



MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING No. 202

Place	Digital meeting (MS Teams)	
Date	25 September 2020	
Schedule	Friday 25 September	Council Meeting (08:00 – 10:00 CEST) Council Meeting (10:30 - 12:30 CEST)
Participants	Leho Haldna (LH)	President
	Astrid Waaler Kaas (AWK)	Vice President
	Michael Dowling (MD)	Vice President
	Tatiana Kalenderoglu (TK)	Vice President
	Vincent Frey (VF)	Member
	Jürg Hellmüller (JH)	Member
	Hannu Kottonen (HK)	Member
	Linda Take (LT)	Member
	Dusan Vystavel (DV)	Member
	Dominic Yue (DY)	Member
	Laszlo Zentai (LZ)	Member
	Malin Fuhr (MF)	Communications Officer
	Jörgen Hector (HJ)	Sales/Brand Manager
	Tom Hollowell (TH)	CEO
Kirsty McIntyre (KM)	Office Administrator/Anti-Doping Officer	
Jenny Nilsson (JN)	Sports Administrator	

1. Opening

LH opened the meeting and enquired of the health and wellbeing of each Council member and of the IOF Office.

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions. A new agenda structure had been implemented where focus areas would be included as standing items, even if they are not addressed in each meeting.

3. Approval of previous minutes

3.1. 201; 31 July 2020, Teams meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record of that meeting.

3.2. Decisions of the Council and ESB since the previous meeting

Decisions taken by Council

19 August 2020: Council determined that the organisation of the European MTB Orienteering Championships, European Junior MTB Orienteering Championships and World Masters MTB Orienteering Championships 2020 in Finland could no longer be held due to new information regarding restrictions for entering Finland relative to the Covid-19 pandemic. The events were therefore cancelled. Note: HK did not take part in the decision.

Decisions taken by the Event Supervisory Board (ESB)

28 July 2020: The ESB unanimously appointed Christer Carlsson (SWE, Chair of the IOF Map Commission) as Assistant Senior Event Adviser with responsibility for map quality for the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) 2021 in the Czech Republic.

8 August 2020: The ESB unanimously appointed Roman Zbranek (CZE) as Assistant Event Adviser for the European Youth Orienteering Championships (EYOC) 2020 in Hungary.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) 2021 in Turkey as 11 – 16 July 2021.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) 2022 in Denmark as 26 – 30 June 2022.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of the World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC) 2022 in Italy as 9 – 16 July 2022.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of JWOC 2022 in Portugal as 11 – 16 July 2022.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of WOC 2023 in Switzerland as 11 – 16 July 2023.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the dates of WMOC 2023 in Slovakia as 11 – 18 August 2023.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously appointed Hideo Inaba (JPN) as Senior Event Adviser for the Asian Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships (AsJYOC) 2021 in Hong Kong.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the Special Rules for the European Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships 2020 to be held 24 – 26 October 2020 in Hungary.

27 August 2020: The ESB unanimously approved a change in the rules of the Asian Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships (AsJYOC) to allow the event to be organised as a purely sprint format event in odd calendar years.

15 September 2020: The ESB unanimously approved the Special Rules for the Orienteering World Cup 2021.

21 September 2020: The ESB decided, at the recommendation of the Ski Orienteering Commission, to not approve the Rules Deviation request from the organisers of the Ski Orienteering World Cup 2021 final round in Finland, regarding awarding bonus seconds based upon the results of the Sprint competition when setting the start list for the Pursuit competition. Note: TK did not take part in the decision.

21 September 2020: The ESB approved the Special Rules for the Ski Orienteering World Cup 2021. Note: TK did not take part in the decision.

4. Presidents Report

LH reported on his activities since the last meeting. There had not been any travel but nevertheless a number of smaller meetings with TH and the Presidents Working Group (PWG) regarding acute items related to Covid-19 and future planning.

LH had challenged the Council with a letter regarding revitalising IOF activities in the coming months and particularly related to global education programs. Council agreed that this should be part of the discussion with all commissions as the new Council period starts.

5. CEO Report & Correspondence

TH reported on the activities of the IOF Office since the last meeting. Work had been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and devoted mainly to managing issues related to events following the cancellation and rescheduling of events. The office staff were currently working 40% as a cost savings measure, with financial support from the Swedish government furlough scheme. This would continue for the remainder of the calendar year.

TH reported that most items for further discussion were already included in the agenda for the meeting but did report on a number of items of follow-up.

- Council received a copy of a letter from the IOC President Thomas Bach to the global sports community, regarding Covid-19 and international sport returning to “normal”.
- TH also informed Council regarding the request for additional financial support which had been sent to the IOC following their announcement of allocating 150 MUSD to International Sports Federation (IF) support, including Recognized IFs. An answer was promised during the week of October 5.
- Regarding the sanctions recommended by the Ethics Panel following the World Military Games in China, TH informed Council that it had been clarified that no appeals had been lodged with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and the sanctions were now fully communicated and applied.
- TH also informed Council that he was still awaiting feedback from CISM regarding the suspension of cooperation between the IOF and CISM due to the happenings at the World Military Games. The IOF Office had not formally responded to requests for scheduling cooperation regarding CISM events.
- World Ranking Events had started to be organised again from August 1, 2020 and new WREs were being scheduled. The changes to the World Rankings System, approved by Council in June, were also fully implemented and it was clearly seen that the changes had the desired effect in improving the fairness of the system.

6. Finance

6.1. Forecast

TH presented the current financial status and the forecast for the remainder of the year. The current estimation was that due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with the resulting loss of income and implemented cost savings actions, 2020 would result in a deficit of approximately 128 000 EUR. The Balance Sheet forecast showed a good position for cash flow; however this result would reduce the IOF equity reserves by about 45%.

Council discussed additional potential cost savings and financial support actions noting that some impact should also be considered for 2021. It was agreed that a number of financial scenarios for 2021 should be investigated and presented for the next Council meeting. TH would prepare this with the assistance of HK and LH.

GOVERNANCE

7. Working Methods

7.1. Council responsibilities

LH shared his proposal for Council division of areas of responsibility, which was based on the input received from each Council member. Each focus area from the Strategic Directions and each IOF Commission had been assigned one responsible contact person and 2-3 support persons from among the Council members.

Following some discussion and clarification the list was approved and would be communicated to Commissions and IOF members.

7.2. Working methods document

TH presented updated documents for the IOF working methods (“How the IOF works” and “Working within the IOF”), among other things reflecting changes to meeting practices, the IOF organisation and changes from the GA with regards to athlete representation.

LZ suggested, and Council agreed, to add some wording about how Commission members and volunteers recruited through their National Federation are working for the IOF and international orienteering community and should not reflect national interests in their work.

TH would update, publish and distribute the documents.

7.3. Commission organisation

TH presented an overview of the membership status of each commission and raised a number of principle questions for Council direction about Commission structure.

- The first question was regarding the increased use of digital meeting opportunities and if this practice should have any impact on what level of support should be expected from member federations. Following discussion, Council agreed that there should be an opportunity for Commission membership with digital or hybrid participation, i.e. without full financial and travel support from member federations. However, Commission membership should still be approved by the member federation. Despite digital-only participation there should only be one level of Commission membership, but that the use of task specific volunteer working groups should be encouraged.
- Regarding allowing multiple members from the same member federation on commissions, Council, by voting 7 FOR, 2 AGAINST, approved the inclusion of maximum 2 members per country/member federation in a commission.
- Council also agreed that Support Commissions, and certain working groups, should have delegated members from the respective discipline commissions, as is currently the case in the Rules Commission (RC). TH would inform Discipline Commission chairs about this for consideration as they allocate responsibilities in their respective commissions.
- Council also discussed briefly division of quality related responsibilities between Discipline Commissions and the Map Commission and agreed that this should be resolved when clarifying remits between the commissions.

Council reviewed the membership status of each commission and recruitment needs. TH would continue to work with Commission chairpersons for the recruitment of new members.

7.4. Commission remits

AWK presented an analysis of the work with Commission remits from the previous Council period, noting that there was room for improvement both in structure and content. One key issue was that commissions had been overtasked.

AWK proposed a new working process to develop the new commission remits, including a self-evaluation of the outcome of the previous remits, and with greater involvement from the commissions. Council agreed to present the process at a digital meeting with the Commission chairs planned for 9 October.

8. Focus areas – actions

A number of the Strategic Directions focus areas were determined to be directly under Council responsibility and working groups were established for each of these areas.

8.1. Athletes Representation – Implementation plan

This work would be led by MD with support of LT and TH. An initial plan was to be presented at the next Council meeting.

8.2. Diversity working group – implementation plan

The work would be led by AWK with support from LT, LZ and MD.

8.3. Fair-play and ethics – implementation plan

The work would be led by LH with support from TH, DY and LZ.

8.4. Statutes changes for digitalisation

The work would be led by MD with the support of TH and LH. Council discussed some of the issues to be addressed based upon the recent experience of the digital General Assembly. LH proposed to potentially hold an extraordinary GA in connection with the Presidents Conference 2021, with the sole purpose of approving Statutes changes.

8.5. Strategic Directions 2022 –

AWK presented her proposed roadmap for developing the strategic directions from 2022 and onwards. The first steps would be an analysis and evaluation phase, followed by the development of a first draft for presentation at the Presidents' Conference in July 2021.

AWK would lead the work with support from HK, LT and VF

ATTRACTIVE TO PARTICIPANTS

9. Sports Development

9.1. TrailO future strategy report

Council reviewed the report received from Ari Tertsunen (FIN/TOC) who had in March 2020 been tasked with producing a TrailO future strategy report. The report comprised detailed feedback from 12 working groups with each formulating recommendations on how to proceed.

Council expressed its appreciation for the substantial work which had been done and in general supported the conclusions of the report. Council did ask that the following comments be fed back to Ari Tertsunen for the future work.

- There was some concern about financial aspects. The report included comprehensive ideas for development. Financial and resource requirements needed to be more closely defined, particularly how financing would be managed.
- There were still concerns related to both fairness and resourcing pertaining to the definition of TrailO for disabled athletes. Council would still like to see further clarity in this area.
- Council wished to encourage the continued development of eTrailO as this was seen as a very strong opportunity identified in the report.

Council also discussed the organisation of the TrailO Commission as a proposal was also included in the report. TH was tasked with giving Council feedback to Ari Tertsunen regarding the organisation proposal and to establish the new TrailO Commission. It was also noted that representation should be linked to the diversity working group in some form.

9.2. IOF Events program and “after COVID-19”

TH and HK had prepared a document for Council consideration regarding potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the short- and mid-term future of the IOF Event programme and the global development of orienteering. The events of the last six months had been thought-provoking, and Council felt there would be irrevocable changes to international life, both for 2021 and beyond. It was agreed that the issues raised in the document should be:

1. Considered in connection with event prioritisation and financial planning for the remainder of the current Council period, i.e. 2021 and 2022. This was tasked to TH and HK as in 6.1. above.
2. Considered in the preparation of the Strategic Directions for 2022 and onwards and consulted with member federations with regards to potential impact. This was tasked to AWK as in 8.5 above.

10. Events

10.1. ESOC/WMSOC 2022 – appointment

The Council appointed Bulgaria as organisers of the European Ski Orienteering Championships and World Masters Ski Orienteering Championships 2022.

10.2. EMTBOC/MTBO World Cup 2023 – appointment

The Council appointed Portugal as organisers of the European MTB Orienteering Championships, including the European Junior and Youth MTB Orienteering Championships and the MTBO World Cup 2023.

10.3. Events status summary 2021 – 2025

JN presented an overview of the status of future events noting the rescheduling of events from the 2020 season and which events would now be open for bidding.

10.4. Event fees for new applications

JN presented an updated list of event fees for new event applications. The list was fully in accordance with the previous Council principle decisions, that there would be no changes in event service fees and that Anti-doping Fund contributions would be adjusted to compensate for higher testing costs over time.

Council approved the updated fees which were valid for new event applications.

10.5. JWOC 2021 participation proposal

The FootO Commission had conducted consultation with the Member Federations, asking for feedback on if and how they felt that athletes born year 2000 should be offered an opportunity to participate at JWOC 2021. This since JWOC 2020 had been cancelled due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The consultation with members had not provided a clear answer regarding the issue. The FootO Commission had also not reached a clear recommendation and asked the Council to make a decision among 2 alternatives, either keeping the existing rules (i.e. having no additional participation at JWOC 2021) or permanently raising the maximum age for JWOC participation to 21 years of age.

Council discussed, noting that there was no way to know how longer the Covid-19 pandemic would affect our events, i.e. whether or not also JWOC 2021 could be affected. Particularly, participation restrictions from outside Europe could be foreseen as a problem. It was also stated that changing the rules to permanently move the age to 21 could have effects on national level championships which would require more extensive member consultation. Finally, that any decision should be equally applicable for all disciplines.

Council unanimously agreed not to make any changes to the current rules for JWOC. This meant that athletes born in the year 2000 would not participate at JWOC 2021.

10.6. JWMTBOC 2021 participation proposal

The MTBO Commission had also conducted consultation on the issue which was also reviewed in connection with item 10.5.

Council unanimously agreed as above, i.e. no rules changes to allow athletes born year 2000 to participate at JWMTBOC 2021 would be made.

They also agreed that if JWSOC 2021 in Ski Orienteering should be affected, the same decision would apply.

10.7. SkiO Rules for 2021 season

Council approved the SkiO Rules for the 2021 season.

10.8. Anti-Doping Rules 2021

Council approved the new IOF Anti-Doping Rules which would come into force on 1 January 2021 in connection with the new World Anti-Doping Code 2021 also coming into force. Council thanked KM for her work in preparing the document which had also entailed extensive consultation with IOF Medical Expert Olli Heinonen and WADA staff.

10.9. Update on rules project

MD reported briefly that work on the rules project had not progressed significantly, but a full report would be available at the next meeting. LH noted that some progress had been made by releasing event specific versions of the rules which had in fact simplified to a degree.

10.10. SkiO Commission proposal for U23 class in the SkiO World Cup

TK presented a proposal from the SkiO Commission. Council agreed that the proposal required additional consultation and preparation and decided to table the item until the next meeting. TK would consult with the other relevant discipline commissions about the proposal.

10.11. Rescheduling of EJYOC 2020

Council considered a proposal from the organisers of the European Junior and Youth Orienteering Championships 2020 in Hungary to move the event to April 2021. The proposal entailed that the participants would be made up of the same group of athletes who were eligible to participate in October 2020. Furthermore, the organiser proposed that a final decision would be made in mid-January 2021 dependent upon the status of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions at that time. In voting 9 FOR, 1 AGAINST, the Council approved the proposal.

Note: LZ did not participate during this item.

10.12. WMSOC 2021 – appointment

Council considered a proposal from the SkiO Commission to appoint Finland as organiser of the World Masters Ski Orienteering Championships 2021 in connection with the SkiO World Cup final round. This change of organiser was due to the previous cancellation of the WMSOC 2021 in Bulgaria. The proposal stated that a final decision would be made at the end of December dependent upon the status of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions at that time. Council unanimously approved the proposal.

Note HK did not participate during this item.

10.13. SkiO Commission proposal – Youth Cup

The item was tabled to the next meeting due to lack of time.

10.14. WMTBOC 2024 – appointment

The Council unanimously appointed Bulgaria as organisers of the World MTB Orienteering Championships and Junior World MTB Orienteering Championships 2024.

OLYMPIC AMBITION

11. Event Cooperation

11.1. FISU Winter University Games (Universiade) update

TH reported on correspondence with FISU regarding the inclusion of Ski Orienteering as a permanent sport at the WUG. FISU had informed the IOF about their evaluation of Ski Orienteering and informed that potential permanent sport status would be discussed at a meeting in October. FISU had enquired about potential support which could be provided by the IOF to future WUG Organising Committees.

TH had prepared a proposal for Council consideration, which was based upon the same level of support, with material and volunteer resources, which had been discussed with the WUG 2023 organisers in Lake Placid, USA.

Council discussed the proposal and in voting 9 FOR, 2 AGAINST, agreed to commit to providing support to the organising committees of future WUGs with volunteer and material resources valued at maximum 15 000 EUR per event.

TH also reported about the status of FISU World University Championships in Ski Orienteering. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the organisation of the WUC 2020 (FIN) had been cancelled and the WUC 2022 organiser (BUL) was forced to retract their organisation of the event. FISU had therefore asked the IOF to assist in finding organisers for the WUC SkiO in 2022 and 2024. At last one potential organiser had been identified.

11.2. Report EUSA Orienteering

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

12. Future Council Meetings, dates and venues

- 12.1. Meeting with Council and Commission Chairs – 9 October (Teams)
- 12.2. Meeting 203 – 20 November 2020 (Teams)
- 12.3. Meeting 204 (Joint meeting) – 15-16 January 2021, Frankfurt

Council decided to cancel the customary Joint Meeting as a large in-person conference. Instead, the Joint Meeting would be held digitally (via Teams) on Saturday January 16. The Council left open the option of having an in-person/hybrid meeting of the Council only, if Covid-19 travel restrictions allowed for this. To be decided at the November 20 meeting.

12.4. Future meeting planning

TH would propose a schedule of Council meetings in 2021 for the next meeting.

13. Closure of the meeting

LH thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting.