

MINUTES of the 2014 ORIENTEERING AUSTRALIA TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

KANDOS HIGH SCHOOL, April 20th, 2014

Present: Eric Andrews (Chair, Qld); Jenny Casanova (Director Technical, SA); Liz Bourne Qld; Peter Effenev Qld; Trevor Sauer Qld; Gordon Wilson NSW; Andrew Lumsden NSW; Bill Jones ACT; Geoff Wood ACT; John Scown (OA Accreditation Officer, ACT); Barry McCrae Vic; Kath Liley Vic; Blair Trewin (OA President, Vic); Roger Harlow Tas; Greg Hawthorne Tas; Christine Brown Tas; Robin Uppill SA; Ken Brownlie WA

Apologies: nil

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted

Matters arising from the minutes:

1) Guidelines for Major Carnivals and Event Management

Robin has edited and reformatted Eric's documents and is waiting for the finalisation of the new OA website before loading them into the technical pages. Robin has previously circulated a list of the documents available but that was a couple of years ago. The documents include a business plan, technical and administrative instructions, risk management plans and a sponsorship proposal.

2) OA foot Rules – updated for 2014

These have now been loaded on the OA website and all states have been advised. It was suggested that it would be useful to include a summary of changes – or margin bars to identify changes to the previous rules. Changes to the 2015 foot rules will be agreed upon at the 2014 OA Conference.

3) Schools Championships Rules – nothing from ASSOC - carry over from 2012

Ian Dalton did not attend the Tech meeting at 2013 Easter. He has been briefed on the requirement and he will prepare a document which will ultimately be attached to the OA Rules as an Appendix. Blair was waiting for ASSOC to approve his summary.

4) NOL Guidelines – carry over from 2012

To be completed in the next couple of months first by Jenny then to be reviewed by Nick/Eric/Lance

5) Level 1 foot controllers curriculum – completed, but not distributed – (John Scown).

John is now working on L2; Eric would like to review. There is a feeling that the L2 curriculum should require more complexity of its controllers' experience than it currently does. Some states have combined their Level 1 and 2 controller's courses but Jenny felt that this was not desirable as they required different levels of experience. Level 2 controllers should also be competent at event organisation as well as course planning whereas Level 1 controllers should be competent course planners.

NSW concerned that they don't get enough experience for L2 controllers because the state league events are as complex as a championship but don't require L2 controlling (although they had previously discussed this but did not formalise it)

ACT have accredited L1 controllers for SL events, veters for lower events

Vic – controllers for SL

Qld – controllers for OY (SL) and L2 for badge events where possible.

Tas – ditto. Tasmania is considering an online learning module for L1 but realise there needs to be a practical component as well.

SA – Orienteer of the Year can use L1 but this is not compulsory

6) Level 3 controllers workshop to be conducted after Easter 2014; 12 attendees plus Jenny & Eric & Blair

7) Next L3 workshop? Second half of 2015, not necessarily at Aust champs; possibility of a spare weekend. States should identify potential attendees.

8) Level 3 re accreditation difficulties. The previous ASC accreditation period, agreed to in 2005, was for a 10 year period but it is now to be four years. The OA website lists all of the controllers and the expiry date for their re-accreditation. Eric suggested that future refresher workshops for existing L3 controllers could concentrate on updates/new rules etc., and therefore be of shorter duration.

Many existing L3s are unlikely to want to continue once their current accreditation expires. It was agreed that each state needs a minimum of 3 to 4 L3s to enable them to control national events. However, for some states, it is difficult for their controllers to gain enough points to fulfil the requirements.

9) States to review their rules and guidelines to ensure that they are in line with OA Rules.

Do practices match OA's? It was felt that some state rules and guidelines may be in conflict with OA's.

E.g.: is there a requirement for a flag on the finish? Yes, because the orienteering flag marks the finish and it also helps to identify the finish point when there can be a lot of other distractions in the assembly area.

E.g.: should there be a course time limit? A course closure time should be advised to everyone as part of the safety process. An unofficial rule used in Qld is that the course closure time is 200% of the winning time of the last class to start, taken from the last starter.

SA – their rules don't repeat the OA ones but cover those relevant to local events.

10) Review of OA Rules to ensure alignment with IOF Rules and to remove any which may be redundant – progress? Barry McCrae is prepared to update.

11) Control flags with blue stripe for the benefit of colour blind competitors. Recommendation from Adrian Uppill – how easy are they to buy? Are any states using these? Discussed at IOF but no decision to change Kath Liley said she would investigate the source for these flags. Can be purchased from 886 Gaiters in US. http://home.comcast.net/~galeso/O_Gear.html

12) Controllers for Xmas 5 Days?

Agreed last Easter that these events should have a L2 controller but nothing was formalised. Need to ask the states which are regularly involved (usually NSW but sometimes VIC, ACT and QLD) if they are willing to enforce this level of controlling? It was queried whether the 5-Days should be made a Group 2 event. The brief is "High quality but fun". Controllers are preferred, because inexperienced course planners are often used.

Standing Items:

1) Contact details for each state for 2014 – technical officer, plus backup person; see attached list

2) Level 3 controllers for Group A events in 2014

QLD NOL races - Rob Rapkins, Liz Bourne, Eric Andrews

VIC NOL races - Barry McCrae, Peter Galvin, Chris Norwood

Easter 2014 NSW – Nick Dent, Rob Vincent, Alex Davey

NSW NOL races - Dave Lotty, Terry Bluett

VIC Ultra long – Neil Barr

Aust Champs 2014 – Ian Fletcher, Ken Brownlie, Jack Dowling, Russell Candy

Easter 2015 SA – Robin Uppill

3) Controllers reports received on NOL events: 2014 February NOL Sprints in Qld. Jenny reported that, on average, only about 40 – 50% of controllers have submitted reports on NOL events.

Eric will routinely send forms to L3 controllers to remind them that this needs to be done. Controllers reports will be archived with the OA Executive Officer. We are not going to be putting the reports in a public place. A summary will go in the technical news.

Previously, following an initiative by Bob Mouatt, OA awarded certificates to L3 who controlled events during the year. Should this be revived?

Also, in the past, the ASC issued certificates to both new and renewing controllers of all levels. They no longer make this acknowledgement. John Scown has now started to issue an OA acknowledgement/notification to all new and renewing controllers.

During the discussion it became apparent that no record is being kept of protests and the ensuing decisions at National level events. The details of protests should be fully reported in the controllers' reports. Therefore it follows that if controllers reports are archived with the OA Executive Officer, then details of protests should be available. During controller workshops, it is ideal to use real local protests.

New Business:

1) Communication of technical information to controllers, course planners and the orienteering public.

Eric said he was concerned about how information sent from the IOF to event advisors was then circulated to a wider audience.

Send tech news etc to state secretaries as well as technical officers; but it should really be the states' technical officer who distributes the information to all their controllers. Some matters need to be distributed down as far as course planners and organisers and even the general orienteering public.

2) Addition of M and W 85 age class to State and National events – implications

Eric has revised the course/class combinations for national events and considers there is a need for an extra short hard course. Suggestion from OAWA is to have W75, 80, 85 all on this course plus M85; not sure about M80? Consider the physical demands and prescribed winning times for these classes. WA to test the additional course during the 2014 Australian Championships. Eric to distribute a revised course to class combinations to states for consideration, with a view to making a formal recommendation to 2014 OA Conference.

3) Course lengths and winning times for older age classes – is there really a problem ?

– the effect of climb – implications of change. Ongoing discussion during 2014.

Collecting data on run-rate calculators for different terrains. Older courses aim to keep under 3% climb – extra 1% climb @M21 equates roughly to dropping off 1km

4) Course lengths and winning times for AS classes – how do we achieve suggested winning times for AS classes? - difficult at State level - mention only. Ongoing discussion during 2014

Eric has been compiling data on a comparison of kilometre rates and age classes and will circulate this to

everyone for comment and discussion.

Jenny said there was a move some years ago to reduce the number of B and AS classes and maybe some of the AS classes could be moved down a course to achieve their desired winning time.

Eric said that the desirable climb for the older age groups should not exceed 2.5 – 3%.

May need to move them down a class

May need to move W16 up a class

@Oceania champs NZ still require 18s, 20s because of NZ preference – may need to revisit with NZOF

Eric will circulate a document covering Items 2, 3 and 4 for discussion during 2014 with a view to making a recommendation to the 2014 OA Conference

5) M and W21A classes – should they still be offered at National events where 21E and 21AS are on offer?

Yes

Question about whether elites should be required to qualify to compete as elites. Difficult for some states to maintain a full NOL team. Pros & cons

At Easter, the Prologue should probably be limited to the people who are running elites for the whole event if the current system of including the Prologue as an integral part of Easter continues.

6) Should M and W 65A classes be offered at Australian Relay Champs? Yes.

7) M and W 17-20 age classes. Change to terminology. Done. A vs E generated some discussion.

8) Course Planners for National Events – should prior proven experience be a pre-requisite? – The IOF has recently issued some additional Guidelines for Course Planners. Such information should be distributed to a lower level than IOF Event Advisers. For national events, pairing of controller to course planner is important. Controllers need to (tactfully) fix the planners' courses if they need a little improvement!

9) David Hogg Award for Services to Orienteering – formalise the voting procedure. It was agreed that the voting procedure for the David Hogg Award for Services to Orienteering where there is more than one nominee, can be amended in the OA Administration Manual, to reflect that information on nominations will be distributed to State Technical Officers at least six weeks beforehand, so that voting can be finalised well before Easter and to allow the award to be engraved.

10) Around the hustings – the time on the clock at the pre start – (Eric) – use of quarantine areas - (Robin) - Relays, timings for mass start - (Robin) – Sprint events, comments (Blair) – Controllers Resource Kit – (Robin)

- Clarified rule 22.3 – The IOF has recently advised that where a clock is used in both the pre start and the start, the clock at the pre start should display the current call up time.
- Quarantine at sprints – may be useful if there are big screens or arena is in centre of competition area or if maps are on display.
- Aust relays: absolute minimum is to have the second mass start after 2 hrs, preferably 2.5hrs. @WOC the winning times have shrunk significantly due to TV broadcast.
- Traffic & road crossings in sprints – vs risk management. IOF mentions it in mapping specs but not in course planning guidelines (can delete road crossing splits if necessary)
- We don't have guidelines for easy/VE in sprints. Put M/W16 on higher courses. Even M/W-14 are capable of completing what are basically hard sprint courses.
- Controllers' toolkit: required by ASC but documents go out of date sooner than the

curriculum – to be discussed with John Scown. If the toolkit were to be posted on the OA website, then someone would need to take responsibility to keep it current.

11) MTBO - controllers for State MTBO Champs? Do National MTBO League events require controllers - (Kathy)

ACT champs and Qld champs only (L2 foot controllers) but no other state can justify the effort.

NOL - Aust champs plus selection trials plus one other. It's already in the guidelines that they should ideally have a L2 controller.

We don't yet have an official controller accreditation MTBO curriculum – or even enough people who are foot controllers with MTB experience – to really cover this. Qld has run a Level 1 and 2 MTBO specific controllers course.

12) MTBO – Level 1 and 2 controller accreditation – training, acknowledgement, guidance?

Not really an ASC point of focus. Should the MTBO Technical Committee put together a suggested L1 and L2 MTBO controllers curriculum for consideration by the ASC?

13) Any other business - Good Friday Events

Is this entirely a technical issue? Needs to become a policy issue for OA conference. Practicalities of running events vs the convenience of scheduling.

Discussion to occur during 2014

The meeting closed at 4:15pm. Next meeting at Easter 2015 in SA.