



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

**COMPETITION RULES
FOR
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION (IOF)
TRAIL ORIENTEERING EVENTS**

*(Rules for the World Trail Orienteering Championships)
(Rules for Regional Trail Orienteering Championships)
(Rules for IOF World Ranking Events in Trail Orienteering)*

This version of the competition rules is valid from 1 January 2026.
Subsequent amendments will be published on the official IOF web
site at <http://www.orienteering.sport/>

*A vertical line in the left margin indicates a major
change to the previous printed version (1 January 2025)*

COMPETITION RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION (IOF) TRAIL ORIENTEERING EVENTS

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1. Definitions

- 1.1 Trail Orienteering is a sport involving map and terrain interpretation. Competitors visit control points marked in the terrain usually in a set sequence. Using the map provided, with aid of a compass, they choose which of a number of markers represents the one in the centre of a printed circle as defined by the control description. This decision must be recorded.
- 1.2 The term *competitor* means an individual or a team, as appropriate.
- 1.3 The mode of movement may be:
- *on foot*
 - *by wheelchair, either manual or electric*
 - *on bicycle, tricycle or handcycle*
 - *other modes, any recognised mobility aid.*
- No combustion-engined vehicle, nor any battery driven vehicle designed for more than one occupant is permissible.
- 1.4 Types of trail orienteering competition may be distinguished by:
- the time of the competition
 - *day* (in daylight)
 - *night* (in the dark)
 - the nature of the competition
 - *individual* (the individual performs independently)
 - *relay* (two or more team members do consecutive individual courses)
 - *team* (the scores for two or more individuals are combined)
 - the way of determining the competition result:
 - *single-course competition* (the result of one course is the final result)
 - *multi-course competition* (the combined results of two or more courses, held during one day or several days, form the final result)
 - *qualification race competition* (the competitors qualify for a final race through one or more qualification races in which they may be allocated to different heats. The competition's result is that of the final only. There may be A- and B-finals and so on, with the placed competitors of the B-final placed after the placed competitors of the A-final and so on)
 - the order in which the controls are to be visited:
 - *in a specific order* (the sequence is prescribed)
 - *in no specific order* (the competitor is free to choose the order)
 - the format of the course:
 - *PreO* (Precision Orienteering - course consists of untimed controls with a few timed controls)
 - *TempO* (course consists of timed controls only).
 - *PreO sprint* (short course consisting of A/Z controls only with total course time as tiebreaker, see Appendix 6)
- 1.5 The term *Federation* means a member Federation of the IOF.
- 1.6 The term *event* embraces all aspects of an orienteering meeting including organisational matters such as start draws, team officials' meetings and ceremonies. An event, e.g. a World Orienteering Championships, may include more than one competition.
- WTOC 1.7 *The World Trail Orienteering Championships (WTOC)* is the official event to award the titles of World Champions in Trail Orienteering. It is organised under the authority of the IOF and the appointed Federation.

- RTOC 1.8 *The Regional Trail Orienteering Championships (RTOC)* are the official events to award the titles of Regional Trail Orienteering Champions for each IOF Region. They are organised under the authority of the IOF and the appointed Federation.
- WRE 1.9 *IOF World Ranking Events (WRE)* are international events which are accepted by the IOF Council into the official IOF Calendar. They are organised under the authority of the IOF and the Federations of the organisers.
- 1.10 *The IOF World Ranking Scheme* is a system to rank the World's Elite Trail Orienteers based on their performances in the World Trail Orienteering Championships, Regional Championships and World Ranking Events.
- 1.11 *The IOF Event Adviser* is the person appointed to control an IOF event. In the case of World Championship and Regional Championship events the title *IOF Senior Event Adviser* is used.

2. General provisions

- 2.1 These rules, together with the Appendices, are binding at the *World Trail Orienteering Championships* and all other *IOF International Trail Orienteering Competitions*. Every rules point with no event abbreviation before its number is valid for all these events. A rules point valid only for the *World Trail Orienteering Championships* is marked with WTOC in the margin beside the rules point number. Such specific rules take precedence over any general rules with which they conflict.
- 2.2 These rules are recommended as a basis for national rules.
- 2.3 These rules are valid for trail orienteering competitions.
- 2.4 Additional regulations which do not conflict with these rules may be determined by the organiser. They need the approval of the IOF Event Adviser.
- 2.5 These rules and any additional regulations are binding for all competitors, team officials and other persons connected with the event organisation or in contact with the competitors. Any additional regulations must be published in the final event bulletin.
- 2.6 Sporting fairness must be the guiding principle in the interpretation of these rules by competitors, organisers and the jury.
- 2.7 The English text of these rules must be taken as decisive in any dispute arising from a translation into any other language.
- 2.8 In relays the rules for individual competitions are valid, unless otherwise stated.
- 2.9 The IOF Council may decide special rules or norms which must be followed, e.g. *IOF Anti-Doping Rules*, *IOF Protocol Guide*, *International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps*, *International Specification for Orienteering Maps*, *Trail Orienteering Technical Guidelines*, *Principles for Course Planning*, *World Ranking Scheme Rules* and *IOF Control Descriptions*.
- 2.10 The IOF Council may on occasion allow deviations from these rules and norms. Requests for permission to deviate from them must be sent to the IOF Office at least 6 months prior to the event.
- 2.11 The IOF Guidelines must be followed. Significant deviations require the consent of the IOF Event Adviser.
- RTOC 2.12 The specific rules for Regional Championships are in Appendix 5.

3. Event programme

- 3.1 The event dates and programme are proposed by the organiser and approved by the IOF Council.
- WTOC 3.2 The World Trail Orienteering Championships (WTOC) are organised every second year (in odd years).

- WTOC 3.3 The programme includes a two-day PreO competition with one course on each day, a TempO competition and a TrailO Relay. The TempO competition will have a qualification and final on the same day.
- WTOC 3.4 The programme includes opening and closing ceremonies, adequate rest, and model event(s). The programme must be kept within no more than 7 days.
- WTOC 3.5 An associated public competition with no limit on numbers, unless specified by the organiser, must be offered on as much of the championship course as possible. The public competitors should start after, and be kept separate from, the championship competitors.
- WRE 3.6 The events which are selected to be IOF World Ranking Events are chosen by Federations according to criteria determined by the IOF.

4. Event applications

- 4.1 Any Federation may apply to organise an IOF event.
- 4.2 Applications must be forwarded by the Federation to the IOF Office. The official application form must be used, and the applications must contain all requested information and guarantees. When there is no successful applicant, the application period will normally be extended further until a valid application has been received, evaluated and the IOF Council has appointed an organiser. Such applications will be handled in the order they are received and appointed as soon as possible. The IOF Council may decide not to organise an event if no suitable applications are received in appropriate time.
- 4.3 The IOF Council may impose a service fee on any IOF event. The amount of the service fee must be announced at least six months before the closing date for applications for that event.
- 4.4 The IOF Council may void the sanctioning of an event if the organiser fails to comply with the rules, the norms, the IOF Event Adviser's directions or the information submitted in the application. The organiser cannot claim damages in this case.
- WTOC 4.5 Applications must be received no later than 1 January three years prior to the championship year. The provisional appointment of organisers or organising Federations is made by the IOF Council no later than 31 October the same year. Each appointment must be confirmed by the signing, within 6 months, of a contract to organise the event, else Council may make an alternative appointment.
- WRE 4.6 The IOF Council must indicate the criteria these events must meet. Applications must be due no later than 30 September in the year prior to the event year and must be approved or rejected by the IOF Council no later than 30 November of the same year.

5. Classes

- | WTOC 5.1 In the individual PreO and TempO competitions and in the TrailO Relay there is one Open class, one Junior class and one P (Physically challenged) class.
- WTOC 5.2 All competitors, regardless of sex, age or physical ability/disability are eligible to be entered for a World Championship Open class competition.
- | WTOC 5.3 Only competitors who have a permanent disability that significantly reduces their mobility are eligible to be entered for a P class competition. Competitors for the P class eligibility must submit to the IOF Office, at least three months before the competition, an eligibility application form (available at www.orienteering.sport) completed by the athlete, a doctor and their Federation. Upon provisional approval of the application, the athlete will have to obtain final approval during an in-person classification assessment, at the latest on the day before the championship event. When approved, a certificate authenticating their P class eligibility will be issued.

- | WTOC 5.4 Only competitors who are 20 years or younger at the end of the calendar year are eligible for the Junior class.

6. Participation

- 6.1 A competitor may represent only one Federation at any one time. They must be a citizen of the country of that Federation. They must be able to provide either a passport or other valid documentation proving their citizenship. All competitors must ensure that the Federation they represent is correctly recorded in IOF Eventor.
- 6.2 Requests for change of Federation representation will be checked by the IOF Office and will come into effect on 15th April or 15th November. A competitor may not change their Federation representation more frequently than once every four years.
- | WRE 6.3 Competitors who are citizens of a country which does not have an IOF member, or who are citizens of a country where the IOF Member is suspended, or hold a certified refugee status, may apply to compete as an IOF Independent Athlete (IIA). They must satisfy the requirements for IIA status (including payment of an annual administration fee) as published by the IOF.
- WTOC 6.4 Each participating Federation must appoint a team manager to act as a contact person between the team and the organiser. It is the team manager's duty to see that the team receives all necessary information.
- 6.5 Competitors participate at their own risk. Insurance against accidents is the responsibility of their Federation or themselves, according to national regulations.
- WTOC 6.6 All competitors represent a Federation. Each Federation may enter a team of an unlimited number of competitors.
- | WTOC 6.7 Each Federation may enter up to a maximum of four competitors of any physical ability for the individual PreO and TempO competitions in the Open class, a maximum of four eligible competitors in the P class and a maximum of four eligible competitors in the Junior class.

In addition to the above the following may be entered by their Federations:

- The current Regional Champions (if the Regional Championship was held after the previous WTOC) and the current World Champions in their respective classes and formats
- The top 15 in the PreO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the PreO Open class
- The top 15 in the TempO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the TempO Open class
- The top 15 in the PreO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) with a valid (spanning the WTOC) eligibility certificate with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the PreO P class.
- The top 15 in the TempO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) with a valid (spanning the WTOC) eligibility certificate with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the TempO P class.
- The top 15 in the PreO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) aged 20 years or younger at the end of the calendar year with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the PreO Junior class
- The top 15 in the TempO World Ranking list (as it stands 3 months prior to the first race of the event) aged 20 years or younger at the end of the calendar

year with a maximum of the 2 best-ranked from each Federation for the TempO Junior class

These extra places are personal. Each criterion is evaluated separately with no regard to the outcome of any other criteria.

- | WTOC 6.8 In the TempO competition, the number of competitors who qualify for the final in each class is one third of the total number of entered competitors for the qualification heats rounded up to the next multiple of the number of heats for the class, but at least 10 and at the most 30. If there is just one qualification heat the top-placed third of competitors (rounded up) may participate in the final; if there are two or more qualification heats an equal number of the top competitors from each heat qualify for the final.
- WTOC 6.9 For the TrailO Relay, a team consists of three competitors. Each Federation may only nominate one team in each class: Open, Junior and P class. Incomplete teams and teams with competitors from more than one Federation are not allowed.
- WTOC 6.10 Disabled competitors requiring physical assistance from an able-bodied escort must bring their own escort. The organiser is only required to provide extra assistance at difficult section, e.g. steep up- or downhill sections. Escorts must not assist in any way with the map reading, control site identification, analysis or selection process, nor disturb the concentration of any competitor.
- WTOC 6.11 Each Federation may have a number of officials in the team, in addition to the competitors and required escorts. The organiser must fix the number of officials in accordance with the available facilities, but the maximum number must be at least four. The maximum number must be the same for each team.
- WTOC 6.12 A competitor must have a valid IOF Athlete Licence.

7. Costs

- 7.1 The costs of organising an event are the responsibility of the organiser. To cover the costs of the competition(s), the organiser may charge an entry fee for competitors and an accreditation fee for non-competitors (team officials, media etc). This fee must be kept as low as possible and must be approved by the IOF Event Adviser. For an event with several competitions, as an alternative to a total fee for the whole event, the organiser must offer competitors the option of an accreditation fee plus a fee for each competition entered.
- 7.2 Each Federation or individual competitor is responsible for paying the entry fee as specified in the invitation. The time limit for paying the entry fee must not be earlier than 6 weeks prior to the event. Late payment may be subject to an additional fee.
- 7.3 Late entries and changes must be accepted by the organiser if possible, and may be charged an additional fee.
- WTOC 7.4 The following must apply for late entries and changes:
- After the team size deadline (see 9.6), additional entries may be made with a surcharge of 20% and withdrawals receive an 80% refund.
 - After the team names deadline (see 9.7), additional entries incur a surcharge of 50%, withdrawals receive a 50% refund, and name changes incur a 10 euro fee.
- The organiser can decide whether to impose the surcharges for additional entries and fee for names changes. Refunds must always be given.
- 7.5 Each Federation or individual competitor is responsible for the expenses of travel to the event, accommodation, food and transport between the accommodation, event centre and competition sites. If the use of official transport to the competition sites is compulsory, the entry fee must include these costs.

- 7.6 All costs of the IOF appointed Event Adviser and Assistant/s are paid by the organiser or the organiser's Federation according to national agreements unless agreed otherwise with the IOF.
- 7.7 All costs of IOF Event Advisers and Assistants appointed by a Federation must be paid by the organiser or the Federation according to national agreements.
- WTOC 7.8 Unless there is good standard accommodation and food at a low price, different standards of accommodation and food must be offered, allowing competitors a choice of price groups. The fees for the competition, the food and the accommodation must be shown as separate amounts. In any case it must not be compulsory to use the accommodation arranged by the organiser. All accommodation must be wheelchair-accessible.
- 7.9 If the event (or part of the event) has to be cancelled due to reasons outside of the organiser's control – e.g. weather conditions, destruction of terrain, the organiser may retain a minimum proportion of the entry fee in order to cover committed costs.

8. Information about the Event

- 8.1 All information and ceremonies must be at least in English. Official information must be given in writing. It may be given orally only in response to questions at team officials' meetings or in urgent cases. Any changes to information published in the last Bulletin must be given in writing.
- WTOC 8.2 Information from the organiser or the IOF Event Adviser must be given in the form of bulletins. Bulletins must be published on, or by being linked to, the IOF Web Site. Notification that Bulletin 3 has been published must be sent by e-mail to all participating Federations. If further information is necessary, it must be given to all appropriate Federations.
- WTOC 8.3 Bulletin 1 (preliminary information) must include the following information:
- organiser and names of the event director, IOF Event Adviser(s), national controller(s)
 - telephone number/e-mail address/web page for information
 - venue
 - dates and types of the competitions
 - classes and any participation restrictions
 - opportunities for training
 - general map of the region
 - embargoed areas
 - any peculiarities of the event
 - a link to a colour copy of the most recent version of any previous orienteering map(s) of the embargoed areas.
- WTOC 8.4 Bulletin 2 (invitation) must include the following information:
- all information given in Bulletin 1
 - official entry and accommodation forms
 - latest date and address for entries
 - entry fee for competitors, escorts/medical attendants and team officials and any additional fees for late entries and changes (see 7.4)
 - latest date and address for the payment of the entry fees and any additional fees for late payment (see 7.2)
 - types and cost of accommodation and food
 - accessibility of entrance hall, bedrooms, sanitary facilities and public rooms
 - provision for recharging electric wheelchairs
 - latest date for reservation of official accommodation

- description of any transport offered, including that adapted for wheelchairs with cost
- latest date for booking and payment of transport
- directions for obtaining entry permits (visas)
- details of opportunities for any training
- description of terrain, climate and any hazards
- accessibility for mobility impaired competitors
- provision of escorts, or need for them
- standard of the map (ISSOM or ISOM)
- scales and contour intervals of the maps
- event programme
- notes on competition clothing, if necessary
- approximate length and climb of each course
- address, telephone number and e-mail address of the official responsible for the media
- a recent sample map showing the type of terrain
- the exact location of each competition area and finish arena (if they have been decided)
- maximum number of officials per team (if necessary)
- directions for registration of media representatives and any extra representatives of the Federations.

- WTOC 8.5 Bulletin 3 (event information) must include the following information:
- latest date for sending the exact number of participants
 - latest date for submitting medical certificates to IOF for required eligibility
 - latest date for sending the names of participants and confirmation of eligibility for Physically challenged participants
 - details of provision of escorts by organisers or unusually the need for participants to do so
 - detailed programme of the event, including timetable for final name entries and for the allocation of start times
 - details of the terrain, especially accessibility
 - summary of entries received
 - any permitted deviations from the rules
 - address, telephone and e-mail address of the competition office
 - details of accommodation and food, access perimeters
 - transport schedule, availability of vehicles booked to take wheelchairs
 - the length (measured along the route to be followed), total climb, number of controls and number of refreshment points and toilets on each individual course
 - team officials' meetings
 - the exact location of each competition area and finish arena.

- WTOC 8.6 Bulletin 4 (additional event information) must be given on arrival of the competitors and must include final details of event information including:
- any anti-doping requirements
 - all Special Rules relevant to the event
 - any additional regulations and any Rule Deviations that have been granted
 - the time limits for Complaints
 - the location for making Complaints
 - maximum time allowed for each course
 - names and Federations of jury members

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| WTOC | 8.7 | Bulletin 1 must arrive 24 months before the event, Bulletin 2 must arrive 12 months before the event and Bulletin 3 must arrive 2 months before the event. |
| WRE | 8.8 | Information from the organiser must be given in the form of two bulletins. Bulletin 1 must be available on Eventor 4 months before the event. Bulletin 2 must be made available to all competitors 1 week before the event. |
| WRE | 8.9 | <p>Bulletin 1 (preliminary information and invitation) must include the following WRE information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organiser and the names of the event director and controller(s) • telephone number, e-mail address and web page for information • venue • dates and types of the competitions • classes and any participation restrictions • general map of the region • embargoed areas • any peculiarities of the event • official entry form • latest date and address for entries • entry fee for competitors • latest date and address for the payment of the entry fees • types and cost of any accommodation and food • description of any transport offered, including that adapted for wheelchairs with cost • directions for obtaining entry permits (visas) • description of terrain, climate and accessibility • scales and vertical contour intervals of the maps • event programme • the punching system to be used • a recent sample map showing the type of terrain • information about how to obtain copies of any previous map(s) of the embargoed areas |
| WRE | 8.10 | <p>Bulletin 2 (event information) must include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all information given in Bulletin 1 that is still relevant • a detailed programme of the event • where and when start lists will be published • details of the terrain • summary of entries received • any permitted deviations from the rules • location, telephone number and e-mail address of the event office • transport schedule • the length, climb, number of controls, and number and approximate location of refreshment points and toilets on the course • information on zero tolerance and unusual map symbols used • information on one-way sections and timed-out sections on the course • the time limits for complaints • the location for making complaints • maximum time allowed for each course • names and federations of jury members |

9. Entries

- 9.1 Entries must be submitted according to the instructions given in Bulletin 2. At least the following details must be supplied in order for each competitor: family name and first name, Federation. The names of team officials must be supplied. Late entries must be accepted by the organiser if possible, and may be charged an additional fee.
- 9.2 A competitor may only enter one class in any one competition.
- 9.3 The organiser may exclude competitors or teams from starting if their entry fee is not

paid and no agreement has been reached about payment.

- 9.4 Reservations and reservation fees for accommodation must reach the organiser at the times specified in Bulletin 2.
- WTOC 9.5 Competitors may only be selected and entered by their Federation.
- WTOC 9.6 Entries giving the total number of competitors, the number of competitors in each competition, the number of escorts/medical attendants, the number of team officials and the team manager's name, e-mail address and mobile phone number must reach the organiser by the *team size deadline* which must not be earlier than 2 months before the event.
- WTOC 9.7 Each competitor's name, the number of relay teams, any required medical certificate and the names of escorts and the team officials must reach the organiser by the *team names deadline* which must not be earlier than 10 days before the first race of the event. Changes may be made to the team names until 12 noon on the day before the first race of the event. After that time, no further changes to the team are allowed under any circumstances.
- WTOC 9.8 Names of the competitors must reach the organiser by the *competition entry deadline* which must not be earlier than 12 noon on the day before an individual competition.
- WTOC 9.9 Names of the three competitors and their order must reach the organiser by the *competition entry deadline* which must not be earlier than 18.00 hours on the day before the TrailO Relay.
- WTOC 9.10 Between the competition entry deadline and 2 hours before the first start, a competitor may be replaced for a valid reason (eg accident or illness). No replacement for the individual competitions is possible after 2 hours before the first start of the competition.
- WTOC 9.11 Between the competition entry deadline for the TrailO Relay and 2 hours before the start, the competitors nominated for the team may be changed for a valid reason (eg accident or illness).
- WTOC 9.12 Replacement of a competitor after the competition entry deadline may only be made from within the entered team.

10. Travel and transport

- WTOC 10.1 Each Federation is responsible for organising its own travel.
- WTOC 10.2 On request, the organiser must, on behalf of a Federation, arrange provision of adapted vehicles to transport teams from the nearest international airport or railway station to the event centre or accommodation. The Federation may have to pay for this service.
- WTOC 10.3 Transport between the accommodation, event centre, competition sites, etc may either be arranged by the organiser or by the teams. On request and with agreed payment, the organiser must arrange all necessary transport during the event, including transport with lift or ramp for electric wheelchair users, on behalf of the teams.
- 10.4 The use of official transport to a competition site may be declared compulsory by the organiser.

11. Training and model event

- 11.1 Training opportunities may be offered before the competition.
- WTOC 11.2 On the day prior to the first competition of an event, the organiser must put on a model event to demonstrate the terrain type, map quality, control features and the set-up of the controls, including a Timed Control, a TempO Control, refreshment points and marked routes. If the terrain for the two days of competition is very different, a second model event must be put on.

- 11.3 Competitors, team officials, IOF officials and media representatives must be offered the opportunity to participate in the model event.
- 11.4 If deemed necessary by the IOF Event Adviser, further model events must be organised.
- 11.5 If deemed appropriate by the IOF Event Adviser, the model event may be organised on the day of the competition prior to the first start.

12. Starting order and heat allocation

- 12.1 In an *interval start*, the competitors start singly at allocated start intervals.
- 12.2 The starting order must be approved by the IOF Event Adviser. The start draw may be public or private. It may be made by hand or by a computer.
- 12.3 The start list must be published on or before the day prior to the competition and before any team officials' meeting which must be held according to Rule 13.1.
- 12.4 The names of all competitors and teams correctly entered must be drawn, even if a competitor has not arrived. Entries without names (blanks) are not considered for the draw.
- 12.5 For an interval start, the start interval is normally 2 minutes, but may be varied with the approval of the IOF Event Adviser.
- 12.6 For an interval start at competitions with 50 or more entries, it is recommended that the starting order is drawn in groups. Competitors are grouped according to the World Ranking List into groups of 30 (or 11-40 for the the final group of lowest ranked competitors including unranked competitors). A random start draw is made within each group with the best group starting last. If the starting order is not drawn in groups, then the starting order must be drawn at random.
- WTOC 12.7 For an interval start for all competitors on the same course, the starting order must be adjusted, as necessary, to allow for a separation of at least 8 minutes between competitors from the same Federation on the same course. The mechanism of adjustment is to bring forward the next available competitors in the draw to provide the required separation. If competitors are still to be separated at the end of the draw (or the group), the same process takes place in reverse from the bottom of the list to provide the necessary separations.
- WTOC 12.8 The starting order for the second day of the PreO competitions must be the reverse of the placings from the first day of competition, with the best competitor starting last.
- WTOC 12.9 In the TempO qualification race, the start draw for the qualification races must be made so that each of the following requirements is satisfied:
 - as far as possible, the heats must be equally strong
 - competitors from the same Federation must not start at consecutive times if they are in the same heat
 - the allocation of competitors to the different heats must be drawn so that the competitors of a Federation are distributed as equally as is mathematically possible among the heats.
- WTOC 12.10 The starting order of the TempO final must be the reverse of the placings in the qualification race heats; the best competitors must start last. Ties must be decided by drawing lots. E.g. if two competitors tie for 6th place in heat 1, a coin must be tossed to determine who has placing 6 and who has placing 7 in heat 1 for the purposes of this rule. Competitors with the same placing in the different parallel heats must start in the sequence of the number of their heat, i.e. 1, 2, 3...; the winner of the highest numbered heat therefore starts last.

13. Team officials' meeting

- WTOC 13.1 The organiser must hold a team officials' meeting on the day prior to the competition. This meeting must normally start no later than 19.00 hours. The IOF Event Adviser must lead or supervise the meeting.
- WTOC 13.2 The competition material (start number bibs, control cards or E-cards, start lists, transport schedule, latest information, etc) must be handed out before the start of the meeting.
- WTOC 13.3 Team officials must have the opportunity to ask questions during the meeting.

14. Terrain

- 14.1 The terrain must be suitable for setting competitive trail orienteering courses of the appropriate standard.
- 14.2 The terrain must be chosen so that the least mobile competitors, the person confined to and propelling a low fixed wheelchair and the person who walks slowly and with difficulty, can negotiate the course within the maximum time limit, using official assistance where provided.
- 14.3 The competition terrain must not have been used for orienteering for as long as possible prior to the competition, so that no competitor has an unfair advantage.
- 14.4 The competition terrain must be embargoed as soon as it is decided. If that is not possible, then arrangements for access to the terrain must be published as soon as possible.
- 14.5 Permission for access into embargoed terrain must be obtained from the organiser if needed.
- 14.6 Any rights of nature conservation, forestry, hunting, etc in the area must be respected.

15. Maps

- 15.1 Maps, course markings and additional overprinting must be drawn and printed according to the IOF *International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps* or the IOF *International Specification for Orienteering Maps*. Deviations need approval by the IOF Council.
- 15.2 The map scale must normally be 1:4000, or 1:3000. All maps for a competition, including those for the timed controls, must use the same scale.
- 15.3 Errors on the map and changes which have occurred in the terrain since the map was printed must be corrected on the map if they have a bearing on the event.
- 15.4 Maps must be protected against moisture and damage.
- 15.5 If a previous orienteering map of the competition area exists, links to high-resolution colour copies of the most recent edition must be made available for all competitors prior to the competition.
- 15.6 If there is no quarantine, the use of any map of the day's competition area by competitors or team officials is prohibited at the competition venue until permitted by the organiser. The organiser may make further restrictions on map usage which must be published in the final Bulletin.
- 15.7 In TempO, and at PreO timed controls, the shape and size of the maps must be either circular or square. A circular map must have a diameter between 5 cm and 12 cm and a square map must have sides between 5 cm and 12 cm. Each map must be centred on the control circle. All maps at all stations must have the same form and size. The map must be fixed on stiff material which is larger than the map. The map segment must contain the area where the control markers are as well as the area of the viewing point.

- WTOC 15.8 The IOF and its member Federations have the right to reproduce the event maps with courses in their official magazines or on their websites without having to pay a fee to the organisers.

16. Courses and Timed Controls

- 16.1 The IOF *Principles for course planning for Trail Orienteering* (see Appendix 1) must be followed, with reference to the current published issue of the IOF *Technical Guidelines for Trail Orienteering*.
- 16.2 The standard of the courses must be worthy of an international trail orienteering event. The skills of map reading and terrain interpretation and the concentration of the competitors must be tested, together with, at the timed controls, speed of decision making. The courses must call upon a range of different orienteering techniques.
- 16.3 The course lengths must be given as the length from the start, along the route to be followed, to the finish and should not normally exceed 3500m.
- 16.4 Any route not passable by all wheelchair users, because of width, protruding roots, fallen trees or other unsuitable surface must be banned to all and marked on the map and/or in the terrain by tapes.
- 16.5 The total climb must be given as the climb in metres along the route.
- 16.6 The climb of a course should normally not exceed 14% for more than 20 metres. The cross slope should be no more than 8%.
- 16.7 At least pure water must be offered as refreshment.
- WTOC 16.8 In the PreO courses, at least 2 timed control stations with 3 tasks each where the decision time is recorded should be included. These may be located at any part of the course; but it is desirable that at least one occurs both before the official start and another after a pre-finish. A separate, specially prepared map is used for each timed control. For the PreO courses, timed controls must not have a None/Zero answer.
- WTOC 16.9 A TempO qualification course consists of at least 5 control stations and 25 tasks. A TempO final course consists of at least 6 control stations and 30 tasks. There should be at least 4 tasks at each control station. A separate, specially prepared map is used for each timed control and the competitor is given the complete ordered set of maps for the control station as a stack with a cover sheet on top.
- 16.10 The number of control markers for each timed control is 6.
- 16.11 The terrain detail at a timed control must not be shown on the competitor's maps, where this may be studied by competitors before they are called to the timed control.
- 16.12 At timed controls the competitor must be seated in a position so that all the control markers are visible. The chair must be facing the midpoint between the outer control markers. The viewing angle between the outer control markers must not exceed 120°. A map unit, or a set of maps, containing a segment of the map oriented in the direction of view of the midpoint between the outer control markers, with clear indication of the direction of magnetic north above the map segment and description below the segment, must be handed to, or placed for, the competitor. The map unit, or set of maps, must include a cover sheet. Two sets of identical maps must be presented to the competitor; one with the maps bound together and one with the maps loose. The competitor chooses which set of maps to use.
- 16.13 Timing starts when the order "time starts now" is given at which point the competitor may look at the first map. Timing can be with two stopwatches or electronic units, in which case the feedback signal as the competitor punches is equivalent to the order "time starts now".
- 16.14 At timed controls timing is stopped when the final answer is stated. Answers are given either by the use of a pointing board or orally using the International Phonetic Alphabet (Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, Echo, Foxtrot) and Zero. The default method is to

answer orally. If a competitor wants to use a pointing board they must inform the officials upon arrival. When the official perceives an answer from the competitor, that answer will be recorded. With electronic units both the choice and time are automatically recorded as the competitor punches.

- 16.15 At each timed control station in a PreO competition, the maximum total time is 30 seconds multiplied by the number of timed controls. The total time and the individual answers for each timed control are recorded.
- 16.16 At each station in a TempO competition, the maximum total time is 30 seconds multiplied by the number of timed controls. The total time and the individual answers for each timed control are recorded.
- 16.17 A competitor must give the answer while the relevant map is visible. If the competitor turns over to the next or previous map before an answer is given for the current map, then the answer must be recorded as incorrect for the current map.
- 16.18 Any timed controls which have not been answered within the maximum time are recorded as incorrect.
- 16.19 Unless electronic recording is used there must be 2 timekeepers with the times from both recorded. The times must be rounded down to whole seconds.
- 16.20 If possible, a toilet should be placed along the course after about 70-80 min of competition time.

17. Restricted areas and routes

- 17.1 Rules set by the organising Federation to protect the environment and any related instructions from the organiser must be strictly observed by all persons connected with the event.
- 17.2 All terrain off the tracks (trails) in the competition area is out-of-bounds unless otherwise indicated in the information, marked on the map and, where they are not obvious to the competitor, marked on the ground. Additionally, certain normally permitted routes and areas may be declared out of bounds, as described in the information and, where necessary, marked on the map and/or on the ground. Competitors who deliberately enter a forbidden area will be disqualified.
- 17.3 Compulsory routes, crossing points and passages must be marked clearly on the map and on the ground. Competitors must follow the entire length of any marked section of their course.

18. Control descriptions

- 18.1 The precise location of the control point in the terrain must be correctly defined by the centre of the circle on the map and the control description.
- 18.2 The control descriptions must be in the form of symbols and in accordance with the *IOF Control Descriptions*.
- 18.3 In column B, the number of control markers in any cluster, will be indicated by letters (e.g. A-C for 3 markers).
- 18.4 Where necessary, to indicate the approximate direction to view a control cluster, a standard compass direction arrow must be placed in column H.
- 18.5 The control descriptions must include the maximum time allowed for the course.
- 18.6 The control descriptions, given in the right order for each competitor's course, must be fixed to or printed on the front side of the competition map.

19. Control set-up and equipment

- 19.1 The control point given on the map must be clearly marked on the ground by a cluster of control markers in the vicinity of the circle.
- 19.2 Control markers must consist of three squares 30 x 30 cm arranged in a triangular form. Each square must be divided diagonally, one half being white and the other orange (PMS 165).
- 19.3 The control markers must be hung so that they are all visible (at least one third of any marker) to seated competitors from the close vicinity of the decision point. Normally a marker is positioned at the feature at the centre of the circle on the map and correctly described but it is permitted to have no marker so located.
- 19.4 The control markers must be hung at a standard height in any one cluster.
- 19.5 A decision point will be marked in the terrain along the route, but not shown on the map. For timed controls, the location where the competitor is seated must be on the map but is not marked on the map.
- 19.6 Control markers are designated from left to right, regardless of depth of view, 'A', 'B'...'F' from a decision point. The decision as to which marker is which is made from this point.
- 19.7 All controls for which there are security concerns must be guarded.

20. Control cards and punching units

- 20.1 Either an IOF licensed electronic punching system or the traditional manual pin punch with control card may be used.
- 20.2 If a non-electronic punching system is used, the control card must satisfy the following specifications:
In PreO:
 - it must be made of resistant material, or be protected
 - each punch box must have a minimum side length of 13 mm
 - a duplicate must be marked automatically with the main card.In TempO:
 - a duplicate copy of the main card must be made.
- 20.3 If a non-electronic punching system is used, competitors must be issued with a double card. The complete card must be handed to officials at the finish, the second part being returned, after the last start time, to the competitor for reference.
- 20.4 If a non-electronic punching system is used, the whole card may be protected by reinforcing it or by putting it into a bag, but not by cutting-off parts of the control card.
- 20.5 In a PreO competition, competitors record their choices at a punching station a short distance beyond each decision point. If a non-electronic punching system is used, a single punch must be provided or the competitor can be allowed to carry their own punch. If electronic punching is used, a backup system must be provided.
- 20.6 Competitors must visit controls and record their answers in number order unless otherwise stated. With non-electronic punching the control card must be punched in the chosen box. With electronic punching, the choice is recorded in the chosen unit and the confirmation signal observed. If, after waiting, there is doubt that the punch has been recorded, the backup system must be used. See Appendix 4.
- 20.7 Competitors are responsible for the correct recording of their choice, whether doing so themselves or through an intermediary.
- 20.8 Any control with no selection recorded is deemed to be incorrect. If a non-electronic punching system is used, any control with more than one selection recorded is deemed to be incorrect. If electronic punching is used, the first selection recorded at a control

is deemed to be the competitor's decision, all other selections recorded at the control are ignored.

20.9 No change in recorded selection is permitted.

20.10 The organiser must confirm that competitors are completing the controls in the correct order by checking the control cards. If skipped controls are detected they are marked as invalid and cannot subsequently be punched to get points.

20.11 Competitors who lose their control card or electronic recording device (e-card) must be disqualified.

20.12 The control cards must, as far as possible, be kept concealed during the competition so that competitors cannot see each other's answers.

WTOC 20.13 The control cards or e-cards must be handed out before the team officials' meeting except that, if qualification and finals are organised on the same day, those for the finals must be handed out at least one hour before the first start.

WTOC 20.14 If electronic punching is used, provision for competitors to punch in privacy must be provided.

21. Equipment

21.1 As long as the rules of the organising Federation do not specify otherwise, the choice of clothing and footwear must be free.

21.2 Start number bibs must be clearly visible and worn as prescribed by the organiser. The bibs must not be larger than 25 x 25 cm. The number bibs must not be folded or cut.

21.3 During the competition the navigational aids that competitors may use are only the map and control descriptions provided by the organiser, and a compass.

21.4 No mechanical or electronic aids, other than an odometer and a watch are allowed. A magnifying glass either incorporated in the compass or separate is allowed. Binoculars and telescopes are prohibited.

21.5 All devices that can transmit or receive information, including positional information, are prohibited in the quarantine and competition area. Equipment provided by the organiser is allowed.

WTOC 21.6 Competitors must wear the team clothing of their Federation.

22. Start

22.1 In individual competitions, the start is normally an interval start. In the TrailO Relay there is a mass start for each class.

22.2 In qualification race competitions, the first start in the finals must be at least 2.5 hours after the end of the qualification races.

22.3 All competitors must have at least 30 minutes for undisturbed preparation at the start area. Only competitors who have not started and team officials must be allowed into the start area.

22.4 The start may be organised with a pre-start before the time start. If there is a pre-start, a clock showing the call-up time to team officials and competitors must be displayed there, and the competitors' names must be called or displayed. Beyond the pre-start, only starting competitors, with their escorts, and media representatives guided by the organiser are allowed.

22.5 At the start, a clock showing the competition time to the competitors must be displayed. If there is no pre-start, competitors' names must be called or displayed.

- 22.6 Competitors are responsible for checking that they have the right map. If there is variation in the course, the competitor's start number or name must be indicated on the map so as to be visible to the competitor before starting.
- 22.7 The point where orienteering begins must be shown on the map with the start triangle and, if it is not at the time start, marked in the terrain by a control marker. Competitors are not allowed to cross back through the time start.
- 22.8 Competitors who are late for their start time must be permitted to start. Their new start time must be recorded.
- In a mass or chasing start, the competitor must be started as soon as possible.
 - In an interval start, if the competitor is at the start line less than half the start interval after their start time, they must start immediately.
 - If the competitor is at the start line more than half the start interval after their start time, they must start at the next available half start interval.
- 22.9 Competitors who are late for their start time through no fault of the organiser must be timed as if they had started at their original start time. Competitors who are late for their start time through the fault of the organiser must be timed from their new start time.
- 22.10 The changeover between the members of each relay team takes place by touch. The changeover may be organised so that the incoming team member collects the map of the outgoing team member and hands it over as the changeover touch.
- 22.11 Correct and timely relay changeover is the responsibility of the competitors, even when the organiser arranges an advanced warning of incoming teams.
- 22.12 With the approval of the IOF Event Adviser the organiser may arrange mass starts for the later legs for relay teams that have not changed over.
- 22.13 Once a relay team has accepted its disqualification no further members of that team must be allowed to start.
- 22.14 In the changeover area, outgoing team members must have some advance warning of the arrival of their preceding team members
- 22.15 The organiser may define one or more quarantine zones to prevent those who have not started gaining information about the courses. A quarantine zone is defined as a secure area where communication with the outside world by any person in the quarantine zone is forbidden, except for officials authorised to do so by the event organiser. The organiser defines times when competitors and team officials must be inside the quarantine zone. The organiser must provide adequate facilities (toilets, refreshment, shelter etc.) for those waiting in the quarantine zone. If a person attempts to enter the quarantine zone after the deadline, they may be refused entry. Competitors and team officials must not take communication devices that can transmit or receive information into a quarantine zone.

23. Finish and time-keeping

- 23.1 The course ends for a competitor after crossing the finish line.
- 23.2 The time taken by the competitor over the timed section(s) of the course, unless over the declared time limit for the course, is not relevant to the competition result except in PreO Sprint.
- 23.3 The finishing time may be measured either when the competitor crosses a pre-finish line, or at the finish line. Times must be rounded down to whole seconds. Times must be given in either hours, minutes and seconds or in minutes and seconds only.
- 23.4 The lead-in to the finish may be bounded by tape or other means.
- 23.5 The exact position of the finish line must be obvious to approaching competitors.

- 23.6 After crossing the finish line, completing the changeover or retiring, competitors must hand in the control card or download recorded data. If required by the organiser, they must hand in their competition map. If an electronic punching system is used, a printout of the recorded punches must be provided to the competitor.
- 23.7 For a PreO course, the organiser must set a maximum time for each course, calculated as 3 minutes for each control plus 3 minutes for each 100 metres of the course. At the discretion of the IOF Event Adviser an extended time may be set to allow for exceptional climb, difficult surfaces or other factors. The IOF Event Adviser may decide on an additional time allowance for competitors with eligibility certificates.
- 23.8 Any delays to the competitor, at any point along the route, which are not the competitor's fault must be recorded and deducted from that competitor's overall time.
- 23.9 If, after taking into account any recorded delay, the competitor has exceeded the time limit a penalty will be incurred. This is a deduction of one point for any part of each five minute unit.
- 23.10 There is no maximum time for a TempO course.
- 23.11 There must be first aid facilities and personnel at the finish, who are also equipped to work in the forest.

24. Results

- 24.1 In a PreO competition, each correctly identified control (excluding Timed Controls) scores one point.
- 24.2 At the Timed Controls in a PreO competition, if all the answers are given within the maximum time (30 seconds multiplied by the number of timed controls), the total time to answer is recorded. For each wrong answer, a penalty of 60 seconds is added to the total time. If no answer to one or more tasks is given within the maximum time, the competitor's time is recorded as the maximum time plus penalties of 60 seconds for each incorrect or unanswered task.
- 24.3 The average of the two recorded times at each timed control is calculated with half seconds preserved. If electronic punching is used, the time is rounded down to the nearest second.
- 24.4 The recorded times for all timed controls in any one competition are cumulative. With manual timing the total times should show half seconds.
- 24.5 In a PreO competition, competitors are ranked according to their points scores, with competitors on equal points being ranked according to their accumulated times at the timed controls.
- 24.6 In a TempO competition, competitors are ranked according to their total corrected time, which is the sum of the times taken at each control station plus 30 seconds penalty for each wrong answer.
- 24.7 In a TrailO Relay the corrected time for each competitor is the sum of the times taken at each TempO control station plus 30 seconds penalty for each wrong answer during the TempO part plus 60 seconds penalty for each point deduction during the PreO part (wrong answer/maximum time penalty). The three corrected times are added together to give the team time and teams are ranked accordingly.
- 24.8 Any control that is deemed to be unfair and voided by the IOF Event Adviser is deleted from the competition for all. The reason for voiding must be displayed on the results board. If a timed control in a TempO competition is voided, then the entire control station must be voided.
- 24.9 Provisional results for PreO (showing only points and seconds) and for TempO and Relay (showing only seconds) must be announced and displayed in the finish or assembly area and online (if possible) during the competition. Results must only be

shown after quarantine has closed or (if there is no quarantine) after the last competitor has started.

- 24.10 The official results, including the correct and competitor selections for each control, must be published on the internet no more than 4 hours after the latest allowable finishing time of the last starter. They must be available on the day of the competition to each team manager and to accredited media representatives.
- 24.11 The official results must include the point scores and accumulated times of all participating competitors. A shortened version may be made available for the media.
- 24.12 Two or more competitors having the same score and time at the timed controls must be given the same placing in the results list. The position(s) following the tie must remain vacant.

WTOC 24.13 Every competitor, team official and accredited media representative must be given a competition map and a solution map.

WTOC 24.14 In the individual World PreO Championship competitions, the competitors are ranked according to their total point score and total accumulated time from the two courses.

WTOC 24.15 In the individual World TempO Championship competitions, the competitors are ranked according to their placing in the final course.

24.16 The results must be electronically submitted to the IOF on the day of the competition.

24.17 If a Federation is represented by more than one team in a relay class, only the team with the best result is considered in determining the placings. The second and subsequent teams to finish from a federation appear on the results in time order (i.e. as they crossed the line) but without a placing. The results of incomplete teams and teams with competitors from more than one Federation are not considered in determining the placings in relay competitions and must appear at the end of the results with no placing.

25. Prizes

25.1 The organiser must arrange a dignified prize-giving ceremony.

25.2 If two or more competitors have the same placing, they each receive the appropriate medal and/or diploma.

WTOC 25.3 The title of World PreO Champion Open class is awarded to the winner.

WTOC 25.4 The following prizes are awarded in the World PreO Championship Open class:

- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
- 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
- 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
- 4th-6th place Diploma

Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.

WTOC 25.5 The title of World PreO Champion P class is awarded to the winner.

WTOC 25.6 The following prizes are awarded in the World PreO Championship P class:

- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
- 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
- 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
- 4th-6th place Diploma

Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.

WTOC 25.7 The title of World PreO Junior Champion is awarded to winner.

WTOC 25.8 The following prizes are awarded in the World PreO Championship Junior class:

- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
- 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma

- 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- WTOC 25.9 The title of World TrailO Relay Champions Open class is awarded to the winning team.
- WTOC 25.10 In the World TrailO Relay Championship Open class competition, the three members of the team receive: -
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- WTOC 25.11 The title of World TrailO Relay Champions P class is awarded to the winning team.
- WTOC 25.12 In the World TrailO Relay Championship P class competition, the three members of the team receive: -
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- | WTOC 25.13 The title of World TrailO Relay Junior Champions is awarded to the winning team.
- | WTOC 25.14 In the World TrailO Relay Championship Junior class competition, the three members of the team receive: -
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- WTOC 25.15 The title of World TempO Champion Open Class is awarded to the winner.
- WTOC 25.16 The following prizes are awarded in the World TempO Championship Open class:
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- | WTOC 25.17 The title of World TempO Champion P Class is awarded to the winner.
- | WTOC 25.18 The following prizes are awarded in the World TempO Championship P class:
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma
- Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.
- | WTOC 25.19 The title of World TempO Junior Champion is awarded to the winner.
- | WTOC 25.20 The following prizes are awarded in the World TempO Championship Junior class:
- 1st place Gold medal (plated) and diploma
 - 2nd place Silver medal (plated) and diploma
 - 3rd place Bronze medal and diploma
 - 4th-6th place Diploma

Medals and diplomas are supplied by the IOF.

- WTOC 25.21 The prize-giving ceremonies must be performed by representatives of the organising Federation and the IOF.
- WTOC 25.22 During the prize-giving ceremony, the national flags of the first 3 competitors must be flown and the national anthem of the winner must be played.

26. Fair play

- 26.1 All persons taking part in an orienteering event must behave with fairness, honesty and a spirit of friendship. Competitors must show respect for each other, for officials, media, spectators and the inhabitants of the competition area. The competitors must be as quiet as possible in the terrain.
- 26.2 Wheelchair users must have priority to the side of the track nearest to the controls and access to decision points in front of ambulant competitors.
- 26.3 Seeking to obtain or obtaining technical assistance from other competitors or escorts, or providing such assistance to other competitors during a competition is forbidden. However, it is the duty of all competitors to help any injured competitor, or anyone with physical need in the case of an accident.
- 26.4 Doping is forbidden. The *IOF Anti-Doping Rules* apply to all IOF events and the IOF Council may require doping control procedures to be conducted. It is the responsibility of competitors to obtain any required TUE (therapeutic use exemption) certificate.
- 26.5 All officials must maintain strict secrecy about the competition area and terrain before they are published. Strict secrecy about the courses must be maintained.
- 26.6 Any attempt to survey or train in the competition terrain is forbidden. Attempts to gain any information related to the courses, beyond that provided by the organiser, is forbidden before and during the competition.
- 26.7 The organiser must bar from the competition any competitor who is so well acquainted with the terrain or the map, that the competitor would have a substantial advantage over other competitors. Such cases must be discussed and decided after consultation with the IOF Event Adviser.
- 26.8 Team officials, competitors, media representatives and spectators must remain in the areas assigned to them.
- 26.9 Officials and others (e.g. media representatives) in the terrain must neither disturb nor assist competitors, other than with legitimate physical assistance over difficult sections.
- 26.10 Having crossed the finish line, a competitor must not re-enter the competition terrain without the permission of the organiser. A competitor who retires must announce this at the finish immediately and hand in the map and control card. That competitor must in no way influence the competition nor help other competitors.
- 26.11 A competitor who breaks any rule, or who benefits from the breaking of any rule, may be sanctioned.
The sanction that may be applied by the organiser or jury is:
 - DisqualificationThe event organiser, or (as a result of a Protest) the jury, has responsibility for imposing sanctions relating to an event
Where there has been a major violation of the rules, the case may be referred to the IOF Disciplinary Panel to consider further sanctions including suspension from IOF competitions for a defined period.
- 26.12 Non-competitors who break any rule are liable to disciplinary action.

- 26.13 The organiser must stop, and postpone or cancel a course if at any point it becomes clear that circumstances have arisen which make the course dangerous for the competitor, officials or spectators.
- 26.14 The organiser must void a course if circumstances have arisen which make the course significantly unfair.
- 26.15 Participation in betting relating to an orienteering event is prohibited for competitors in the event, the team officials and the event officials. They are also prohibited from supporting or promoting betting relating to the event. Additionally, they must not participate in any corrupt practices related to betting. Such practices include fixing the result, manipulating any aspect of the results, failing to perform in order to benefit, accepting or offering bribes and passing on inside information.
- 26.16 The organiser can prevent a competitor from continuing the competition on medical grounds if they believe that the competitor is at serious risk of harm by continuing e.g. through extreme exhaustion.

27. Complaints

- 27.1 A Complaint may be made about infringements of these rules or the organiser's directions.
- 27.2 Complaints may only be made by team officials or competitors.
- 27.3 Any Complaint must be made in writing to the organiser as soon as possible. A Complaint is decided by the organiser. The complainant must be informed about the decision immediately. If the organiser is unable to make the decision, the IOF Event Adviser must decide in their place.
- 27.4 There is no fee for a Complaint.
- 27.5 The time limit for Complaints is 15 minutes after the result has been published for the competitor whose result is the subject of the complaint. The 15 minutes only commences once the competitor is back at the arena and in possession of their competition map and the solutions map. The organiser may set a different time limit which must be published in the final Bulletin. Complaints received after this time limit will only be considered if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the Complaint.

28. Protests

- 28.1 A Protest may be made against the organiser's decision about a Complaint.
- 28.2 A Protest may only be made by the team official or competitor who made the Complaint.
- 28.3 Any Protest must be made in writing to the organiser no later than 15 minutes after the organiser has informed the complainant of the decision about the Complaint. Protests received after this time limit may be considered at the discretion of the jury if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the Protest.
- WTOC 28.4 A Protest fee of 50 EUR (or the equivalent in local currency) must be paid when
RTOC making a Protest. The fee will be returned if the Protest is accepted by the jury, otherwise the fee must be sent to the IOF.

29. Jury

- 29.1 A jury must be appointed to rule on Protests.
- 29.2 The IOF Council decides for which events it must appoint the jury. If the IOF is not appointing the jury, the Federation of the organiser must appoint the jury.

- 29.3 The jury consists of 3 voting members, if possible from different Federations. The IOF Event Adviser leads the jury but has no vote.
- 29.4 A representative of the organiser may participate in jury meetings but may be asked to leave before the jury makes its decision. The representative of the organiser has no vote.
- 29.5 The organiser must act according to the jury's decisions, e.g. to reinstate a competitor disqualified by the organiser, to disqualify a competitor approved by the organiser, to void the results in a class approved by the organiser or to approve results declared invalid by the organiser.
- 29.6 The jury is competent to rule only if all members are present. In urgent cases preliminary decisions may be taken if a majority of the jury members agree on the decision.
- 29.7 If a jury member declares him- or herself prejudiced or if a jury member is unable to fulfil his or her task, the IOF Event Adviser must nominate a substitute. The IOF Event Adviser must make the final decision regarding any potential conflict-of-interest.
- 29.8 Decisions of the jury are final subject only to an Appeal made according to Rule 30.1.
- WTOC 29.9 The jury is appointed or approved by the IOF Council. No jury member may come from the organising Federation. The jury members must be from different Federations.
- 29.10 If a jury is not yet set up, or if the event is over and the jury is no longer active, the IOF Disciplinary Panel acts as the jury.

30. Appeals

- 30.1 An appeal may only be made against a jury decision or a sanction imposed by the IOF Disciplinary Panel if there has been a serious procedural error in reaching the decision or if the competition rules have clearly been incorrectly applied or interpreted.
- 30.2 An appeal may only be made by the protester or the recipient of a sanction.
- 30.3 An appeal must be made in writing to the IOF Office as soon as possible.
- 30.4 There is no fee for an appeal.
- 30.5 Decisions about an appeal are final.
- 30.6 The IOF Disciplinary Panel deals with the appeal. If the IOF Disciplinary Panel made the decision being appealed, the appeal will be considered by different members who were not involved in the previous decision.

31. Event control

- 31.1 All events, for which these rules are binding, must be controlled by an *IOF Event Adviser*. The IOF Event Adviser must be appointed within 3 months of the appointment of an organiser.
- 31.2 The IOF Council must decide for which events it will itself appoint the IOF Event Adviser.
- 31.3 If the IOF Event Adviser is appointed by the IOF, he or she is the official representative of the IOF to the organiser, is subordinate to the IOF Council and communicates with the IOF Office.
- 31.4 The Federation of the organiser must always appoint an independent national controller. This controller must assist the IOF Event Adviser appointed by the IOF. If the IOF does not appoint an IOF Event Adviser for the event in question, the controller appointed by the Federation will be the IOF Event Adviser. The controller appointed by the Federation need not come from the same Federation.

- 31.5 All IOF Event Advisers must hold the IOF TrailO Event Adviser's licence. No IOF Event Adviser or IOF Event Adviser's Assistant may have any responsibility for a participating team.
- 31.6 The IOF Event Adviser must ensure that rules are followed, mistakes are avoided and that fairness is paramount. The IOF Event Adviser has the authority to require adjustments to be made if he or she deems them necessary to satisfy the requirements of the event.
- 31.7 The IOF Event Adviser must work in close collaboration with the organiser, and must be given all relevant information. All official information sent to the Federations, such as bulletins, must be approved by the IOF Event Adviser.
- 31.8 As a minimum, the following tasks must be carried out under the authority of the IOF Event Adviser:
- to approve the venue and the terrain for the event
 - to look into the event organisation and assess the suitability of the proposed accommodation, food, transport, programme, budget and training possibilities
 - to assess any planned ceremonies and suitable access to them
 - to approve the organisation and layout of start, finish and changeover areas
 - to approve the reliability and accuracy of the time-keeping and results producing systems
 - to check that the map conforms with the IOF standards
 - to approve the courses after assessing their quality, including degree of difficulty, control siting and equipment, chance factors and map correctness
 - to check any course splitting method and course combinations
 - to assess arrangements and facilities for the media
 - to assess arrangements and facilities for doping tests
 - to approve the official results
- 31.9 The IOF Event Adviser must make as many controlling visits as he or she deems necessary. The visits must be planned in agreement with the appointing authority and the organiser. Immediately after each visit, the IOF Event Adviser must send a brief, written report to the IOF Event Adviser appointing body with a copy to the organiser.
- 31.10 One or more assistants may be appointed by the IOF Event Adviser appointing body to help the IOF Event Adviser, particularly in the fields of mapping, courses, financing, sponsoring and media.
- 31.11 The IOF Event Adviser appointing body has the authority to revoke the appointment of the IOF Event Adviser.
- WTOC 31.12 The IOF Event Adviser must make 3 visits as a minimum: one at an early stage, , one a year before the championships and one 3-4 months before the championships.

32. Event reports

- 32.1 No more than 4 weeks after the event, the IOF Event Adviser must send a report to the IOF Event Adviser appointing body. The report should include any significant features of the event and full details of any Complaints or Protests.
- WTOC 32.2 A comprehensive report and a final statement of accounts must be sent to the IOF Office for the archives no more than 6 months after the event.

33. Advertising and sponsorship

- 33.1 Advertising of tobacco and hard liquor is not permitted.
- 33.2 Advertising on track suits or other clothing which are worn by team members during the official ceremonies must not exceed 300 cm². There is no restriction to the amount

of advertising on the competitors' competition clothing or equipment except for the start number bibs.

34. Media service

- 34.1 The organiser must offer the media representatives attractive working conditions and favourable opportunities to observe and report on the event.
- 34.2 As a minimum, the organiser must make available to media representatives the following:
- hotel accommodation of medium standard, to be paid for by the users
 - start lists, programme booklet and other information on the day prior to the competition
 - opportunity to take part in the model event
 - weather-protected, quiet working space in the finish area
 - result lists and maps with courses immediately after the competition
 - internet access to be paid for by the users.
- 34.3 The organiser must make every effort to maximise media coverage as long as this does not jeopardise the fairness of the event.

Appendix 1: Principles for course planning for Trail Orienteering

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Purpose
- 1.2 Application of these principles

2. Basic principles

- 2.1 Definition of orienteering
- 2.2 Aim of good course planning
- 2.3 Course planner's golden rules

3. The orienteering course

- 3.1 Terrain
- 3.2 Definition of an orienteering course
- 3.3 The start
- 3.4 The course
- 3.5 The controls
- 3.6 The finish
- 3.7 The elements of map reading
- 3.8 Route choices
- 3.9 The degree of difficulty
- 3.10 Competition types
- 3.11 What the course planner should aim for

4. The course planner

5. Additional information and examples

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

These principles aim to establish a common standard for the planning of trail orienteering courses in order to ensure fairness in competition for people with widely differing physical abilities.

1.2 Application of these principles

Courses in all international trail orienteering events must be planned in accordance with these principles. They should also serve as general guidelines for the planning of other competitive trail orienteering events.

Developed for those unable to run in rough terrain, the need for speed is replaced by the need to relate the map to the terrain.

1.3 Technical Guidelines

Reference must be made to the current edition of the IOF Technical Guidelines.

2. Basic principles

2.1 Definition of Trail Orienteering

Trail Orienteering is a sport in which competitors follow a navigable route passing a number of decision points marked on the ground, in a set sequence. At each point they interpret the map to choose which, if any, of a number of control markers in a cluster in the terrain represents the one defined by the centre of the printed circle and the control description. Both must be correct.

Mappers, Planners and Controllers of major Foot Orienteering competitions have, in effect, experienced Trail Orienteering in preparing for such events. Trail orienteering takes these skills and makes them into a formal competition.

2.2 Aim of good course planning

The aim of course planning is to offer competitors courses correctly designed for their expected abilities. Results must reflect the competitors' technical ability.

2.3 Course planner's golden rules

The course planner must keep the following principles in mind:

- the unique character of trail orienteering as map interpretation
- the answer at each control must be indisputable
- the fairness of the competition
- competitor enjoyment
- to work closely with other officials
- to achieve integration with other orienteering disciplines
- the protection of wildlife and the environment
- the needs of the media and spectators

2.3.1 Unique character

Every sport has its own character. The unique character of trail orienteering is to interpret the map and relate it to unknown terrain. This demands orienteering skills: accurate map reading, compass handling, concentration under stress, quick decision making, interpretation of natural terrain, and distance judgement.

2.3.2 Indisputable answer

The answer at each control must be indisputable! It must always be possible to determine the solution to the problem by interpreting the map and the terrain. The solution must not be based on what "I feel" or "I believe".

2.3.3 Fairness

Fairness is a basic requirement in competitive sport. Unless the greatest care is taken at each step of course planning and course setting, luck can easily become significant in trail orienteering competitions. The course planner must consider all such factors to ensure that the contest is fair and that all competitors face the same conditions on every part of the course.

2.3.4 Competitor enjoyment

The popularity of orienteering can only be enhanced if competitors are satisfied with the courses they are given. Careful course planning is therefore necessary to ensure that courses are appropriate in terms of length, physical and technical difficulty, control siting, etc. In this respect it is particularly important that each course is suitable for the competitors doing that course, whatever their physical ability.

2.3.5 Close co-operation of officials

The planner must work closely with the mapper and controller. As such a degree of integration is required it is recommended that the mapping, planning and controlling is best carried out on site at the same time. Communication with the organiser too needs to be increased due to the higher 'in the forest' involvement.

2.3.6 Integration with other orienteering disciplines

The enjoyment of the competitors is greatly enhanced when the Trail O competition is associated with a Foot Orienteering event. Co-operation between the planners of the different courses can ensure that no conflict of interest occurs and that all competitors are informed of the others' presence. Blue tapes can be added to the Trail O control markers to alert any lost foot orienteers that they are in the wrong place.

2.3.7 Wildlife and the environment

The environment is sensitive: wildlife may be disturbed and the ground as well as the vegetation may suffer from overuse. The environment also includes people living in the competition area, walls, fences, cultivated land, buildings and other constructions, etc.

It is usually possible to find ways to avoid interference with the most sensitive areas without damage. Experience and research have shown that even large events can be organised in sensitive areas without permanent damage if the correct precautions are taken and the courses are well planned.

It is very important that the course planner ensures that there is access to the chosen terrain and that any sensitive areas in the terrain are discovered in advance.

As Trail O competitors remain on tracks it is often acceptable during times and in areas when and where Foot O competition is not allowed for reasons of ecological sensitivity.

2.3.8 Media and spectators

The need to give a good public image of the sport of orienteering should be a permanent concern for a course planner. The course planner should endeavour to offer spectators and the press the possibility to follow as closely as possible the progress of a competition without compromising sporting fairness.

3. The trail orienteering course

3.1 Terrain

The terrain must be chosen so that the least mobile competitors, the person confined to and propelling a low fixed wheelchair and the person who walks slowly and with difficulty, can negotiate the course within the maximum time limit with ease.

Consideration must be given to the condition of the route to be followed and any route that is not accessible to all without a viable alternative must be banned to all. For example a path with steps or a fallen tree would not be passable by the majority of wheelchair users, but if an alternative parallel route is available the competitor may be left to choose. Paths must be checked for excessive mud, sand, roots and rocks, and built up if necessary to give a reasonably free surface for all.

In general the acceptable path width is 1m, (some plants may encroach on short sections but hands could be badly scratched by thorns or stung by nettles and these plants must be removed) however, it is essential that there is space for all possible wheelchairs/handcycles. They must be able to pass and to manoeuvre at control sites and if necessary areas of up to 3m wide must be created at intervals. Any unsuitable path can be indicated as out of bounds on the map, by overprinting hatching or crosses and/or, in the terrain by indicative tapes. In either case they must be observed by all competitors.

The maximum slope for unassisted wheelchairs is 14% for no more than 20 metres. The cross slope should be no more than 8%. Any route exceeding these limits must have assistants positioned to give help. The use of ropes, pulleys and a spare wheelchair for ambulant competitors unable to negotiate steep sections should be considered.

The course planner should be fully acquainted with the terrain before he or she plans to use any control site or route.

The planner should also be aware that on the day of the competition the conditions regarding map and terrain could be different from those which exist at the time the courses are planned.

3.2 The start

The start area should be so situated and organised that:

- there is a waiting area
- waiting competitors cannot see the detail of any control clusters

The point from which orienteering begins is marked in the terrain by a control marker and on the map by a triangle.

3.3 The Course

The problems are the most important elements of a trail orienteering course and will largely determine its quality.

Good ones offer competitors interesting map-reading challenges.

Within the same course different types of problem should be offered.

It is preferable for a course to have a few (not less than 10) very good sites rather than a larger number of lesser quality ones.

3.3.1 Control sites

The centre of any control circle must be on a mapped feature that can be accurately described in the control descriptions. Except in the case of a zero answer a control marker will be placed on this feature in the terrain. It should be visible, or its position inferred by other features and the height of control markers, from the route to be followed. The false control markers need not be on mapped features.

It is particularly important that the map portrays the ground accurately in the vicinity of the controls, and that the direction and distances from all possible angles of visibility are correct, including that behind the competitor.

3.3.2 Zero Tolerance

It is always mandatory to specify the Zero Tolerance. If the answer of a task is Zero, the Zero Tolerance specifies the minimum radius around the correct spot where no flag must be placed.

This distance, the Zero Tolerance, is a minimum of 4 metres. In specific circumstances, greater values must be used as specified in the IOF Technical Guidelines for TrailO.

3.3.3 Decision points

Decision points will be marked in the terrain, but not shown on the map.

No competitor must be tempted forward of this marker towards the control cluster, if deemed necessary tapes should be placed in the terrain.

Ambulant competitors must not be able to get closer to the marker than wheelchair users, nor should they be able to get a better view by climbing any feature behind the decision point. Such a feature should be taped off as out of bounds to enforce the rules.

It is most important that everything relevant to decision making for a control is visible to someone sitting in a low wheelchair and that this is tested.

Decision points and associated punching stations must proceed in a logical, numerical order along the physical route from the start towards the finish, regardless of whether controls are to be solved in order or not.

3.3.4 Timed controls

At least two timed controls where the decision time is recorded should be included in the competition. No control circle giving information as to the location of these should be on the competitor's map. Additionally, all detail of the area in the vicinity of these controls should be removed from the map if they are located along the competition route.

Ideally for Elite level experienced competitors, this should be organised at both the beginning and the end of the competition, outside the maximum time allowance.

3.4 The control marker

The control equipment must be in accordance with the rules for IOF events.

The position of all markers in the cluster must be carefully planned. It is not acceptable to choose the one in the centre of the circle and then just place the others randomly in the vicinity.

A control marker should be placed in such a manner that competitors can see at least one third of it.

In the terrain the markers must be hung at a standard height (the bottom of the marker at knee level or 0.5m is suggested) to show the ground shape as depicted on the map.

When hung, the planner and controller must be in complete agreement as to which of the markers is in the circle centre, and fits the control description. If, from the viewing point on the track there is any doubt as to which of the number of markers is correct, consensus must be obtained by moving one, or more, marker(s).

Enlarged versions of the 'solution maps' can be a valuable aid when placing the control markers.

3.4.1 Fairness of control sites

The control cluster must be equally visible for those sitting low on the ground (0.8m) or standing (up to 2.2m) and not obscured by vegetation. Planners should assess the site by getting down to ground level.

As a general rule the relative positions of the markers must not change when viewed from within a window, 1m x 1m, round the decision point post. The answer must remain the same when taking a step either side of the post and one pace backwards to allow for the positioning of wheelchairs.

Checks must be made on the effect on visibility of sun or rain at the same time of day as the competition is to be held. At timed controls it is essential for all the markers and relevant terrain features to be visible without movement along the track. At other controls movement along the track may be necessary to interpret the terrain; indeed it may be essential to solve the problem.

3.4.2 Proximity of controls

Where control markers from adjacent clusters can be seen from a decision point, these are separated by tapes in the terrain or a taped viewing angle at the decision point.

There is no defined minimum separation distance for control markers. Where two or more markers have the same description, it must be possible, by reference to other features, to distinguish between them with precision.

3.4.3 The control description

The position of the control with respect to the feature shown on the map is defined by the control description.

The precise position of the control feature on the ground, as defined by the centre of the circle on the map and the control description, must be indisputable. Controls that cannot be clearly defined by the IOF control symbols are unlikely to be suitable. Control descriptions should not be more detailed than necessary. It is not permitted to

use compound descriptions with extra symbols which cannot be accommodated within allocated columns of the description list (for example, cliff face top, west part).

In Column B, the number of control markers in any cluster, will be indicated by letters (e.g. A-C for 3 markers).

If the route is not obvious, an arrow in column H must indicate the direction to view the control cluster. [An arrow pointing north indicates that the competitor must view the cluster to their north and therefore travel on a route to the south of the circle]. The arrow should not be a bearing from the DP to the centre of the circle. In open terrain where several control sites may be in view from the route travelled, or when control sites are very close to each other, an arrow in column H must indicate the relevant cluster for the control.

3.5 The finish

At least the last part of the route to the finish line should be a compulsory marked route.

3.6 The degree of difficulty

For any terrain and map, a course planner can plan courses with a wide range of difficulty.

With attention to the positioning of the control markers in a cluster and the decision point, courses of differing standard can be set.

Attention should be paid to the competitors' expected skill, experience and ability to read or understand the fine detail of the map. It is particularly important to get the level of difficulty right when planning courses for novices and children.

4. The course planner

The person responsible for course planning must have an understanding and appreciation of the qualities of a good course gained from personal experience. He or she must also be familiar with the theory of course planning and appreciate the special requirements when dealing with competitors with widely differing mobility.

The course planner must be able to assess, on site, the various factors which can affect the competition, such as the conditions of the terrain, the quality of the map, the presence of participants and spectators, etc.

The course planner is responsible for the courses and the running of the competition between the start and the finish line. Because of the numerous opportunities for error, which could have serious consequences with Trail Orienteering it is best that the planning, mapping and controlling are carried out on site at the same time, ideally when vegetation is low. Essential pruning for improved visibility and access can be carried out in the days prior to the competition.

The course must be incorporated into the map prior to printing. Circles should be 6mm and the centring must be to 0.2mm or better to allow for the placing of a marker to within 1m or better in the terrain. With a map scale of 1:4000 or 1:3000 drawn to ISOM specification the symbol dimensions are 50% greater than for 1:15,000 foot O maps.

5. Additional information and examples

Much additional information applicable to all Officials and Competitors involved in Trail Orienteering competitions can be found on www.orienteering.sport

Appendix 2: IOF resolution on good environmental practice

At its meeting on 12/14 April 1996, the Council of the International Orienteering Federation, acknowledging the importance of maintaining the environmentally friendly nature of orienteering, and in accordance with the GAISF Resolution on the Environment of 26 October 1995, adopted the following principles:

- to continue to be aware of the need to preserve a healthy environment and to integrate this principle into the fundamental conduct of orienteering
- to ensure that the rules of competition and best practice in the organisation of events are consistent with the principle of respect for the environment and the protection of flora and fauna
- to co-operate with landowners, government authorities and environmental organisations so that best practice may be defined
- to take particular care to observe local regulations for environmental protection, to maintain the litter-free nature of orienteering and to take proper measures to avoid pollution
- to include environmental good practice in the education and training of orienteers and officials
- to heighten the national Federations' awareness of worldwide environmental problems so that they may adopt, apply and popularise principles to safeguard orienteering's sensitive use of the countryside
- to recommend that the national Federations prepare environmental good practice guidelines specific to their own countries

Appendix 3 - Approved Punching Systems

Only IOF approved electronic punching systems may be used. Details of currently approved versions are shown on the IOF web pages along with any provisionally approved systems.

The systems and versions fully approved for Trail Orienteering (January 2026) are:

- the Emit Electronic Punching and Timing system with the Version 3 e-card.
- the SportIdent system, all versions. However for TempO an e-card holding 64 recordings is preferred.
- the ToePunch system, all versions.

It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the electronic punch is in the e-card by:

- with respect to the Emit system, checking that the visual display on the e-card shows that the punch has been transferred. Note that it is important that the e-card is placed on the selected unit from exactly in front of that unit without passing over any other unit.
- with respect to the SportIdent system, not removing the e-card until the feedback signals have been received.
- with respect to the ToePunch system, checking that a confirmation signal has been received.

If after a repeated attempt, it appears that the punch has not transferred to the e-card, the competitor must use the backup system. The backup system used must be described in the bulletin. If the control descriptions are used for backup, the same letter designation as in the specification must be used i.e. the first column is used for marking an answer of A, second column is used for marking an answer of B etc. A Zero answer uses the last column, column H.

The e-card must clearly show that the competitor has made a selection at each of the controls. A competitor with a control punch missing or unidentifiable, and without a backup punch, must not score a point for that control, unless it can be established with certainty that the punch missing or unidentifiable is not the competitor's fault and that the competitor's selection can be retrieved by other means and confirmed as correct. In this exceptional circumstance, it may be possible to interrogate the control unit to obtain the competitor's selection, if present.

Appendix 4 - Regional Trail Orienteering Championships

The Regional (European, Asian) Trail Orienteering Championship (in short RTOC (ETOC, AsTOC)) is the official event to award the titles of Regional (European, Asian) Champion in Trail Orienteering. It is organised under the authority of the IOF and the appointed Federation.

The event must follow the IOF Competition Rules, as they would apply for the World Trail Orienteering Championships, unless otherwise stated in these Rules.

1. Principles for RTOC

The championship must be organised in accordance with the following principles:

- The participants must be offered competitions of the highest technical quality.
- The organiser must follow the design of a compact championship model in order to minimise transport time and cost, and give competitors, leaders and other representatives of orienteering a possibility to meet outside the forest.
- The costs of participation must be kept low and accommodation of different standard and prices must be offered.
- There must be the possibility to introduce new competitors to international competition.

2. Event programme

ETOC is organised every second year (in even years). AsTOC should be organised at least every fourth year.

The programme must be no longer than 7 days and include a two-day PreO competition with one course on each day, a TempO competition and a TrailO Relay. The TempO competition will have a qualification and final on the same day. In the individual PreO and TempO competitions and TrailO Relay there is one Open class, one Junior class and one P class; competitors may only be entered for one class.

The dates of the ETOC must be co-ordinated with other international events and when possible be included in the programme with the EOC of other disciplines and finally approved by the IOF.

3. Event application and appointment of organiser

Any European Federation that is a member of IOF may apply to organise ETOC. Any Asian Federation that is a member of IOF may apply to organise AsTOC. Applications must reach the IOF Office before 1 January three years prior to the championship year. The provisional appointment of organisers or organising Federations is made by the IOF Council no later than 31 October the same year. Each appointment must be confirmed by the signing, within 6 months, of a contract to organise the event, else Council may make an alternative appointment. The Senior Event Adviser must be appointed by the IOF.

4. Participation

ETOC

Competitors representing member Federations of the IOF, defined by the International Paralympic Committee as belonging to the European continent, can compete in ETOC.

Competitors representing other member Federations of the IOF can participate in ETOC but will not be eligible for European titles, medals or diplomas.

In the individual PreO and TempO competitions a Federation may enter a maximum of 6 persons in each class.

In addition to the above the following may be entered by their Federations:

- The current European Champions in their respective classes

In the TrailO Relay a Federation may enter 2 teams in each class each consisting of 3 competitors. Only the better-placed team will count in the prize list.

AsTOC

Competitors representing member Federations of the IOF, defined by the International Paralympic Committee as belonging to the Asian continent, can compete in AsTOC.

Competitors representing other member Federations of the IOF can participate in AsTOC but will not be eligible for Asian titles, medals or diplomas.

In the individual PreO and TempO competitions a Federation may enter a maximum of 12 persons in each class.

In addition to the above the following may be entered by their Federations:

- The current Asian Champions in their respective classes

In the TrailO Relay a Federation may enter 4 teams in each class each consisting of 3 competitors. Only the better-placed team will count in the prize list.

5. Results lists

If any non-eligible competitors participate in the competition, two separate results lists must be published. One results list showing the results of the Regional Trail Orienteering Championship excluding any non-eligible competitors and a second showing the results of the competition including all competitors.

6. Jury

The IOF Council appoints the jury. It consists of 3 voting members from different orienteering federations.

Appendix 5 - The TrailO Relay

The TrailO Relay has a PreO section and a TempO section on each leg. The rules for PreO and TempO apply unless otherwise stated in these Rules.

Quarantine

The competitors must not have the possibility to communicate with their team mates during the competition. Quarantine has to be arranged.

Forking

The PreO part of the three legs must be forked. The forking can be arranged in different ways depending on the course setting possibilities a) and b) explained below.

- a) The course consists of for example 30 controls. (Or another number divisible by 3)
- The competitor on leg 1 has to solve 10 controls, (he/she is free to choose any 10 of the 30) then hand over to leg 2.
 - The competitor on leg 2 has to solve 10 other controls, (he/she is free to choose any 10 of the remaining 20) then hand over to leg 3.
 - The competitor on leg 3 has to solve the remaining 10 controls.
 - There must be a maximum time for all three legs together. That time is based on the minimum distance a team has to cover. The maximum time can be freely used in between the three members of the team.
 - If more than 10 controls are solved at a leg, the first control with correct answer (in number order) is marked as invalid and cannot be solved by the remaining legs. This is repeated until 10 valid solved controls are left. The remaining controls are freely divided among the remaining legs (but no more than 10 controls for a single leg)
 - If fewer than 10 controls are solved at a leg, the first unsolved control (in number order) is marked as invalid. This is repeated until 10 controls are solved/marked as invalid.
- b) The course consists of for example 12 controls.
- The competitors have to solve the same control sites.
 - The control sites can be visited in free order.
 - The forking is fulfilled by having different control descriptions at each control site or at least 75% of each control site for each leg.
 - Single flag problems must not be used in a majority of the controls.
 - The maximum time can be freely used in between the three members of the team.

Exchange

All competitors have their own separate control card. A stop-watch is allowed to be passed over to the next leg for the team to keep track of their used time.

Special exchange procedure when forking system a) is used:

All controls that have been solved or marked as invalid are clearly marked on the control card for the next leg.

TempO part

In addition to the PreO part, all three legs also have 1 or 2 TempO stations with minimum 4 tasks at each station.

- The number of timed controls must be the same for leg 1 and leg 2. Leg 3 can have additional stations.
- The different legs can have the same timed controls but they can also be different for each leg.

- The timed controls must be taken after the PreO part.
- Competitors on leg 3 can be placed in quarantine until all teams have completed the PreO part. They are then sent to the Tempo station/s, in reversed order according to the current standing, as a final.

Appendix 6 - PreO Sprint

The profile

PreO Sprint combines precision with high-speed decision making. It tests the athletes' ability to read and interpret the map in complex terrain and make accurate decisions quickly. The total distance of the PreO Sprint course is to be kept as short as possible and it should only be possible for the best competitors to solve all problems correctly within the maximal allowed time. A terrain that cannot provide this challenge is not appropriate for the PreO Sprint. Therefore, urban areas and parks that are suitable for TempO competitions might not be appropriate to use for a PreO Sprint.

The course

Courses must have a minimum of 20 controls. There should be only A/Z tasks that can be solved in free order. Exactly one flag is placed in the terrain for each task, either at the position at the centre of the control circle (answer A) or at least 4 m (8 m for controls on large area and long line features or more than 50 m from the viewing point) away from the correct location (answer Z) in line with IOF Guidelines for Zero tasks.

The maximal allowed time must be 30 minutes or less (for the Open class); it is calculated as 1 minute per 30 m plus 1 minute per control. The total course distance (i.e. from start to finish and passing all decision points) must not exceed 15 m per control. Therefore, a typical PreO Sprint course would have 25 controls along a trail of 150 m length. However, if required, the course can be split into two or three sections with a timed-out section in-between. Separate maps must be handed out at the beginning of each section. The total distance including timed-out sections should be kept below 1 km.

The course should be on a flat track or area, ideally with a hard smooth surface, with a minimal width of 2.5m to permit wheelchairs passing. Any stretch of the course that is either physically difficult to pass (e.g. not flat or soft ground) or does not contain viewing points must be timed-out to minimise the impact of physical ability on the results.

Visibility of the area should be good to limit clustering of competitors at viewing points. While flags should be positioned so that they can be viewed from different positions along the track, viewing points should be marked in the terrain in numerical order along the path to indicate a position from where the competitor has very clear visibility of a particular control flag – additional flags can be visible from these points. Viewing points should clearly indicate the control number(s). To avoid congestion, each control should have its own viewing point and the minimum distance between viewing points should be 3 m. For fairness to competitors with limited mobility, the viewing point must be placed so that the task can be solved correctly from this position and no significant advantage can be gained by moving beyond the next decision point on the track.

The map

The ISSprOM specification must be followed. The map scale is 1:4000 or 1:3000. It is crucial that the map is accurate for the entire terrain shown on the map that is visible from the track. The map should indicate positions for start, finish and controls for the section of the course, plus maximum allowed time for the entire course. Controls should be numbered consecutively for the entire course. Controls don't need to be connected by lines. Viewing points are not indicated on the map.

Classification

Classification by total points (one point for each correctly solved control) minus a penalty of 1 point for each 1 min or fraction used past the maximum allowed time. Total time used on the course (minus timed-out sections) will be used as a tiebreaker.

A handicap system to adjust time used based on ground conditions and for manual wheelchair users who cannot use the map while moving will improve direct comparison between all competitors. As a guideline, for wheelchair users multiply total time by 0.8, and other competitors with P class eligibility, multiply total time by 0.9. If handicaps are used, the maximum allowed course time for P class competitors should be adjusted accordingly, so that the maximum time after adjustment is the same for all competitors. For example, if the multiplier is 0.8 and the maximum time for the Open class is 28 minutes, the maximum time for the P class should be 35 minutes. The total time used on the course is multiplied with the handicap factor before applying any penalties of 1 point per minute (or part of a minute) over maximum time allowed.

The event advisor should set the handicap factor(s) after surveying the ground conditions, also taking into consideration whether a punching system is used that requires additional wheelchair manoeuvres to access punches on the side of the track. A realistic estimate of additional time required for a manual wheelchair and a slow walking competitor to complete the entire course compared to a physically fit athlete should be added onto the open class maximum time to calculate handicap factors. Where possible, time taken to visit every viewing point and punching station should be determined on the ground by the planning team and suitable test persons. It is expected that the handicap factors are in a range of 0.8 ± 0.1 and 0.9 ± 0.05 , respectively.

Start interval

A time-trial, individual format is used. The start interval should consider terrain visibility and width of the path to limit congestion at viewing points and hindrance on the paths. Especially wheelchair users should be spread across the start list, ideally not starting within 6 min of each other. Timing is to 1 second accuracy. The competitor must have started the timer / punched the section start box before having access to the map. No further decisions can be recorded after passing the finish and in any timed-out sections.

Timing and punching

Each competitor should carry their own punching device, i.e. control card and puncher or an approved electronic device capable of collecting decisions for each control. This is important to avoid additional movement to and queuing at punching stations. (If electronic punching is used, punching stations should be located near the viewing point or on the way to the next viewing point to minimise the need for turning wheelchairs.)

Timing from the start to finish of each section should use approved electronic punching systems or manual timing.

Significant changes to the previous version (January 2025)

Rule references are to the new January 2026 rules (unless otherwise stated).

- 5.1 WTOC Revised classes including the addition of a Junior class
- 5.3 WTOC Revised process to obtain P class eligibility
- 5.4 WTOC The Junior class is for competitors who are 20 years or younger at the end of the calendar year
- 6.3 WRE Previous rule 6.2a about IOF Independent Athlete (IIA) renumbered and subsequent rules renumbered. Competitors with certified refugee status may apply to compete as an IOF Independent Athlete (IIA).
- 6.7 WTOC Revised entry limits based on the separate PreO and Tempo extracts from the World Ranking list
- 6.8 WTOC Revised rule to allow for any number of Heats. Normally, one third of entered competitors qualify for the Tempo final.
- 7.6 All costs of the IOF appointed Event Adviser and Assistant/s are paid by the organiser or the organiser's Federation according to national agreements, unless agreed otherwise with the IOF.
- 8.8 8.9 8.10 WRE Requirements for WRE bulletins added
- 15.2 1:5000 map scale removed
- 19.3 Controls with no marker at the centre of the circle allowed for all competitions.
- 22.9 Clarification – no start time adjustment for late starters unless the lateness is the organiser's fault.
- 24.2 Time calculation clarified for PreO Timed controls.
- 24.17 If a Federation is represented by more than one team in a relay class, only the team with the best result is considered in determining the placings. The results of incomplete teams and teams with competitors from more than one Federation are not considered in determining the placings in relay competitions and must appear at the end of the results with no placing
- 25.7, 25.8, 25.13, 25.14, 25.19, 25.20 WTOC Titles and prizes for the Junior class
- 25.17, 25.18 WTOC Title and prizes for the Tempo P Class.
- 27.5 The time limit for complaints is 15 minutes after the result has been published for the competitor whose result is the subject of the complaint. The 15 minutes only commences once the competitor is back at the arena and in possession of their competition map and the solutions map.
- 32.2 (2025 rule) Rule deleted. No requirement for organiser to send a report and maps to IOF Office. Subsequent rule renumbered.
- Appendix 4 RTOC Junior class added. Tempo has Open class, P class and Junior class.