOC would therefore like to count these mass start competitions for the World Cup. The Council will vote on this proposal by email.

6.4 **Plans for 2018 - 2022**

Possible candidates to hold a major IOF MTBO event were discussed.

7 **Event advising and quality**

7.1 **Evaluation of the 2015 international events**

Once again, the athletes had the possibility to give feedback on the World Cup rounds through an online questionnaire. This feedback, which will be published shortly, was mainly positive. The WMTBOC in CZE was even ranked as one of the best organized events ever.

Potential for improvement was noted with regard to visibility (e.g. no podium at a World Cup event). A few bigger mistakes also happened, but no protests were made and no competition had to be voided. The MTBOC tried to analyse these mistakes and learnings will be shared in the newsletter to EAs.

7.2 **Supporting the EAs in their work**

As the discipline commissions carry the primary responsibility for event quality the MTBOC wants to strengthen its work with the SEAs. This will include:

- a All newly appointed SEAs will get a personal “Welcome Letter”, encouraging them to get in touch with the event organiser as soon as possible and informing them about the first steps of their work in more detail.
 - b In addition to the Handbook for Event Advisers, there will be a summary of practical tips on how to report to the MTBOC.
 - c The MTBOC will monitor the SEAs’ work (time schedule of visits, deadlines for bulletins etc.) and offer help proactively when problems or delays seem to arise.
 - d As it is already now the case, the EAs will get a newsletter. The next issue is planned for February 2016.
- 7.3 **EA Clinics:** In 2015 two clinics were successfully held in POR during the World Cup/WMMTBOC in June (8 participants) and in Vilnius, LTU, in November (6 participants).
At the moment up to two clinics are planned for 2016, but there are no specific locations or dates set.
- 7.4 **Guidance notes on applications** for the WMTBOC and JWMTBOC exist. TW will create guidance notes on World Cup applications.
- 7.5 Michaela Gigon created a form to set up an **injury and accident database**. EB/AC will give input as well before it is published for the 2016 season.
- 7.6 UH was commissioned to make a **database of disqualifications** starting with the World Cup rounds in 2015.
- 7.7 **SEA appointments**
Current status:
- World Cup 2016 in FRA: Magnus Wallenborg (SWE)
 - WMTBOC / JWMTBOC / EYMTBOC 2016 in POR: Jan Eg Pedersen (DEN)
 - World Cup / WMMTBOC 2016 in LTU: Ludomir Parfianowicz (POL)
 - World Cup 2017 in AUT: David Hlavac (CZE)
 - EMTBOC / WMMTBOC 2017 in FRA: Tiago Fernandes (POR)
 - WMTBOC / JWMTBOC 2017 in LTU: Ursula Häusermann (SUI)
 - WMTBOC / JWMTBOC / EYMTBOC 2018 in AUT: Simon Seger (SUI)

8 Rules and mapping standards

8.1 Special rules for World Cup 2017

The Special rules for the World Cup in 2017 cannot be finalised yet (Mass start, see 5.3). The MTBOC plans to count 8 out of 9 races for the individual World Cup.

8.2 Rule change proposals

- a **Quarantine rules:** JV will make a first draft of guidelines on quarantine.
- b The MTBOC agreed that there should be a complete ban on **off-map riding**. A respective proposal for this rule change will be discussed at the next meeting in July.

- c **Guidelines for mass start:** EB has written guidelines regarding the start (procedure and layout) at mass start and relay competitions. They will be sent to the EAs - together with the newsletter - and this year's organisers of mass start and relay competitions. They will also be published on the IOF website and the MTBOC's website.

8.3 **ISMTBOM review:** The Map Working Group under the leadership of EB have reviewed the ISMTBOM and have developed a proposal with updates to the current ISMTBOM. A special focus was set on how to map urban areas. Two more documents regarding MTBO maps have been created as well: *Common errors and solutions* and *Scales and symbol sizes*. The proposal will be published for public testing in the February-May period.

9 Strategic development

- 9.1 LP presented the framework for a new **MTBO strategic plan**. The MTBOC will continue the discussion on setting the right strategic objectives and outlining a development plan.
- 9.2 **MTBO development guide "How to organise a first MTBO event"**: None of the received applications were considered to be satisfactory. The MTBOC has decided to set up a small international team to complete the work in 2016.

10 Next meeting

The next meeting is planned to be held in Agueda, POR, on 28th July 2016 (rest day of the WMTBOC).

The meeting closed at 1.30 am on Sunday.

Sandor Talas
chairman

Ursula Häusermann
commission member