

OA Mapping Committee meeting

Saturday 15 April 2006

3 – 4.30 pm.

Harcourt, Victoria

Attendance

Andrew Slattery SA

Hugh Moore ACT

Liz Bourne Qld

Paul Hoopman SA

Greg Chatfield Qld

Rob Ratkins QLD

Alex Tarr Vic

Dick Oglivie NSW

Noel Schoknecht WA

Australian 3-day 2006 map standards

Recommendation

Given the range of printing scales, printing methods and variations from ISOM specifications it was agreed that feedback would be given to the OA Mapping chair on the success or otherwise of the various options. This feedback would be reported to the OA Technical Director and the OA Mapping Committee.

Map printing standards (general)

Further guidance is required by associations/clubs on the pitfalls of printing - especially digital printing.

Recommendation

Noel Schoknecht, in liaison with Andy Hogg, to compile a short and easy to understand document outlining the issues that need to be considered when printing maps (especially digitally) for major events, and circulate this to all associations and clubs.

Approval process / OA mapping committee membership

The issue of an appropriate approval process for Group A maps was discussed. This issue was brought to a head by the Chair of the Mapping Committee's unilateral decision to allow the map for Day 3 of the Australian 3-days in 2006 to be printed using non-standard ISOM symbols (1:10,000 map with 2.5m contours but 1:15,000 scale symbols).

This decision was made unilaterally because there was no clear and simple executive within the OA Mapping Committee to make quick decisions, and indeed membership to the committee is fairly casual in some associations.

Recommendations

A two-pronged approach was recommended.

1 Each State and Territory be asked to nominate 1 person as the Mapping representative for the State or Territory. This person would be responsible for disseminating mapping information throughout each State or Territory so that some of the principles currently applied to Group A events are applied more broadly. This person would be reviewed annually in line with the State or Territories AGM. This

happens already in some states, but is not universal. This person would also contribute in a general sense on OA mapping issues.

2 An *OA Mapping Executive* of three people is formed to decide on mapping issues related to Group A events. This executive would be composed of the OA Mapping Chair, a professional orienteering mapper and a representative from a State of Territory.

For 2006/07 the recommended mapper was Eric Andrews, with the exception of maps produced by Eric where Alex Tarr will substitute.

The State/Territory representative would be elected by body of the State/Territory representatives

Map scales

There was general agreement that there needs to be more flexibility in the choice of scale for Group A events.

Recommendations

Agreed that the Mapping Chair would liaise with the OA Technical Director, Andy Hogg, regarding more flexibility in the map scales available for use at Group A events.

In particular, the use of 1:5,000 for age groups 10-14? and 75+ was suggested.

Also the use of 1:10,000 for elites at the Australian Championships Long Distance event should be considered.

Map boundaries

It was considered essential that for development purposes, there should be easily identified boundaries (e.g. fence lines, roads, major water features, farmland, settlements land) at the edge of maps. With the increased use of digital maps and subsets of maps on small page sizes the logical boundaries are often lost, making it more likely that inexperienced competitors will go off the map.

Recommendation

Maps for development courses or inexperienced competitors must have easily identified boundaries.

OCAD 9

No decision was made regarding a recommendation to use OCAD 9, although all OCAD users agreed that the software was incredibly good value for money. It was generally felt that OCAD 8, which most users have upgraded to, is satisfactory, and a further upgrade was not essential.

Legends

The majority view was that maps should have legends, with the exception of maps for elites as they should be familiar with standard ISOM and ISSOM symbols. It was noted that with digital printing there is a temptation to reduce map size, thus leaving no room for legend, or if the control descriptions go on the front (as is currently required) the control descriptions often obscure the legend.

Recommendations

This issue be discussed with Andy Hogg, and a recommendation along the line that at major events as a minimum legends using the same printing method as the map for the current event are displayed at the registration and start areas.

In addition legends should be on all maps used by non-championship classes, especially where special symbols are used, or non-familiar symbol sets (e.g. ISSOM), and where practical on all maps. Legends must not be obscured by control descriptions for these classes.

Mapping workshop

Eric Andrews will be running a mapping workshop in association with JWOC 2007.

Photogrammetry

Eric Andrews advised the committee via email, that Kodak were going to cease production of the photographic film used to produce photo-diapositives – an essential input to Chris Wilmott's analogue photogrammetry.

Eric advised that Qld were buying a supply to last a few years, although it was pointed out that photographic film has a shelf life, and this is only a short-term solution. It was also becoming increasingly difficult to get companies to photograph using film as film cameras are replaced with digital cameras in aircraft.

There is the scope to look at alternate technologies – laser for elevation for example, and the use of software to create contours from digital photography.

Chris Wilmott will investigate digital photogrammetry options with contacts in Norway. In addition Mike Morpew is interested in pursuing the digital opportunities. This is a world-wide issue, and we should follow what developments are happening internationally. The committee indicated some support for assistance funding to ensure that there is a capacity in the orienteering fraternity to deal with digital photogrammetry.

Recommendations

Noel Schoknecht advise the State/Territory associations about the issue
Noel Schoknecht find out when Kodak is going to cease production of film from photo diapositives

Noel Schoknecht liaise with Chris Wilmott and Mike Morpew about possible developments in the areas and keep the OA Mapping Committee and OA advised of developments and implications for the sport.

GPS mapping

Noel Schoknecht outlined to the committee his trial using a ruggedised tablet computer with sunlight readable screen for real-time GPS mapping in the field using OCAD 8. The exercise was successful, but the key issues were still cost, weight of the unit and short battery life, so adoption was still unlikely.

Hugh Moore presented an article (in Swedish) about mapping using OCAD on a Handheld computer/Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). This technology would solve all problems – light and easy to use in field, sunlight readable screen, long battery life and relatively low cost.

Hugh Moore will investigate this technology when he visits Sweden in July and report back to the OA Mapping Chair.

Recommendation

Await Hugh's report and Noel Schoknecht circulate report and act on recommendations as appropriate.

Chair membership

The meeting agreed to nominate Noel Schoknecht as Chair of the OA Mapping Committee. Noel agreed to accept the nomination, however also was willing to stand aside if an enthusiastic alternate nomination was received at the AGM.