

10.1 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 was re-elected as one of the three IOF Vice Presidents at the 2016 IOF General Assembly in Stromstad, Sweden in August. Blair Trewin continues as a member of Foot Commission following his re-appointment to the Commission in October 2016. In the supporting Rules Commission, Barry McCrae continues his role as a member.

IOF General Assembly

The IOF General Assembly in Stromstad, Sweden saw Brian Porteous of Great Britain retire as President. Former Senior Vice President Leho Haldna of Estonia was elected as President of the IOF. Mikko Salonen of Finland was elected to one of the three Vice President positions of the IOF. In addition, all current Council members who stood for re-election were elected. Vincent Frey of France was elected to Council as a new member.

The biennial report of the IOF for the period 2014-2016 was presented to Congress and highlighted several achievements over this two-year period. The IOF has established a new Regional and Youth Development Commission (RYDC) to focus on developing the global activities of our sport from a strategic perspective and with an aim to engage youth more in our sport. An important initiative in this respect was the first World Orienteering Day held in May. This was a resounding success with total of 81 countries and territories involved in staging 2013 individual events with a world record participation of 252,927 individuals. The World Orienteering day website was a great way to track and view the activities with participating clubs and organisations able to share their stories of the day. In addition, the RYDC are developing and trialling a start-up package to help new countries and regions establish our sport.

The IOF has made significant progress in developing the broadcast quality of major IOF events for television and online delivery. The progress in this regard was evident in this year's World Championships from Sweden with 90 countries and territories taking either live broadcast or highlights packages. More extensive TV coverage has also seen the start of the growth of commercial income. The benefits of member federations of the IOF is that it is there will be no increases in member sanction fees over the next congress period.

The IOF has welcomed the membership of Egypt and Dominican Republic and at the same time has been working closely with new and less active member federations in a review of membership of the IOF. The key aim here is to ensure sustainable and realistic orienteering activities in emerging locations with the support of IOF Regional Coordinators playing a key role in development.

There continues to be cooperation with the World Military Sport Council (CISM), the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and the International World Games Association (IWGA) and most importantly the International Olympic Committee (IOC). To quote outgoing IOF President Brian Porteous,

“The implementation of the IOC’s Agenda 2020 is giving us cause to feel positive about the Olympic journey and our partnership with the IOC is vital if we are to be successful.”

At the General Assembly, the final report from the two-year IOF Competition Program Review project was presented and accepted by member federations. The IOF adopted a formal Code of Ethics policy which will be formally implemented over the next two-year period and be administered through an IOF Ethics Panel. Several changes to the IOF statutes were proposed. The key point to note here that member federations have agreed to allow all future World Championships organisers to be appointed by the IOF Council. This is an important development as it now provides Council greater freedom to negotiate the “best package” for the conduct of future world championships.

The proposal for harmonising winning times for men and women in long distance races from the Swedish federation was not accepted by federations nor were proposals from the Russian federation to add several variations of accepted orienteering formats into the IOF rules and to mandate participation in World Ranking Events (WRE) as a precondition for World Championships (WOC) entry.

The Activity Plan for the period 2016 – 2018 was also endorsed by Federations that seeks to achieve the 2012-2018 Strategic directions.

- Orienteering shall be a truly global sport
- Orienteering shall be visible and attractive
- Orienteering shall be positioned for inclusion in the Olympic and Paralympic Games

The strategic initiatives and actions that will drive the Activity Plan to enable the IOF to achieve its key goals are:

- Focus on key outcomes
- Increase the attractiveness of orienteering to young people
- Strengthen the IOF’s position on the world sporting stage
- Increase the visibility of orienteering
- Strong management and funding.

The IOF is undergoing a review of both activity and strategic directions (key goals) with a view to presenting the new key goals at the next General Assembly for the period beyond 2018.

Several organisers for World Championships were appointed including Denmark for the 2020 World Sprint Orienteering Championships and 2019 World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships and Hong Kong for the 2020 World Trail Orienteering Championships.

Blair Trewin was awarded an IOF Bronze Pin to recognise his services to the IOF and for the work he has undertaken as a member of the IOF Foot Orienteering Commission.

IOF Council and Office

The IOF Council has met five times in 2016. Once in conjunction with the World Championships in Stromstad, Sweden in late August, in Malmö, Sweden in January, in Warsaw, Poland in April, in Budapest, Hungary in June and in Aarau, Switzerland in October. Within the budgetary constraints of the IOF, Council is continuing a significant effort to visit as many member federations as possible with its meetings. Michael Dowling has attended all meetings.

Through 2016 all Council members have continued to work in their areas of responsibility and support. Michael Dowling was chair of the ongoing Competition Programme review project which presented 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 continued to have a support role in increasing the attractiveness of orienteering to young people within the IOF Activity Plan, and is the Council contact for the Foot Commission and the Council contact for the Oceania region.

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