



**Orientering USA**  
**Board of Directors Teleconference**  
**November 28, 2016**  
**8:00-9:34 PM (EST)**

**Attendance**

**Board members:**

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Kris Beecroft   | present |
| Charlie Bleau   | present |
| Barbara Bryant  | present |
| Bob Forgrave    | present |
| Peter Goodwin   | present |
| Boris Granovski | present |
| Alex Jospe      | present |
| Greg Lennon     | present |
| Pat Meehan      | present |
| Ian Smith       | present |
| Tom Strat       | present |
| Lee Todd        | present |

**Agenda:**

2017 Championship bids from BAOC and LAOC  
JTESC rules change request  
Insurance requirements of team athletes  
Safety guidelines for club-sanctioned activities  
Committee reports, including Finance and Sanctioning  
Appendix (JTESC Rules Change request specifics)

**Staff:**

Erin Schirm present  
Glen Schorr absent due to a scheduling conflict

**Guests**

Dennis Wildfogel, Ed Despard, Clare Durand, Joanne Sankus

Kris welcomed everyone to the board meeting.  
Bob Forgrave moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Peter Goodwin seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.

**2017 Championship bids from BAOC and LAOC**

BAOC was awarded the 2017 Ultra-Long Championships by unanimous roll-call vote.

In discussion, we learned that OCIN had originally been interested in hosting Ultra-Long Championships; after discussing it with BAOC they declined to pursue their bid.

OCIN did put a bid in on the night-O champs for April 2017. It hasn't come out of sanctioning but should be received by the next Board meeting.

LAOC was awarded the 2017 Championships for Relays, Trail-O Pre-O and Trail-O Temp-O by unanimous vote taken by roll call.

The relay format is not finalized, but will be discussed by the Sanctioning Committee and LAOC, and brought back to the Board on December 12 2016 for approval. The Sanctioning Committee is supportive of LAOC's desire to have a 3-person instead of a 4-person relay, both due to site and timing constraints. The format choices still under discussion are having separate point categories based on age and gender, vs. using points to handicap teams in a chase start.

Temp-O is Trail-O but all the control stations are timed. Scoring is based more on time than number correct. Temp-O has been a World Championships discipline for a number of years. It was recently added to the OUSA rules in order to enable a national championship. Alex stated that she feels uncomfortable having a championship event when there are not other sanctioned national events for that event during the year.

### **JTESC rules change request**

We discussed a rules change request from JTESC (see Appendix); however, there was no formal motion and we expect JTESC to work with the rules committee to present a proposal prior to the December 12 meeting. The proposal should be posted on board-net for discussion. Erin stated that there is urgency because the JNT applications for 2017 can't go out until the Board has ruled on the proposed changes.

A major purpose of the rules changes is to require, or allow JTESC to require, that athletes selected for JWOC be JNT members. Junior Coach Erin Schirm explained the motivation for this change. Some members of the US orienteering community felt it wasn't fair for dual citizens who live outside the USA to be on the team. JTESC decided it was important to the program that an athlete competing at the World Championships participate in the US orienteering community, and give back to it in some way. Participation on the JNT achieves that goal without excluding US citizens living abroad (both dual citizens and others) who are involved in the US orienteering community.

While ensuring participation in the US community is one goal, there are other reasons to require JWOC team members to have participated on the JNT. This would ensure that athletes who want to compete at JWOC are starting training no later than January of that year, and working with the support of teammates and their coach throughout the year.

Other items of the discussion:

- G.2.1: Pat asked whether it is important to include the age requirement (20 and under).
- G.2.4: JTESC wanted to pull the JNT selection criteria out of the rules and put them into the application and accompanying information.
- G.2.4: Clare suggested making it clear that there are some criteria by adding a phrase that says something like “in accordance with the criteria described in the application.”
- G.2.4: Pat suggested adding information about the timeline for applications.
- If allowing JTESC to require JNT membership for JWOC team selection is what is intended by these changes, then that should be made explicit in the rules.
- Charlie requested that the proposed changes be presented along with all relevant rules, for context.
- Greg asked that there be commentary on whether the proposed changes make the junior team more, or less, consistent with the senior and ski-O teams. Ed stated that junior selection for the junior ski-O team does not require a large formal procedure, because there are only 2-3 people each year. Charlie pointed out that if the rules are different for juniors and seniors, that could be the basis for a complaint. Erin pointed out that our organization has separate committees for different teams, which can make it difficult to get consistency.
- Barb stated that we have had some very involved juniors in the JNT who live abroad and have dual citizenship.
- Clare asked to be included in the formulation of the language.

### **Insurance requirements of team athletes**

Background: In the past few years, Board has told athletes they need to have travel-competition-athlete insurance. However, we do not have a clear written policy on what is required, so that athletes know what is required of them. We discussed the following draft motion:

That athletes competing for Team USA outside of the United States be required to have insurance that covers emergency medical costs and medical evacuation. The insurance must at a minimum cover \$20,000 of emergency medical costs with a deductible no higher than \$500, and \$100,000 in medical evacuation and repatriation. In addition, the insurance must explicitly cover sporting events. Teams must collect proof of insurance from each athlete, and identify at least one adequate insurance plan for those athletes who are not already covered by their own insurance.

Pat moved that we postpone voting on the motion until next week. Ian seconded, and a roll call vote was unanimous in approving it.

Discussion points:

- OUSA insurance does not cover medical needs outside of the USA.
- IOF does not mandate insurance (reference: IOF rules of competition #6.4)
- The cost would likely be \$1-\$3 per athlete per day. In 2016, OUSA athletes were required to purchase insurance through OUSA at \$11 per athlete per day (which was subsidized down to \$7.75).
- Peter stated that we want to avoid a scenario where an athlete does not get treated for a medical need because of cost.
- Ian asked how this requirement would be implemented; what would be the mechanism for enforcement.
- Pat felt that the motion was poorly worded.
- Boris asked why this is a requirement rather than just a strong recommendation.
- Erin said that if an athlete gets hurt on an official OUSA trip, then they might sue OUSA if they did not have money to cover the cost. We should research to understand the legal aspects, but athlete travel insurance should protect OUSA and the Board. There was some agreement and some disagreement with this logic.

*Kris and Glen will take this action item.*

### **Safety guidelines for club-sanctioned activities**

Our insurer covers club activities that are carried out "under OUSA guidelines". Our general liability insurance covers "member and member club activities/events sponsored, sanctioned and approved by the named Insured." If OUSA and its member clubs take steps to mitigate risk, then we are less likely to have claims filed, and paid, and our insurance costs are less likely to increase. We have various written safety guidelines about national events and working with juniors, but have not provided written recommendations for risk mitigation of club-level activities.

Kris will take the lead to create safety guidelines for clubs about what OUSA suggests for mitigating risk and ensuring safety at various types of club activities.

Joanne from NEOC volunteered to send Kris a useful and detailed safety package from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation for reference.

Greg recommended that we give clubs time to look over proposed guidelines before we vote. Kris will send it out to clubs for comment.

**Committee reports, including Finance and Sanctioning**

Pat reported that the Finance Committee has met 7-8 times. There are six people on the committee. Board members will receive a draft proposal for review in the next couple of days. We will discuss it at the retreat, and then vote on a budget at the December 12 Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting from Charlie and Pat seconded.

**Appendix: JTESC rules change request (not passed)**

|       | <b>Current Rule Wording</b>  | <b>Proposed Change</b>  |
|-------|--|---|
| G.2.1 | The U.S. Junior Team consists of two designated groups: the Junior Development Team, and the Junior National Team (including those selected for the Junior World Orienteering Championships – JWOC). These Teams exist to recognize and support orienteers of age 20 and under and to promote and encourage the highest possible competitive standards among them.                             | The US Junior Program includes the Junior Development Team (JDT) and the Junior National Team (JNT)   |
| G.2.4 | Each year the JTESC shall select the members of the Development and National Teams. Potential selectees may be brought to the attention of the JTESC by any individual or organization associated with orienteering. The selections shall be based on: 1. Competitive results and/or Orienteering USA Rankings 2. Dedication to the sport of Orienteering 3. Demonstrating a sporting attitude | Each year the JTESC shall select members of the Development and National Teams. To be considered, a prospective candidates must submit a completed JNT application.   |
| G.2.6 | The JTESC may add or remove team members at any time, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Junior Team Coach and/or Junior Team Administrator.   | JTESC will select JNT members from the JDT. JNT members may revert to JDT at the discretion of JTESC. The JTESC may revoke JNT and/or JDT membership status for cause, including violation(s) of the Athlete Agreement. The affected junior and their parents will be notified of the decision. |

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|---------|---|---|
| G.2.7   | <i>Selection Rules for the Junior World Orienteering Championships</i>  |   |
| G.2.7.1 | The makeup of the U.S. Team to the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC Team) shall be primarily based on an objective assessment of navigation and speed, as evidenced by rankings, performance at national level competitions, selection competitions and other designated competitions during the most recently completed Selection Period. | The US Junior World Championships team members shall be selected using a combination of performance-based criteria including the results from a team trials event and an objective assessment of navigation, speed and consistency of results from National Ranking Events and other designated competitions. The published Selection Criteria will specify how each of the criteria will be utilized in the selection process. |
| G.2.7.7 | The Selections Committee shall determine who is eligible for the JWOC Team, based on citizenship and age requirements set forth by the IOF.   | The Selections Committee shall determine who is eligible for the JWOC Team based on IOF rules.  |