

USOF Board of Directors Meeting, April 30, 2005

3:45 pm

West Point

Officers:

President: Chuck Ferguson - present

Administration VP: Frank Kuhn - present

Competition VP: Clare Durand – present (came late)

Program Development VP: Mike Minium - present

Club Services VP: Gary Kraght -present

Marketing and Public Relations VP: Steve Hughes, not present

Secretary: Robert B. - present

Executive Director: Robin Shannonhouse – present (non-voting)

Regional Representatives:

Heartland: Stephanie Martineau – present (came late)

MidAtlantic: Jim Eagleton - present

Midwest: Karen Rogers - present

Northeast: Susan Hawkes-Teeter - present

Northwest:

Pacific: David Irving - present

Southeast: Linda Ferguson - present

Southwest:

Members At Large:

Peter Snell - present

Walter Siegenthaler - present

Sandy Fillebrown – present

Competition – Randy Hall – not present

Guests: Janet Porter, Chris Cassone

I. Call to order & Secretary takes roll

- A quorum was present.

II. Open Forum (5 minutes to any member to address Board)

- There were no requests for speaking.

III. Discussion of Missing Meeting's Minutes

- All past minutes are now posted; corrections will be accepted by email.

IV. Financial Report (Robin Shannonhouse)

- A quarterly check from then Endowment Fund check for \$728 was deposited into the Operating Fund.
- Mike Ball has been nominated to the Endowment Fund Committee. Chuck Ferguson moved to accept the nomination. Approved 12-0-0.
 - a. **Explanation of IOF WRE charges (Clare Durand)**

- There were about \$600 in sanctioning fees for WREs. (150 Euros per event.) We need to consider how to cover this expense in the future.

V. Debate/Vote Agenda

a. Championship Meets (Gary Kraght):

- 1) Add U.S. Sprint O Championship
- 2) Add U.S. Trail O Championship
- 3) Drop U.S. Night O Championship
 - a. Change U.S. Night O Champ to biannual (Vladimir Gusiatsnikov)

- Motion to accept the proposal to add a US Sprint O Championship. Approved 12-0-0.
- Action Item: Rules Committee needs to determine rules for the US Sprint O Championship.
- Gary moved to make the US Trail O Championship a bid event starting in 2006. Frank Kuhn moved to table this motion until the AGM as the Trail O Committee would be meeting in the evening to discuss this issue. Gary withdrew his motion.
- Gary moved to make the US Night O Championship a bid event. Approved 11-1-0. (Although we have been having US Night O Champs for some time now as a bid event, this was apparently never approved by the BOD.)
- Action Item: Rules Committee needs to determine rules for the US Night O Champs.
- Clare Durand addressed the issue of “too many championships” and indicated that she would be forming a task force to solicit opinions on whether there was support for a forced packaging of some of the championship events.

b. Proposed Modifications to E-Punch Rules postponed from previous meeting. (Clare Durand)

- A motion was made to accept the “Suggested USOF Rules Modifications Regarding Electronic Punching” with the following changes:
 - Rule 17.6.1: Change wording to: If electronic punching is utilized the jury is specifically prohibited from trying to salvage a problem course by deleting the times of the affected legs from the total elapsed time of that course.
 - Rule 29.10.1: Change “needle punch” to manual marking device.
 - Rule 29.10.6: Change wording to: If the electronic punch unit fails to respond, the competitor shall use the back-up device as defined in the meet information to prove his or her presence at the control.
- There was an amendment proposed to change the wording of the proposed rule 33.9 to read “In competitions with mass or chasing starts, finish judges shall rule on the final placings.” Approved 14-0-0.
- There was an amendment proposed to change 31.10 to “Events using electronic punching may use an electronic start punch to determine the actual start time for timing purposes *prior to competitors looking at their map.*” Not approved 4-9-1. The wording remains “Events using electronic punching may use an electronic start punch to determine the actual start time for timing purposes.”

- The motion for the rules changes with the above amendments was approved 11-1-2.

c. Insurance Fund Transfer Proposals A or B? (Gary Kraght)

- Because of the uncertainty in the current insurance situation, Gary elected to withdraw his proposal and not make a motion. Gary updated the board:
 - current insurance carrier will no longer honor requests for endorsements for additionally insured
 - recent court cases have recently ruled that third parties named as additionally insured aren't really covered
 - coverage extends to USOF and club members only
 - this is a major issue between land use managers and all groups asking for special permits
 - Gary is working with our insurance carrier to resolve this issue. Until it is, we will postpone voting on anything.
 - Gary is investigating other carriers.
 - The financial working group is trying to address two problems:
 - Club charter fees: are they too high so that they discourage new members in clubs.
 - Structural Deficit in the Operating Fund.
- There was a general discussion to give the FWG some feedback on where and how money should be raised.

VI. Information Agenda

a. Report from Janet Porter, new Junior Team Leader

- Wants to develop regional junior development programs. These programs would recognize kids and identify coaches. Junior team funds may be used to pay for coaches to travel to development camps.
- JWOC: 6 men, 3 women, a team leader (Ross Smith) and coach (Alexei Azarov) going to Switzerland. Cost is about \$4200 for JWOC. An additional \$2000 is needed to fund a pre-JWOC training camp week.
- A motion was made to move \$2500 from the operating fund to the Junior Team Fund. Approved: 14-0-0.

b. Must have West Coast help for NOD. Need publicity help, too.

- Mike Schuh has volunteered.

c. Need a nominating committee chair

- No one volunteered.

d. Interscholastics Eligibility Task Force formed.

- Chair is Edgar Paul. Members: Mike Brooks, Jon Cuyler, Frank Campbell, Pat Meehan, Carl Muench, Guy Olsen, Robert Paddock, & Louis Smith.
- Committee has been tasked to look into home schoolers, JROTC eligibility, Brunten cup issues, scoring issues regarding male/female, class (JV, HS, etc.)

e. Add a new fund (fund raising goal) to be administered by the VP for Competition to support elite orienteering (Gary Kraght/Stephanie Martineau)

- This was just an idea being floated and was not supposed to be an agenda item.

f. Next meeting, and AGM, projected for 27-28 August, part of PNWOF Week, US Championships

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 5:54.

USOF Rules Modifications Regarding Electronic Punching

AS PASSED AT THE APRIL 30, 2005 BOARD MEETING

Add section 17.6.1

- If electronic punching is utilized the jury is specifically prohibited from trying to salvage a problem course by deleting the times of the affected legs from the total elapsed time of that course.

Add sections 29.10.x

29.10 IOF approved electronic punching systems may be used in lieu of other punching systems, including the traditional pin punch system.

29.10.1 The only automatically approved electronic punching systems are

- The *Emit* Electronic Punching and Timing system. If this system is used, the label attached to the competitor's electronic control card for back-up marking must be such that it will survive the conditions likely to be encountered during a competition (including immersion in water). It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the back-up card is marked so that it can be used if the electronic punch is missing.
- The *SportIdent* system. If this system is used, a backup unit must be present at each control--either a second electronic unit or a manual marking device. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the electronic punch has been written to the e-card by not removing the e-card until the feedback signal has been received. If, and only if, no feedback signal is received, the competitor must use the backup unit.

29.10.2 If electronic punching is utilized, the electronic control card must show that all controls have been visited in the proper order.

29.10.5 Competitors who lose their control card (either paper or electronic), omit a control, or visit controls in the wrong order shall be disqualified, unless an alternate proof is provided and accepted by the Jury.

29.10.6 If the electronic punch unit fails to respond, the competitor shall use the back-up device as defined in the meet information to prove his or her presence at the control.

Add new 31.10:

Events using electronic punching may use an electronic start punch to determine the actual start time for timing purposes.

Change 33.1 to read

The finishing time shall be measured when the competitor's chest crosses the finish line or when the competitor punches at the finish line. Times will be truncated to full seconds, except in cases of sprint races, when timing to the tenth of a second may be allowed. Times shall be given in minutes and seconds, except in sprint races when times may be given in minutes, seconds, and tenths of a second.

Add 33.9:

In competitions with mass or chasing starts, finish judges shall rule on the final placings.

Chuck and fellow Board members -

I would like to place three proposals on the agenda for the next Board meeting at West Point.

Proposal 1 - I propose that a U.S. Sprint Orienteering Championship be added to our championship bid events, starting in 2006, and if approved, that the 2006 bid be awarded to OCIN. The Board has already approved a "demonstration championship" for OCIN at the last Board meeting. But this proposal would make it official, and add a Sprint championship to our slate of U.S. championships.

The sprint event is quickly becoming popular among U.S. orienteers, and we are seeing more sprint events at A meets. The Sprint is now part of the World Championships package. Brian May has said that the U.S. has a chance to do better at the Sprint at world competitions than perhaps any other orienteering format. Looking toward the future, sprints are more telegenic and may be more sponsor friendly.

Proposal 2 - I propose that a U.S. Trail Orienteering Championship be added to our championship bid events, starting in 2006. We have already had "Trail O Championships" organized by the Trail O committee under Program Development. But I believe it is now time to add Trail Orienteering to our official list of U.S. Championships.

The IOF now supports a yearly World Trail Orienteering Championship. The U.S. conducted team trials and sent a team to WTOC 2004, and David Irving got a bronze medal, the first medal ever by a U.S. athlete at a world championship other than the World Masters OC. The IOF is trying to get trail orienteering into the Paralympics, and one requirement is for a certain number of countries from a certain number of continents (sorry, I don't have the specific numbers) to have regular national trail orienteering championships.

Proposal 3 - I propose that the U.S. Night Orienteering Championship be dropped from the list of U.S. championship bid events.

There are many people who enjoy night orienteering, myself included. But it doesn't make sense to support a U.S. Championship for night orienteering. There is no IOF championship equivalent. Outside of the U.S. Champs, there has never been an A meet night event that I am aware of. This event is usually the most difficult one to get a bid on, and there is no bid for 2006. Night orienteering is not a draw, and basically gets attendees from other events that it is attached to (such as a convention or O festival).

As we increase the number of championship bid events (proposals 1 and 2), we must take care not to overload our clubs and to not have a larger slate of championships than USOF can support. Looking at our current slate of championships, however, each one has a compelling justification except for the U.S. Night Orienteering Championship.

I intend to post on the USOF club net in a week or so, giving our members the chance to weigh in with their opinions. So these proposals hopefully should be well debated before the next Board meeting.

Gary Kraght

**Proposals for amending the USOF fee structure for club rechartrers and
A meet sanctioning starting in 2006**

Proposal A

Transfer \$25,600 from the Insurance Fund to the Operating Fund. This is money that was originally transferred from the Operating Fund to the Insurance Fund over the past several years.

Rebate to our USOF charter clubs \$1.50 for each reported club membership for the 2004 and 2005 rechartrers. Rebates to be subtracted from club 2006 recharter fees (no checks will be mailed out).

Eliminate the \$1.00 per entry insurance surcharge for A meets, and revert back to the previous A meet sanctioning fee schedule. (\$25 per A meet day, plus \$1.00 per entry per day (\$1.50 per entry per day if a U. S. Championship event), plus \$3.00 for each entry per day that is not a member of a national orienteering federation recognized by IOF. Juniors (18 and under) count as a half entry per day)

Beginning with the 2006 recharter, club recharter fees will be A) \$20, plus B) \$2.00 per club member, plus C) \$0.40 per club start (not including A meet competitive starts). The \$2.00 per club member charge and \$0.20 of the club start charge would go to the insurance fund. The \$20 base charge and \$0.20 of the club start charge would go to the operating fund.

There will be no discount in club recharter fees for Associate clubs

What will this do to USOF finances? Let's begin with the Insurance Fund. The current balance is approximately \$94,000. If we transfer 25,600, that will bring the balance down to \$68,400. The rebate will bring the balance down further, to about \$49,000. Our insurance premium for 2005 is \$19,054, but is likely to go into the mid twenties within a few years. If the proposed recharter schedule were in effect in 2005, the Insurance Fund would receive \$23,300 - \$23,700. Most of this would come from recharter fees, with a small portion from A meet sanctioning base fees of \$25 per day.

The Operating Fund currently receives A meet sanctioning fees, except for the insurance surcharge and the \$25 per day base charge. This would stay the same. The Operating fund also currently receives about \$4,600 from club sanctioning fees (\$20 per club plus \$0.50 per member). Under the proposal, the operating fund would receive about \$10,300 using 2005 club figures (\$20 per club plus \$0.20 per club start). This will form a healthy underpinning for USOF future finances.

Proposal B

Transfer \$25,600 from the Insurance Fund to the Operating Fund

No club rebate

Keep the \$1.00 per entry surcharge for A meets, but redirect it and other sanctioning fees to the Operating Fund, so that all A meet sanctioning fees go to the Operating Fund.

Beginning with the 2006 recharter, club recharter fees will be \$3.50 per club member. All club recharter fees will go to the Insurance Fund.

There will be no discount in club recharter fees for Associate clubs.

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