

9. IOF Council and International Relations

Australia has continued to make a significant contribution to the activities of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) through representation on Council, Commissions and in the conduct of IOF sanctioned activities.

Council and Commission Membership

Michael Dowling continues his role as one of the three IOF Vice Presidents upon his reelection in 2014. Blair Trewin continues as a member of Foot Commission. In the supporting Rules Commission, Barry McCrae continues his role as a member.

IOF Extraordinary General Assembly

There was an Extraordinary General Assembly of the IOF in Inverness, Scotland during the World Championships early in August 2015. The sole agenda item was an IOF Council proposal to reorganise the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) program, and to organise WOC every second year alternating with a Sprint WOC starting with WOC from year 2019.

The proposal was based on following principles/guidelines:

WOC – 3 final events in 5 days

3 medal events

- Middle Distance Final
- Long Distance Final
- Relay

1 qualification event

Participation Middle and Long Distance:

1. Maximum 3 + 3 participants per nation plus reigning World Champion, reigning Regional Champions and previous year World Cup overall winner pre-qualify for respective individual format final or qualification event if entered.
2. All nations are guaranteed one starting place in both finals, if quality requirements are fulfilled (number of WR points or finishing within calculated time limit at qualification event)
3. Detailed qualification rules would be proposed at end of the Project in 2016

Relay Event:

1. One team of three athletes per nation per gender in Relay Event.

Sprint WOC – 3 final events in 5 days

3 medal events

- Sprint Distance
- Sprint Relay
- “A new format”

1 qualification event

- Qualification event for Sprint Distance

Participation

1. Sprint Qualification event: 3 + 3 participants per nation plus reigning World Champion, reigning Regional Champions and previous year World Cup overall winner.
2. Sprint Relay Event: 1 team per nation (2 women + 2 men)
3. "A new format": FootO Commission will be responsible for development

The proposal was to start the model from year 2019 where WOC will be organised in odd years (2019, 2021, etc.) and the Sprint WOC will be organised in even years (2020, 2022, etc.). The rationale behind the proposal was that:

- It would be a less demanding total program for organisers – a maximum 5 day program consisting of three medal races and a qualification race during the WOC or Sprint WOC program.
- There would be less variation in events in each WOC program which should provide opportunities for improving overall event quality. It should make the organisation of WOC more attractive for federations due to less overall cost for event organisation.
- There should be a reduced total cost for participating federations in terms of accommodation and on ground costs for teams and total entry costs for each WOC program
- It would reinstate a qualification possibility for individual medal events in the WOC program (middle and long) through a qualification race format.
- A Sprint WOC in even years would provide more flexibility for the timing of a Sprint WOC in the Summer Olympic Games / Football World Cup years. This could also allow the IOF to look at opportunities to take the Sprint WOC into new locations if the right financial and organisational support levels were forthcoming.

The proposal was carried by member federations by 24 votes to 9 with 3 abstentions. The consequence of the proposal being carried was threefold.

- A new format for sprint WOC has to be decided. This new format must be realistic for all nations to organise in their own competition program and must be attractive for TV, media, athletes and spectators. Member federations are being consulted with some proposals in this regard.
- The new program will impact the high level IOF competition program – Regional Championships and World Cup. This has to be analysed with a complete competition program proposal to be presented at the General Assembly in 2016.
- An organiser needs to be secured for WOC 2019 by end of 2015.

There were a number of presentations following the Extraordinary General Assembly. These included an overview of the future funding of the IOF anti-doping work and an introduction of an Athlete's License, a briefing of the IOF's regional and youth development plans and objectives, an update of the Competition Review project and the restructure of the IOF Office organisation.

A number of organisers for World Championships were appointed including Denmark for the 2018 World Masters Orienteering Championships, Latvia for the 2019 World Masters Orienteering Championships, Hungary for the 2018 World Junior Orienteering Championships and Austria for the 2018 World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships.

IOF Council and Office

The IOF Council has met four times in 2015. Once in conjunction with the World Championships in Inverness, Scotland in late July, in Frankfurt, Germany in January, in Istanbul, Turkey in April and in Vienna, Austria in October. Within the budgetary constraints of the IOF, Council is making a significant effort to visit as many member federations as possible with its meetings. Michael Dowling has attended all meetings.

The new IOF Secretary General/Chief Executive Officer, Tom Hollowell, commenced work at the beginning of the 2015 year upon the retirement of the long serving Barbro Ronnberg. The IOF has also undertaken a through a review of its operational structure and, as a consequence of this, there have been a number of changes to the way the IOF Office functions. The IOF Office is now located in Karlstad, Sweden and now has a new operational structure following this relocation from Helsinki, Finland. Under the leadership of CEO and Secretary General Tom Hollowell, David Wästlund was appointed Sports

Administrator in July upon the transfer of the Office to Sweden. Hans Jørgen Kvale was appointed to a 50% role as Marketing Manager with specific responsibilities for SkiO and MTBO in late July. Malin Björkqvist commenced duties as full time as Global Development & Communications Officer as was Kirsty McIntyre as Office Administrator to a 50% role in November. In addition, ICT support, Anti-Doping and the WOC SEA duties have bene contracted out on a fee for service basis to Henrik Skoglund, Ed Niland and Jørn Sundby respectively. The IOF will soon appoint an additional 50% role Marketing Manager with specific responsibility for FootO.

Through 2015 all Council members have continued to work in their areas of responsibility and support. Michael Dowling is chair of the ongoing Competition Programme review project which will present its final report to the 2016 IOF General Assembly. Michael Dowling continues to have lead responsibility within Council for the Marketing area of IOF Core Activities and Increased Visibility within the Activity Plan. In addition, he continues to have a support role in increasing the attractiveness of orienteering to young people within the 2014-2016 Activity Plan, is the Council contact for the Foot Commission and the Council contact for the Oceania region.

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