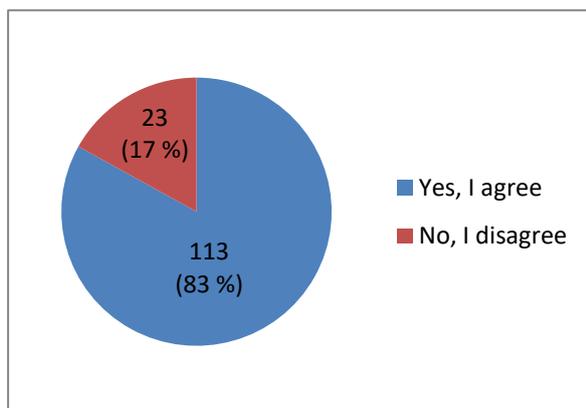


## September 2017: Survey regarding a minimum limit of participants per 5-year age class at the WMMTBOC

138 Master competitors took part in this survey. Many thanks!  
A vast majority supported the proposal of the MTBO Commission.

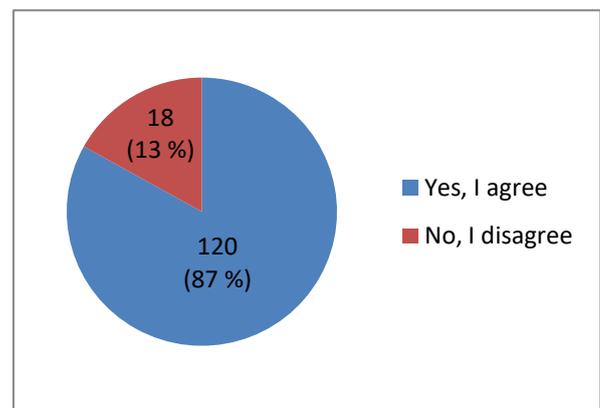
### Question 1:

For W40, M40, W45, M45, W50, M50, W55, M55, W60, M60, W65 and M65, two adjacent classes in the same decade shall be merged if either or both have fewer than 5 entries.



### Question 2:

The classes W70, M70, W75, M75, W80, M80, W85 and M85 shall always be offered in five-year age groups, regardless of the number of entries.



### Remarks:

Good and fair proposal

This is crucial to maximise female and older competitor numbers and grow the sport, so it is no longer an issue.

I would say fewer than 4 entries.

I believe we should go further and, to avoid age discrimination, the rules should be the same for ALL age classes. i.e. 5 year age classes should always be available to all ages.

It is not very important for me if classes are joint or not - but if they are joint there should only be one start list and one result list. And not separate ones as in France this year!

I think it's important to note that if the youngest of the two classes is the small one, the classes should not be merged. Example (W50: 4 participants, W55: 6 participants). In this case it would be unfair to the W55 to merge the classes since their age group actually makes the cut, and it would be W55 who most likely lose their chance of medals.

I think the only merging should be, if it is the older class (45,55,65) which have too few participants. If the younger class have too few it would not be fair to the older group with a merging.

It is ok that two classes have the same track.

A medal won in a competition with only 4 other competitors has no value for me. It's a world championship!

Great job! You should also have a rule that 60 and older never had to compete in 1:15 000. Always 1:10 000 or bigger.

I am in favour of no merging for any class. I feel this is the key to increasing the number of entries.

If the issue is to attract more people, 5-year classes would be best because many (perhaps most) people value the medals, irrespective of the way they are obtained (i.e. the underlying competitiveness). However, other factors should also be taken into account, such as costs involved in attending competitions, namely entry fees, and the quality of the competition from the masters' point of view - what they get for the price they pay.

45 shall never be merged with 40.

I agree with both questions. But it is impossible for me to accept world championships with fewer than 5 competitors in a class. Then it should be an alternative title like "World Best". For World championships it must be minimum number of competitors.

ad 2): I would prefer a minimum of at least three entries in those categories.

For 1. If two classes will be merged e.g. D-50 and D-55 - then the startlist and the result list must contain the merged class called D-50.

Better for the sport as a whole if NO merging takes place in any category. Just give fewer medals if category very under subscribed with less than 5 entries.

If you are alone in your class it is good if you are contacted by the organisers to ask if you want to merge.

There are five year age classes at the World Masters Series. At the WMMTBOC I'd rather start in a class with more people even if my chances are smaller to win a medal. It's embarrassing to say that you've won a medal in a class with only 3 or 4 other participants.

Is it someone's fault that they travel around the world to race only to find that they will be merged because others did not enter? In a case like this you could run the two classes on the same course and just separate the results, so it is still only one course.

The WMMTBOC was quite ridiculous this year with the letter of the law applied without thought. W40 had nine entrants and W45 had ten entrants. There were a further 22 entrants in W40 in the concurrent O-France competition yet the W45s were combined with the W40s. Orienteers are supposed to be intelligent thinking people but this was not at all apparent.

I realize more classes make more administration but the difference in riders' ability over a 10 year age group is vast. Most other sports have 5 year intervals in masters classes.

At these older age groups 5 years is a significant difference.

Large classes promote the good atmosphere between all competitors. Small classes are for medal chasers only - a bit ridiculous in our age.

I would prefer all age classes to be treated the same - ie no lower limit in entries. But as a 70+, I think it's up to the younger ones to do the voting on Q1.

I am 100% against any joining of age classes. That is decisive and undermines those in the higher age category. I would also ask if we should also be including M/F35 in this survey as well?

The organizer, most of them, will have the tendency to make the same course for the possible combined classes, once at course setting time there is no visibility on the class participants, and this will not differentiate much the application or not of the rule, once they will share the course setting, we can discuss if this is right or not, for more peripheral countries, where the participation level is low, not a problem, for more central countries, this could create problems on the long time of departures if some classes have big number of participations, recommendation could be done also on this aspect. Above 70's, I can understand the proposal, agree that we should differentiate them for incentive the participation and reward the same, also course setting should have special rules, like climb, level of technicality of the tracks, etc.

I believe the MTBO age classes should be exactly the same as those for "foot-o" and ski-o and that the IOF should simply state this without any further discussion. I have never understood why MTBO should be the exception from the norm, and especially now with the increased interest in MTBO masters racing.

Fewer than 10 competitors is not a valuable race. The rule was OK, the way the French organisers managed it was debatable.

I think this is a sensible compromise to ensure that we start to grow the sport. With the previous limit of 10 people there was a risk of some people feeling it was too big a gamble and therefore not entering. This was not growing our sport. After the France experience this year where classes were extremely close to the 10 person threshold but had to merge, we are in danger of having some of these people not enter again in future years.

Better should be: The classes W60, W65, W70, M70, W75, M75, W80, M80, W85 and M85 shall always be offered in five-year age groups, regardless of the number of entries.

I think all age classes should be offered in 5 year age groups, regardless of the number of entries. However, a limit of 5 entries is better than the current 10 entries so I would agree to question 1 if this is the only option.

I fully support this rule change as I believe it will encourage greater participation in IOF MTBO events, which is in accord with one of the IOF's stated objectives.

I actually think that all age groups should be conducted with no requirement of minimum numbers. Many other masters sports already do this.

Thanks for all your efforts to make MTBO attractive!!!

We want 5 years interval and no merged.

Classes MW70 and higher: It takes the seriousness away from our fine sport, if we give the gold medal to the one and only competitor in this category (we had this situation sometimes...).

I agree on the 5-entries minimum to support you as you have put so much effort in achieving this one step. But it is clear that I, and many more, would eventually like to have a no minimum per class, hopefully, by 2019.

From my experience my fitness deteriorates rapidly after 70 and I have become uncompetitive in the M70. I now ride an eMTB and would like to see an eMTB class included.

I prefer the tougher competition that comes with larger classes, and with current numbers I would have 10yr age classes for all vets. The questions in this and other surveys seem to force

people into certain replies that fit the views of the author. I can't answer the first question, for example.

1 - no merging at all

In each class shall be a minimum of three entries.

1 is a loaded question, there should be a neither button in my opinion as I don't agree that it should be combined with less than 5. Thanks!

Independent of the minimum entries, it's important that the classes are merged before the start of competition if a merge shall be done. It was very confusing this summer in France when the Bulletin/rules saying one thing and start lists and results say something else.

5 Oct 2017/uh