



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

# Rule Changes for 2025

**Focused on FootO WRE rules**

**Event adviser seminar**

**November 2024**

*David Rosen Chair of IOF Rules Commission*

# Timetable



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

- The proposed new rules are currently being considered by the IOF Event Supervisory Board (a subgroup of IOF Council).
- They will be published in December to be valid from 1<sup>st</sup> January.

# Overview of changes



- In this short presentation, I'll mainly just be concentrating on the changes which are relevant to World Ranking Events.
- Most of the other changes are very minor or are for specific high-level events such as WOC, World Cup, JWOC or WMOC.
- Remember that when the rules are published, there is a list of the latest changes at the end, and amended rules have a vertical line in the left margin.

# Tidying up the language



- Previously **runner**, **athlete** and **competitor** were used with no particular logic.
- We've mostly replaced “runner” and “athlete” by “competitor” throughout.
- There is no change in the meaning

# List of other rules-type documents



- 2.10 The IOF Council may decide special rules or norms which must be followed, e.g. *IOF Anti-Doping Rules*, *IOF Transgender Policy*, *IOF Protocol Guide*, *International Specification for Orienteering Maps*, *International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps*, *Principles for Course Planning (Appendix 2)*, *World Ranking Scheme Rules* and *IOF Control Descriptions*.
- IOF Transgender Policy and World Ranking Scheme Rules added

# The Leibnitz Convention



- The Leibnitz convention has been “retired”.
- This was the declaration from the 20th IOF General Assembly in Leibnitz, Austria, on the 4 August 2000 which stated:

*It is of decisive importance to raise the profile of the sport to further the spread of orienteering to more people and new areas, and to get orienteering into the Olympic Games. The main vehicles to achieve this are:*

- *to organise attractive and exciting orienteering events which are of high quality for competitors, officials, media, spectators, sponsors, and external partners*
- *to make IOF events attractive for TV and Internet*

# The Leibnitz Convention (continued)



- Many of the statements in the Leibnitz convention still apply.
- Getting orienteering into the “Olympic Games” is more of a long-term ambition than an immediate goal.
- There are now more options for making orienteering exciting for spectators and the media than could have been envisaged in 2000.
- The Leibnitz Convention has been removed from Appendix 5 and other places where it was referenced in the rules.

# WRE applications



- Applications for events due to take place in January, February or March must reach the IOF at least six months prior to the event date. Applications for other events are due no later than 30 September in the year prior to the event year.
- Late applications are not encouraged but are sometimes approved!



# WRE Class Names

- Previously the WRE Class names were supposed to be W21 and M21. That doesn't work if the WRE is part of a large event and there are other less competitive classes for those age groups.
- New Wording: WRE 5.4 The competition classes are called W21E and M21E, for women and men respectively.
- WRE 5.6 Should a class have too many entries, it may be split ..... The competition classes are then called W21E1, W21E2... and M21E1, M21E2...

# IOF Independent Athletes



- WRE 6.2a 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, 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.
- This new rule was added in July 2024
- An annual fee is payable

# IOF Independent Athletes (continued)



There are three separate cases:

1. Athletes with no IOF Federation
2. Athletes whose IOF Federation is currently suspended for non-payment of fees
3. Athletes whose IOF Federation is currently suspended for other reasons

Full details of the Regulations are in the IIA document on the IOF Rules page

<https://orienteering.sport/orienteering/competition-rules/>

# IOF Independent Athletes (continued)

- The current IOF Independent Athletes can be found in Eventor

## Athletes

Search

First name	<input type="text"/>
Last name	<input type="text"/>
IOF ID	<input type="text"/>
Sex	All <input type="button" value="v"/>
Nationality	Independent <input type="button" value="v"/>
Discipline	All <input type="button" value="v"/>
Max number of search results	50 <input type="button" value="v"/>

Search

IOF ID	Name	Date of birth	Nationality	Disciplines
15800	Andrey Salin	1988	IIA	FootO
5007	Hanna Paulava	1992	IIA	FootO
17059	Yury Tambasov	1989	IIA	FootO
24455	Dmitrii Iurev	1997	IIA	FootO
13248	Valery Marchuk	1990	IIA	FootO
13419	Georgii Mavchun	1988	IIA	FootO, MTBO
45423	Aleksei Sobolev	1983	IIA	FootO
33982	Taisiia Khokhlova	2002	IIA	FootO
34303	Mariia Khimochkina	1996	IIA	FootO
51081	Ekaterina Menshova	1989	IIA	FootO

# Knock-Out Sprint



- We have found that we occasionally have to have extra runners (more than 6) in a Knock-Out race.
- Previously, any ties were resolved on the basis of World Ranking position. Now we have changed the rule (12.24) to let both tied runners go into the next round.
- “In the event of a tie for any qualification place in any round, the tied competitors will all be promoted to the next round.”

# Use of the map on the competition day



We need to prevent competitors who have finished showing the course to competitors who have yet to start.

The previous rule said “On the day of the competition” but we can’t control what happens before competitors arrive at the venue.

- 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 of map usage which must be published in the final Bulletin.

# Map Scales

## New WRE Rule

15.10 For Long distance races the map scale must be 1:15000 or (if approved by the IOF Event Adviser) 1:10000.

For Middle distance races the map scale must be 1:10000 or (if approved by the IOF Event Adviser) 1:7500.

For Sprints the map scale must be 1:4000 or (if approved by the IOF Event Adviser) 1:3000.

# Competitors who fail to record a punch at the last control



- 20.3 Competitors are responsible for punching their control card at each control using the punching unit provided. (No change!)
- New rule 20.9 When contactless punching is used, the last control may have a punching unit with a longer-range than standard and this must be stated in the final bulletin.
- This could be achieved with SPORTident using a BS11 station (range 1.5m) instead of a BSF8 or BSF9 (range 30 cm)



# Use of GPS Watches

The same rule now applies for all level of event including WOC:

21.4 Competitors must not use or carry communication devices that can transmit or receive information, to or from a remote source, between entering the quarantine zone (or the start area if there is no quarantine zone) and reaching the finish in a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organiser.

GPS-enabled devices (watches etc.) can be carried provided that they are not used for communication or navigation.

However, the organiser has the right to specifically forbid the use of such equipment.

The organiser may require competitors to carry a tracking device and/or a GPS data logger.

# Jury matters

- 23.9 In competitions with mass or chasing starts, finish judges must rule on the final placings based on the order that the competitors' chests cross the finish line. ~~A jury member must be present at the finish line.~~
- 29.8 Decisions of the jury are final **subject only to an Appeal made according to Rule 30.1.**
- At WOC in future, the jury (if the Referee system is not used) will consist of 3 members (not 5).

# Sanctions clarification



26.10 ....The event organiser, referee, or (as a result of a Protest) the jury, has responsibility for imposing sanctions ~~during~~ relating to an event.....

Note the rule 29.12 if there is a Protest

29.12 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.

# Sanctions clarification (continued)



Example:

- Suppose, two months before an event, a competitor is found to have breached the embargo.
- The organiser (in consultation with the IOF Event Adviser) considers the matter and might decide to disqualify the competitor.
- The competitor could then complain to the organiser if they feel that is not fair.
- If the organiser rejects the complaint, the competitor could then put in a protest which would have to be considered by the IOF Disciplinary Panel.

# Finally



- I hope that it has been helpful to get a preview of the proposed rule changes.
- Comments/Questions?