

11.1 Technical Report

a) Use of GPS

Current OA Rule 21.6: *Competitors may not use or carry telecommunication equipment between entering the pre-start area and reaching the finish in a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organiser. GPS devices with no map function or signal to aid the user in finding direction may be carried. The organiser may require competitors to wear a tracking device.*

will be re-worded to make it clearer that GPS watches are permitted (even in WREs), since this seems not to be obvious to people from the above wording.

b) Use of Sport Ident Air

Anna Sheldon's SIAC policy paper (available upon request) was approved by the technical committee's meeting at Australian 3-Days in Wagga and is to be included as an appendix to the 2018 OA Rules. It is not yet mandated that SIAC be made available to all competitors at Australian carnivals, although that time may come.

c) Australian University Championships

No longer taking place at Australian 3-Days, but instead at a NOL sprint event (in 2018, during Melbourne Sprint Weekend), still using km rates but only comparing between 20E and 21E classes. OA rule 5.14 and the relevant section of the OA Operational Manual (2.4) to be updated to reflect this change in process.

d) Winning times and course-class combinations for older and AS classes in Australian Championships

Anna Sheldon's recommendations for Australian Sprint Championships course-class combinations were approved by the technical committee's meeting at Australian 3-Days in Wagga, and she has now been looking at course lengths vs winning times for Aust middle and long championships, particularly for older age classes. Jenny is reviewing data from the Australian Relays where the winning times for the majority of age classes were set at 35 minutes in 2016 and 2017, and will prepare suggested course-class combinations based on this. These recommendations are to be made to the technical committee shortly. We will then incorporate agreed changes into the 2018 OA rules document which will be finalised early in the New Year. In advance of this we are liaising directly with Greg Hawthorne and other organisers/planners/controllers of the 2018 Australian 3-Days about any changes which may impact on their course-class configuration.

e) New IOF control descriptions

These have been released, to take effect from 2018: http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/control-description-a4-pages_copy.pdf

Major Changes to the 2004 version:

- 1) Optional extra line showing the distance to the start triangle from the timed start.
- 2) New symbols introduced for Trench, Out of Bounds Area.
- 3) Bend moved from Column G to Column F.
- 4) Removal of symbol for Radio or TV control.
- 5) Names and descriptions brought into line with the ISOM 2017 terminology where appropriate.
- 6) Renumbering of symbols to cater for additions and deletions.
- 7) A number of minor changes throughout the text in order to provide further clarification as to the use of specific symbols.

f) Forbidden symbols in IOF rules

IOF have removed forbidden symbols from the mapping specifications and incorporated them into the IOF rules document (see below) placing the onus on the competitors to be aware of which symbols they may not cross. This means that in the review of ISOM which is pending, the symbols which are forbidden on sprint maps will no longer be clearly identified. Orienteering Australia needs to decide whether to likewise incorporate forbidden symbols into the OA rules.

- 17.2 Out-of-bounds or dangerous areas, forbidden routes, line features that shall not be crossed, etc. shall be marked on the map. If necessary, they shall also be marked on the ground. Competitors shall not enter, follow or cross areas, routes or features drawn with the following symbols:

Forest

- ISOM 520 Area that shall not be entered
- ISOM 708 Out-of-bounds boundary
- ISOM 709 Out-of-bounds area
- ISOM 711 Out-of-bounds route

Sprint

- ISSOM 201 Impassable cliff
- ISSOM 304.1 Impassable body of water
- ISSOM 309 Impassable marsh
- ISSOM 421 Impassable vegetation
- ISSOM 521.1 Impassable wall
- ISSOM 524 Impassable fence or railing
- ISSOM 526.1 Building
- ISSOM 528.1 Area with forbidden access
- ISSOM 534 Impassable pipeline
- ISSOM 707 Uncrossable boundary
- ISSOM 709 Out-of-bounds area
- ISSOM 714 Temporary construction or closed area.

f) NOL Guidelines Update for 2018

NOL guidelines will be revised by the High Performance Management Group and Director, Technical, then distributed to managers of all states' NOL teams early in 2018; matters which are relevant to athletes/managers will be highlighted. A new under-23s NOL points competition is to be implemented.

g) World Ranking Events

IOF has removed the cap on the number of WREs from 2018 <http://orienteering.org/new-wre-rules/> there is no longer any limit on the number of WRES which a Federation may host (in either sprint or middle/long distance); therefore any NOL event could be eligible if the map and courses will be of a suitable IOF-compliant standard and the L3 controller is also an accredited IOF Event Adviser.

The IOF levy for participants in WREs will now be applied in a tiered structure based on both the number of competitors and the membership fee group of the Federation. Regarding the levies, OA will pay 3 Euro per athlete, with an event minimum of 120€ and maximum of 600€, and we have calculated that this will result in approximately similar costs to OA (as averaged out over a couple of years) as the previous flat rate of 250€ per WRE; therefore the current NOL (for M/W21E and M/W20E) and WRE levies per competitor (levied only on elite classes at major championships) are not anticipated to change for 2018.

8 applications for Australian foot-O WRES have been uploaded to IOF Eventor for 2018. There will be no MTBO WREs in Australia in 2018.

The list of Australian IOF Event Advisers on the IOF website should include: Liz Bourne, Christine Brown (SEA), Jenny Casanova, Nick Dent (SEA), Tim Hatley, Greg Hawthorne, Kathy Liley, Andrew Lumsden, Richard Matthews, Barry McCrae, Chris Norwood, Paul Prudhoe, Anna Sheldon, Jon Sutcliffe (accredited for foot and MTB), Blair Trewin, Robin Uppill, Ted Van Geldermalsen.

g) Controllers' Curricula and Accreditation (foot orienteering)

) The Level 3 controllers' curriculum is currently expired and Bob Mouatt has been contracted to review & update this over the next few months, before submission to ASC. Technically, we cannot accredit any new L3 controllers until this has been done, although it's possible to renew L3 accreditations in the meantime. (The Level 2 curriculum also requires OA signoff - which the Director, Technical has been tardy in doing.)

) Also, the Operational Manual Available from the OA website contains listings for 2 documents:

1.4 CONTROLLER ACCREDITATION - LEVELS 1 and 2 which dates from 2008 and needs urgent revision;

1.5 CONTROLLER ACCREDITATION – LEVEL 3 AND INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION EVENT ADVISER which has never been written.

Both of these documents would ideally be undertaken in 2018 – although this depends on the availability of someone who can prepare them and OA having the funds to contract that person. There may be merit in expanding on the requirements for hosting World Ranking events and the use of IOF Eventor in an additional document, or else separating out the IOF controlling document from the Level 3 one.

h) Level 3 Controllers' Workshop

There wasn't quite enough interest to justify holding a Level 3 controllers' workshop during the Aust Champs in Bathurst but one will be held in Adelaide, in February 2018 and in Perth in April/May 2018, in advance of those states' respective major carnival commitments. Although controller accreditation at all levels needs to be renewed every 4 years, it's only necessary to attend a workshop once within an 8-year period; therefore current L3 controllers who haven't been to a L3 workshop since 2009 need to attend urgently and Level 2s who want to upgrade to L3 are encouraged!

i) Major Event Guidelines

Bill Jones has undertaken to prepare the relevant documents, for OA Operational Manual section 2.3, on behalf of the OA Board.

j) MTBO Controlling/Rules

Kathy Liley has undertaken the arduous process of modifying foot orienteering controllers' curricula to fit with MTBO processes and this has now been submitted to ASC. MTBO rules are to be reviewed/updated shortly.

The annual MTBO committee meeting held at Aust MTBO Champs in October produced an agreement that an e-bike option will be offered; competitors with e-bikes will be considered non-competitive, but can ride on any course in any age class at even championship events. This is for a trial period of 12 months and then possibly a specific e-bike class will be introduced.

The MTBO committee meeting minuted that “organisers of Australian and State Championships be strongly recommended to use SportIdent AIR for contactless punching. Also suggested that SI Air sticks should be allocated to those entrants that don't register with their own, in order to maximise the uptake and familiarity of contactless punching. It is suggested that any SIAC hire cost be absorbed by the event, to remove the decision to upgrade sticks from entrants and create a level playing field for fairness.”

k) ISOM 2017

The IOF's new mapping specifications should be read by all mappers and controllers and course planners, and may be downloaded here: <http://orienteering.org/resources/mapping/>

ISOM2017 is focused on minimum sizes, areas, gaps etc. and mandates that if drawn and mapped to specification the map will be legible at 1:15000. Course setting or overprinting symbols in ISOM 2017 are also a strict enlargement of the 1:15000 map, noting these symbols have been slightly reduced in size: i.e. control circle reduced from 6.0mm diameter to 5.0mm diameter. At 1:10 000 the control circle size will be 7.5mm.

Every state technical coordinator needs to make their course planners and controllers aware of the requirements and should incorporate ISOM discussions into controllers' workshops.

Adrian Uppill has prepared colour copies of a sheet which shows the recommended ISOM symbols and has distributed information about the most significant changes. This document and an ISSOM symbol set for school and sprint maps will be available from the OA website, noting that ISSOM is shortly to undergo review (to fall in line with ISOM).

Jenny Casanova
OA Director, Technical
27 November 2017