

June 2, 2015

## **Council proposal to the IOF Extraordinary General Assembly:**

**Council proposes a reorganisation of the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) program, and to organise WOC every second year alternating with a Sprint WOC starting with WOC from year 2019**

### ***Background***

This proposal from Council is in response to the challenge of securing organisers for the existing World Championships program and feedback from the consultation round, by the IOF Competition Review Project group, with Federations and Expert Groups.

While it is acknowledged that the existing program is a suitable festival for our sport, there are major challenges. Feedback indicated that it is too demanding for most member Federations, including a number of our leading Federations, in terms of financial, organisational, TV and media requirements. In addition, the IOF is without an organiser for WOC in 2019.

In the light of this, accepting that the quality requirements for WOC should not be compromised, Council submits this proposal, to Federations for adoption, to reorganise the WOC program.

In keeping with the remit of the IOF Competition Review Project, as indicated at the 2014 IOF General Assembly, key changes to the competition program can be brought forward prior to the conclusion of the project in 2016. Because all subsequent proposals for the Review are likely to be contingent on, or influenced by this decision, the Council has decided that it is essential to bring this proposal forward to an Extraordinary General Assembly in Inverness.

### ***Details of Proposal***

#### **Preliminary programme, participation rules**

The proposal is based on following principles/guidelines:

#### **WOC – 3 final events in 5 days**

##### **3 medal events**

- *Middle Distance Final*
- *Long Distance Final*
- *Relay*

##### **1 qualification event**

#### ***Participation***

*Middle and Long Distance:*

1. *Maximum 3 + 3 participants per nation plus reigning World Champion, reigning Regional Champions and previous year World Cup overall winner pre-qualify for respective individual format final or qualification event if entered.*

2. *All nations are guaranteed one starting place in both finals, if quality requirements are fulfilled (number of WR points or finishing within calculated time limit at qualification event)*
3. *Detailed qualification rules will be proposed at end of the Project in 2016*

*Relay Event:*

1. *One team of three athletes per nation per gender in Relay Event.*

**Sprint WOC – 3 final events in 5 days**

**3 medal events**

- *Sprint Distance*
- *Sprint Relay*
- *“A new format”*

**1 qualification event**

- *Qualification event for Sprint Distance*

**Participation**

1. *Sprint Qualification event: 3 + 3 participants per nation plus reigning World Champion, reigning Regional Champions and previous year World Cup overall winner.*
2. *Sprint Relay Event: 1 team per nation (2 women + 2 men)*
3. *“A new format”: FootO Commission will be responsible for development*

**Start the model from year 2019**

- *WOC will be organised in odd years (2019, 2021, etc.)*
- *Sprint WOC will be organised in even years (2020, 2022, etc.)*

**Rationale**

- *It will be a less demanding total program for organisers – a maximum 5 day program consisting of three medal races and a qualification race during the WOC or Sprint WOC program.*
- *Less variation in events in each WOC program should provide opportunities for improving overall event quality. It should make the organisation of WOC more attractive for federations due to less overall cost for event organisation.*
- *Reduced total cost for participating federations in terms of accommodation and on ground costs for teams and total entry costs for each WOC program*
- *Reinstate a qualification possibility for individual medal events in the WOC program (middle and long) through a qualification race format.*
- *A Sprint WOC in even years gives more flexibility for the timing of a Sprint WOC in the Summer Olympic Games / Football World Cup years. This could also*

*allow the IOF to look at opportunities to take the Sprint WOC into new locations if the right financial and organisational support levels were forthcoming.*

### **Follow-on Consequences**

- *New format for sprint WOC to be decided. The new format must be realistic for all nations to organise in their own competition program and must be attractive for TV, media, athletes and spectators.*
- *The new program will impact the high level IOF competition program – Regional Championships and World Cup. This needs to be analysed and a complete competition program proposal will be presented at the General Assembly in 2016.*
- *An organiser needs to be secured for WOC 2019 by end of 2015. If the Council proposal is supported by the Extraordinary General Assembly then an application process for WOC 2019 with the new programme will start immediately.*