



Orienteeing USA
Board of Directors Meeting
In-Person Meeting and Online Conference Call
Mar. 25, 2017 2:12pm-8:00pm

Attendance

Board members attending in person:

Greg Lennon
Alex Jospe
Barb Bryant
Charlie Bleau

Board members attending online:

Boris Granovskiy
Bob Forgrave
Ian Smith
Pat Meehan

(Absent: Kris, Peter, Lee, Tom)

Other attendees:

Sandy Fillebrown
Gavin Wyatt-Mair (BAOC)
Clare Durand (LAOC, Rules Comm)
Lisa Modica (Adventure Running CA)
Nick Corsano (BAOC)
Philip Westover (MNOC)

OUSA staff: Erin Schirm

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Summary

1. The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting (February 1, 2017).
2. The Board approved the sending of BAOOC's statement of interest to host the 2020 World Rogaining Championships.

3. The Board approved changed wording for the North American Orienteering Championships (classic **or** sprint relay, instead of: classic **and/or** sprint relay)
4. The Board approved the motion to update our operating reserves policy to explicitly have on hand amounts equal to all restricted donations and board-designated amounts, plus a small buffer. (The previous policy did not mention restricted donations, and this had resulted in an obscuring of a year-to-year reduction in true operating reserves.) The policy will be refined to make it more actionable (describing how we keep track of the required and actual reserve amounts, and to explain what should happen if we have to cut into the reserve).
5. Pat and the Finance Committee will prepare a financial report as soon as we get our reporting method updated.
6. Greg presented the results of the club survey. Topping the list of what clubs need are more volunteers and more participants.
7. 50th Anniversary Funds
 - a. The Board liked the mapping proposal and will allocate money once specific proposals (specific person, clubs, etc) are identified. Peter will be asked to form a committee and finalize the mapping plan.
 - b. The Board voted to approve \$1k for requirements gathering for member club websites and technology, to be led by Boris and Ian. Boris will also explore the possibility of using Eventor.
 - c. The marketing discussion postponed until a board call 3-4 weeks from now.
8. The Interscholastic trophy cups donated by GAOC have been named the Shannonhouse Trophies in honor of the work that Robin and Steve Shannonhouse have done for interscholastic competition.
9. The Board agreed to a focus on youth to grow our sport. We will start by sharing information about best practices, and ask clubs to commit resources to youth orienteering.

Supplementary Materials:

1. [Minutes of last meeting](#)
2. Sport Working Group's [National Ranking Event Proposal presentation](#)
3. Rules Committee [proposal to change wording in IOF proposal](#)
4. [Expression of interest from the Rogaining Committee for WRC 2020](#)
5. [Motion to update the Operating Reserves Policy](#)
6. [Mapping proposal from Peter Goodwin](#)
7. [Web presence and technology services](#) proposal
8. [Marketing report](#)
9. [Existing youth programs in the USA](#)
10. [Slide deck on youth programs](#)

Action items

1. Boris: explore the possibility of using Eventor
2. Pat: propose operational protocols for survey
3. Each board member: ask club to participate in World Orienteering Day
4. Each board member: recruit at least one person for a youth committee

5. SWG: set up committee to address issues with different race formats (eg mass start) and how these would be handled in a ranking event
6. Greg: follow up with 18% of clubs that did not report struggling to find and retain volunteers as a top issue, for best practices.
7. Peter: specific mapper development proposals. (Update after the meeting: Kris Beecroft is taking over this action item and will report to Board at next meeting.)
8. Boris, Ian: requirements for website solutions

Minutes

Board minutes of 2/1/2017 meeting

Greg Lennon provided a correction: Robin and not Greg should have action item #11 about the 50th Anniversary Fund income categorization. Alex Jospe moved to approve the minutes. Bob Forgrave seconded. All Board members present voted in favor of adopting the corrected minutes.

Change to request of IOF about NAOC

Barb Bryant moved that we change “and/or” to “or” in the proposed wording (“...a Relay and/or a Sprint Relay”) for the IOF rules for the North American Orienteering Championships. Alex Jospe seconded the motion. Please see the Appendix for the full language of the proposed wording. This request came from the Rules Committee via Chair Clare Durand. The original language was sent to IOF to accommodate the NAOC 2018 organizers’ desire to hold a classic relay, when the current language allows only a sprint relay. IOF asked for the change to “or”. In discussion, Sandy Fillebrown pointed out that we first held a relay at NAOC in 2012 as a lark, and now it is in the rules -- are we sure we want a relay in the rules? We decided that we could always ask for a change if needed for 2020 or beyond.

Boris Granovskiy voted against the change, and all other Board members present voted in favor. The motion passed.

Sport Working Group proposal to change national event formats

VP of Competition Alex Jospe presented the Sport Working Group’s (SWG) proposal to change national event formats, along with feedback received to date. The SWG will continue to accept feedback and put forward a proposal for the Board to vote on at a future meeting. The SWG consists of Alex Jospe, Erin Schirm, Dennis Wildfogel, Ed Despard, Boris Granovskiy and Tom Nolan. Please see the presentation that Alex delivered.

The SWG has been thinking about ways to restructure national events. The current problems include that we have too many national championships, not enough National Ranking Events, not enough of a social atmosphere, inconsistent timing year-to-year, and too many requirements for clubs to want to regularly hold National Ranking Events. The SWG proposes a smaller number of national championships, a tiered level of requirements for holding national events, and consideration of what draws people to national events.

Specifically, SWG proposes three Championship events (National S/M/L, Junior Nationals, and Masters Nationals with classic format). They propose changes to allow more NREs, and the ability to host a regional ranking event, with changes to sanctioning fees. Each club would have sanctioning fees waived for one ranking event. Please see the presentation for details.

Discussion points included the following:

- The sanctioning fee waiver for a regional ranking event is not intended to be used to get out of paying sanctioning fees for a national event.
- Erin Schirm said that having more ranking events would be a huge help for juniors who currently have to travel to get enough ranking points and attend team trials for JWOC.
- Alex stated the hope that regional ranking events would lead to more robust regional competition, and avoid people having to fly far away to get ranked.
- WIOL events have shorter distances - would that be OK for a ranking event?
- For a ranking event, the key element is technical quality - with controls in the right location: fair and good orienteering.
- **We should set up a committee to address issues with different race formats (eg mass start) and how those would be handled in a ranking event.**
- Ranking would continue to be calculated using the current formula, regardless of how the club scores its races for its own awards.
- For Junior Nationals, Alex reported that feedback so far suggests that organizers don't want a relay, but parents, coaches and teams would like a relay. Having a strong team aspect is key.
- There was a suggestion to make Master Nationals an Invitational.
- There was discussion about timing, and not wanting to prohibit some clubs from hosting events because of the time-of-year requirements. The new IOF long-term proposal recommends that countries have Nationals in the fall.
- It would be OK to have Nationals on two adjacent weekends, but not on the same weekend.
- The one-free-NRE still would need to go through the sanctioning committee. The sanctioning committee could assist smaller clubs, eg by helping them partner with a larger club or get help from US team members for vetting and setting.
- There is a proposal to penalize non-OUSA members as opposed to providing a discount for OUSA members. (Not sure what the difference is.)
- Clare stated that the non-member fee is a barrier for her club to put on nationally sanctioned events for their members; their local members are not all OUSA members and would bear an increased cost. Boris pointed out that we expect each club would just put on one ranking event; it would not mean increased cost at most meets. Ian argued that the fee might provide additional incentive for local members to join OUSA.
- It would be good to provide a Nationals Hosting Kit.
- SWG will develop a list of expectations that OUSA has for Nationals.
- Bob recommended having volunteer credits so that people are incentivized to give up their racing to help the event. COC builds volunteer rewards into their registration system; this boosted volunteers by 300%
- SWG would like to see more consistency and quality at events. We should have bulletins. Timing should be better than 1 second. Organization should be clear - for

example in skiing, there is a chief of stadium, chief of starts, chief of timing, with technical delegates, each with many volunteers working under them.

- We should host IOF WREs at our Nationals.
- Barb recommended initiation of team scoring at more events; Bob said that works best if automated.

Next steps

- Write up the proposal for ONA
- Send out information in the next e-Newsletter
- Collect feedback and refine the proposal
- Discuss revised proposal with Clare Durand and the Rules Committee

Update from Finance Committee

Pat reported

- OUSA received a \$6100 check from the defunct Southern Illinois Orienteering Club, which was last chartered as a club 25-28 years ago
- The focus of the Finance Committee in October and November was the budget, resulting in defunding the Executive Director position and preparing for a lean year.
- Pat talked about the team funds accounting past and future.
- Greg Lennon requested a financial report from the Committee at the next Board meeting. It has been difficult because we need to change how we report our finances.
- Greg Lennon has drafted a policy for charter renewals to address how to contact clubs who haven't renewed and making clear to them the insurance consequences.

Expression of Interest in World Rogaining Championships 2020

Gavin Wyatt-Mair of BAOC presented, and provided a written document as well. BAOC has prepared an expression of interest in hosting the 2020 World Rogaining Championships, which needs to be submitted to the IRF by March 31. The Rogaining Committee voted in favor of BAOC submitting this document to the IRF, and asks the OUSA Board's support as well. The WRC would be the culmination of a set of events to take place prior, which have not yet been completely worked out, but may include the North American Orienteering Championships. The rogaine would take place in the Tahoe area, on land primarily owned by North Star but also the Forest Service (2 jurisdictions). North Star is easy to work with. They selected a weekend in early August that coincides with the full moon.

Gavin stated that North America is in the IRF rotation for 2020, meaning that submissions from North America would be preferred. IRF wants a good quality event with a strong team and good course setting. The course setter (Dennis Wildfogel) has set the course for North American Rogaining Championships previously. The 2018 rogaine would be in the same area but not the same place: in the Sierras, probably close to Dinky Creek where a rogaine was held last year. Bill Cusworth made an excellent map for that rogaine; it was almost an orienteering map. Greg

Lennon asked what they would do in the case of fire making the area inaccessible for the event; Gavin replied that they plan to have a backup location.

About 75 volunteers will be needed; the volunteer manager has been identified. BAOC plans to bid on the North American Rogaining Championships in 2018 in order to get practice on all the organizing processes. Boris asked whether BAOC has the personnel capacity to handle not only the rogaine but also the other events leading up to it. Gavin said that there are 5 or 6 organizations collaborating, including LAOC, Gold Country, Truckee and NavEx. They believe they can get other volunteers as well, such as boy scouts.

BAOC hopes to use the rogaine as an opportunity to expand its map base, possibly hosting North Americans at some point.

BAOC will take on the financial burden of upfront costs as well as financial risk, although they may ask for a grant from OUSA. BAOC has asked the organizing committee for a schedule of fees; there are some costs that will come before entry fees come in, such as creating the map. The budget estimates that the event will break even at 500 competitors; they are aiming at 1000. Most WRCs put a cap on the attendance based on what the location and organizers can handle, and usually this cap is reached.

OUSA is the official IRF organization for the USA, and therefore has oversight responsibility via sanctioning by the Rogaining Committee. In addition, OUSA would be providing insurance.

Greg Lennon agreed to advise the event organizers.

After presentation of BAOC's plan and discussion, Bob Forgrave moved to approve BAOC's submission of the expression of interest to the IRF, and Alex Jospe seconded. After additional discussion, the Board voted unanimously in favor.

Operating Reserves Policy

Barb Bryant moved to adopt the [updated Operating Reserves Policy](#). Ian Smith seconded. In discussion, Barb accepted a friendly amendment that the policy be considered interim with the expectation that further operational details will be added soon.

The motion passed with all Board members present voting in favor.

There are four operational questions that Pat Meehan is addressing about how to carry out the policy; he will bring proposed protocols to the Board at a later date.

Update from the 2018 Ski-O organizing committee

Alec Jospe reported for the organizing committee. Ken Walker Sr, Adrian Owens, Andy Hall and Ed Despard had a first visit with IOF event advisor Stefan Tunis. They went to Craftsbury, toured the facilities and trails, and ate the food. Stefan was very positive about the event; he felt that even without cutting new trails there was plenty of terrain to work with, and he was impressed with the venue. He is recommending amending the schedule to do an ultra long

instead of a long race for the World Cup competitors; however, Andy and Alex don't feel the terrain suits that format - too many map exchanges. The organizing committee will sign the contract with Tom Hollowell; it has been amended to better fees for doping. After signing, they will publish Bulletin 1. They have LIDAR data for Northern Vermont; Ed is running a base map; Krum Sergiev is back on his feet after some health issues and wants to help with the mapping. Adrian is also involved. They also visited the backup venue which is 200 feet higher in elevation and not as convenient, but workable.

Club Survey

Greg Lennon presented the results of the club survey. The most important issue for clubs is getting more volunteers, then getting more participants, and third making and updating maps. Financial stability is not a big issue for most clubs.

Issues that limit clubs' ability to grow include volunteer burnout, insufficient marketing and publicity, and difficulty attracting and retaining newcomers -- and generating more volunteers. Responders were very willing to discuss with OUSA how to address limitations.

We need to identify people to pick up the phone and follow up with clubs. Greg would like us to have a plan for outreach to all 58 different clubs.

Boris suggested looking at the 18% of clubs that did not report struggling to find and retain volunteers as a top issue. What best practices can we learn from them? Greg said he would follow up on that question. Erin Schirm said that we might also look at other organizations for best practices around the life cycle of volunteering; there are lots of practices that we could research and share with clubs.

These results of the club survey framed our conversations about the 50th Anniversary Fund.

50th Anniversary Fund: Mapping Proposal

Greg Lennon summarized Peter Goodwin's mapper development proposal. We have approximately \$32,000 in the 50th Anniversary Fund, and have allocated approximately \$6,000 in our last board meeting. We should be targeting up to \$11,000 toward mapper development.

The Board liked Peter's proposal, and wanted specific projects identified in order to allocate money to them. In order to allocate the funds, we wanted to know who would be doing the work, and where. We would also like to see that clubs are buying in by providing resources of members' time and/or matching money to show they are invested.

Greg Lennon mentioned that we are paying about \$800 a year for access to high-resolution aerial imagery through Pictometry Online, and currently we ask clubs to pay that money back if they use the resource. Why not make this resource free to all clubs for at least a year? (For information about this program, see <http://orienteeringusa.org/mappers/resources/aerial-imagery>; cost to clubs is \$18/hour)

Charlie pointed out that creating a base map is a job for a specialist; clubs need to know vendors for that piece.

Barb had proposed a Map Ambassador: someone who would travel to different clubs over the summer. In each place, they would organize map-making seminars, with a focus on smaller urban sprint maps (including parks and school grounds), and encourage the clubs to schedule introductory events on these maps. There was concern about the map-making ability of that person; Barb responded that they might not be an expert themselves but would be coordinating the sessions and using materials and advice from expert map-makers who do not have the time to travel around. This was envisioned as an intern-level job for a young person in college.

Greg liked the idea of sending experts around to give weekend workshops to club members.

Bob pointed out that teaching people skills to make an initial school or park map is a very different goal than providing a good coach to improve skills for a good mapper. The former can be done with a webinar; the latter requires more one-on-one coaching and time.

Clare stated that if there were funds available to pay someone to run a mapping clinic, she would be willing to do it.

The club survey did not answer the question of whether clubs are looking for high quality ISOM large forest maps or ISSOM small park maps. It would be good to know from clubs what they are looking for, who they have as potential mappers, and whether they would be able to put on a clinic.

Generally it was felt that we need more information: names of potential mappers who would attend to be trained; names and ability of people willing to teach; people to handle logistics; clubs interested in hosting clinics; what clubs want to focus on. Boris suggested doing a pilot with one expert, one webinar, one club, one set of clinics for the club. Erin said that the clinic could happen at BAOC if we had the mapper.

We decided that Greg would reach out to clubs; a proposal with details and names would be generated, and we would then schedule a board vote on that proposal.

50th Anniversary Fund: Web Presence and Technologies

Boris Granovskiy presented. The people working on this proposal are Boris, Cristina Luis, and Ian Smith.

The committee's specific goals are (1) better OUSA club websites (front end), and (2) lay the groundwork for web-based services that include events, results, membership, and volunteer coordination (back end). The front end provides hosted websites with a user interface that allows each club to populate their own content, and customize as they need to, but also provides a basic set of capabilities that are of common interest to clubs. On the back end, there would be a set of applications available to clubs regardless of whether they use the front end. In both cases, ongoing support would be provided.

The committee has proposed three phases:

PHASE 1: Assess demand by talking to clubs. So far the committee heard from two clubs in response to their Clubnet post; both were interested in getting help from OUSA either now or in the future. Further conversation with other clubs is needed. One club asked for best practices and a how-to manual for creating website functionality. Estimated cost of survey: \$1000.

PHASE 2: Implementation. By the end of 2017 the goal is to have a website template with several clubs adopting it, created by a third party contractor and overseen by an OUSA committee. The audience for a quality website for each club: prospective and current orienteers. It is important for newcomers to be able to easily find information. The inspiration for the committee was the COC website designed by Rebecca Jenson. It is visually attractive and easy to use. Estimated cost: \$6000-\$10,000.

PHASE 3: Go wider with more clubs using the template, or deeper with more web services (integrate with the OUSA website; database applications for events, results, members, volunteers).

Discussion:

- A national event template might be even more needed than a website template.
- The national event template might be phase 3 -- and requires a rewrite of the current event reg system.
- We discussed the possibility of using Eventor. Eventor is an event management system used by other countries for orienteering events; Boris is tasked with looking into that option.

Ian Smith moved that we allocate \$1,000 to do Phase 1 of the proposal (club survey on web technology). Bob Forgrave seconded. After additional discussion, all Board members present voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Boris and Ian will co-lead the implementation of the survey.

50th Anniversary Fund: Marketing

We postponed discussion of Bob's marketing update to a phone call to be held in April.

Shannonhouse Trophies

Charlie Bleau moved that the Interscholastic trophy cups donated by Georgia Orienteering Club be named the Shannonhouse Trophies. The motion was seconded by Bob Forgrave. After discussion, all Board members in attendance voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Juniors

Barb presented and led a discussion about youth orienteering.

The Board agreed that shifting focus to youth was an appropriate way to address the need for growth of our sport. Each Board member was tasked with (1) asking their own clubs to put on an event for World Orienteering Day, and (2) to identify at least one person to serve on an OUSA youth committee.

The current set of projects and committees are as follows.

- Youth development (representatives from each of the other committees)
- JTESC (focus on national teams)
- Safety (not currently active; JTESC is handling issues)
- JROTC
- Scouts
- Club youth programs (eg World Orienteering Day)

There are many existing youth programs in the USA. In order to build on these programs, the first step will be to share information about these existing programs, through online presentations, the e-newsletter, ONA and the OUSA website. Some current programs:

- School and youth leagues and teams
 - Washington Interscholastic Orienteering League (WIOL)
 - OCIN's Tristate Regional Orienteering League (TROL)
 - RMOOC School League
 - BAOC's COOL League
 - NEOC/CSU/Navigation Games Youth Orienteering Series
 - River Stone School
 - Mid-Atlantic regional team
- Organizations providing school, after-school and other programs
 - Adventure Running CA
 - Treasure Hunt Adventures
 - Ultimate Treasure Hunts
 - On the Map Orienteering Experiences
 - Navigation Games
 - I Know My Way, LLC
 - Training camps (NTOA, etc)
- JROTC
- Scouts
- National development overseen by Erin Schirm and JTESC
 - National Junior and Development Teams
 - JWOC Team
 - Safe Sport
 - Regional coaches
 - Little Troll program
 - World Orienteering Day

Discussion

- Pat Meehan learned that you cannot keep a high school team going by recruiting children; you have to recruit the families. The goal of TROL was to recruit the whole family through the school system.
- QOC applied for an REI grant to support school orienteering. The grant paid for teacher training at several clinics. However, the challenge is to get orienteering into the curriculum.
- It is useful to look at programs that did not work as well as those that did, for ideas about best practices.
- JROTC has a lot of potential. Navy is making it a part of their program. Clubs can help running regional JROTC championships; JROTC is encouraging every region to have a championship. A challenge is having enough JROTC instructors attached to a unit to include orienteering along with the other activities like drill and riflery. There was discussion about how to involve parents, and whether it is possible. QOC has JROTC run meets for the public: 2 of their 25-26 events are run by JROTC. There is a course-setting clinic for commanders so they can do their own JROTC meets.
- WIOL started out with 17 high school kids. They initially recruited cross-country teams, and also had JROTC units come and go. They experienced a lot of growth when they focused on middle school. WIOL's biggest challenge: how many parks are there where you can bring 350 people and go off trail? It takes 22-28 people to staff a WIOL meet. It helps a lot to give volunteers points they can use toward attending a meet for free; tracking that is integrated into their membership database. There is a preregistration database that drives the newsletter database. COC pays a meet director \$4500/year and a land permission coordinator \$1100/year. The meet director carries the equipment to and from meets, ensures everyone is safely back from courses, and signs off on volunteer points.
- Navigation Games puts on a 6-week 4 hour-a-day summer program and will get a foreign orienteer as staff through a J-1 visa program for camp counselors.
- Erin discussed funding sources. Adventure Running Kids obtained government grants, and they have 1000 kids paying fees. They support 3 full-time employees.
- We need to talk about how juniors fit into the existing club scene. We can do things to encourage youth participation. NEOC is doing a youth orienteering series that is family friendly. We should share best practices between clubs. We want to look for small things clubs can do with existing infrastructure that will make a big difference.
- Boris Granovskiy spoke from his experience in trying to get a regional program going from QOC: what has worked best for building community are overnight experiences: a training camp, a weekend of orienteering, or a road trip to West Point. Kids and parents get on board for weekend experiences. It allows kids to bond with each other.
- Erin Schirm said that OUSA should pitch to clubs that a minimum fraction of their time or resources should be focused on youth programs. We need clubs to buy into this goal, and for OUSA to buy in, so that we continue to exist as a sport in the USA in 40 years.
- There are many good specific ideas, but the bigger picture from this conversation is that we need to make a 180 turn, and commit 30-50% of our time, energy and resources to a focus on youth and family. We need to encourage this to happen. If we share ideas and

information from specific programs, that is a start, because it gives people ideas for what they can do. We need to communicate and share ideas.

- Greg proposed an annual leaders summit to bring people together to share information. This could be an online experience as we may not be able to afford to fly everyone to get together. Club leadership should participate: here's what has happened, here is what has worked, here is what we have done to push on youth orienteering. We can make an annual junior program leaders summit. Erin suggested doing this at a revived convention.
- Clare pointed out that many clubs and members care only about their own orienteering. We can look for symbiotic relationships between the club and another group focused on youth orienteering. At the national level, we might want to push for people to start youth programs not necessarily associated with clubs. Greg agreed, with an example from NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association), which develops within a region; there is a structure from the top. There are many volunteers who don't actually mountain bike themselves but do so because of the focus on children.
- Erin: to turn clubs toward a youth focus, we should not dictate anything to clubs, but rather start by having conversations. What will manifest in a region will depend on the people there; we should encourage connection and conversation within a local area. Maybe we even work with a non-orienteering group in a town. We want to expand orienteering; youth is a great means to do so; we are open to how that manifests itself.
- Erin gave the example of a group working with 800 kids in Minnesota; they do cross-country running and mountain biking. They want to add orienteering. Running is boring for kids; adding a scavenger hunt and navigation makes it fun.
- Clare suggested talking to Karl Kova about the orienteering in schools program that did not get off the ground - what are the lessons learned?
- Orienteering in Physical Education curriculum.
- Greg suggested a task for each board member: take on some aspect of juniors after reviewing the document of existing programs.
- Boris came into this discussion feeling like he wasn't going to learn a huge amount that was new to him. But he came away learning a ton. He was inspired by Greg talking about NICA and by the MN program. He likes the idea of going outside the orienteering establishment, and also using existing infrastructure

Agreement that youth is a priority

Adjournment

Charlie Bleau moved to adjourn. Bob seconded. All voted in favor.

Appendices

IOF rules for NAOC

Proposed rules:

"2. Event programme

The event shall be organised in even years. The program shall include Long distance, Middle distance, and Sprint competitions. The program shall also include a Relay **or** a Sprint Relay competition.

The Long distance, Middle distance and Sprint competitions shall consist of finals only. In a Relay competition, each team shall consist of 3 competitors from the same country. In a Sprint Relay competition, each team shall consist of 4 competitors from the same country of whom at least two must be women. The event shall follow the IOF Competition Rules unless otherwise stated in these Rules. The dates of the NAOC shall be co-ordinated with other international events and finally approved by IOF."

Background: Last year IOF approached OUSA and OC with concerns that the last two NAOCs (2014 and 2016) had used a Sprint Relay format, whereas the rules (at the time) called for a "classic" Relay.

OUSA/OC proposed the wording above (with "and/or") to IOF last summer (2016).

The actual rules that IOF published for 2017 only include the Sprint Relay format:

Orienteering Canada would like IOF to reconsider our original proposal for the 2018 rules. They need this because the 2018 NAOCs are planning a classic Relay and do not have a map prepared for a Sprint Relay competition. IOF, however, objected to "and/or" in the original proposal, and wanted to use "or" instead, so all we need from OUSA is approval for changing "and/or" to "or" and then we can proceed.

Operating Reserves Policy

Previous policy

On April 16, 2011 the OUSA Board adopted the following (current) Operating Reserve Policy

"The board will adopt a formal operating reserve policy linked to our annual expense budget, which will be reviewed at every Board meeting. As of April 2011, this policy will establish a minimum reserve of 3 months of our expense budget, and an average reserve of 6 months of our expense budget, based on the \$266,800 expense budget for 2011. This is to be an actual cash reserve. This cash does not include endowment funds." (Approved by the Board: Yes – 10, Abstain – 1)

New policy:

OUSA will maintain a minimum operating reserve sufficient to cover all our restricted and board-designated commitments, plus an additional amount to cover unrestricted spending. The minimum operating reserve shall consist of the sum of:

- 100% of all outstanding restricted commitments
- 100% of the balance of all Board Designated commitments
- 25% of the total unrestricted expenditures from the prior fiscal year

The operating reserve will be held in a bank account or a readily accessible mutual fund account. Endowment funds do not count toward this operating reserve.

Currently, we have less than this amount in cash and cash equivalents. In making budgeting and spending decisions, the Board will prioritize the re-establishment of the operating reserve.

The Board intends to provide additional operational guidelines for this policy in the next few months.

Peter Goodwin's Mapper Development Proposal

Mapping Proposal for 50th Anniversary Fund Mapping Portion

Request to the Board for Mapping Funding:

1. \$2000 Webinar development for attaining base maps and pros and cons of the various technologies for making maps such as GPS, laser range finders, etc.
2. \$8000 Ways to help people become mappers.
3. \$1000 Webinar to help get the field data into a useable map.

Overview:

Learning to map is not terribly difficult although learning to map well enough for a National Meet map takes experience. Different kinds of maps take different levels of skills but the entry level mapper often just needs some confidence and coaching to get going in the right direction. This helps prevent them from getting frustrated in the mapping process or after the map is produced and people are critical of the map.

Having gotten input from a number of people who are mappers, some old timers and some newer to the game, this is the present proposal. The initial group of mappers have replied to the original proposal and all seemed to think that it was fine. There has been one person in the second round of input who has made comments.

The barriers to getting more mappers are learning enough to get started on a small project and having time to do the work. They also need appropriate means to get a base map. Retired

people have an advantage in the time department but I produced two maps, one used for a national meet, when I was working.

In that regard, the prospective mapper needs to learn how to create a map board (or tablet) and then walk around and add/correct features on the base map. This is teachable in a fairly short period of time. These skills can be taught in a number of ways but some issues such as the mechanics of getting a base map, choosing drafting software, and whether/how to use GPS can slow down the process. The same is true with long discussions of mapping standards. These things are important but can be discussed in other places and not “at the clinic”.

Teaching people how to make very simple maps - like an ISSOM of a little park – may be a good starting point for many people and these maps may be able to be coached from a person at a distance. Proper map symbols and standards for both sprint and non-sprint maps should be part of the webinar. It is relatively easy to teach these symbols but harder to get the mapper to apply them correctly. Not every map needs to be world-class but basics need to be adhered to. If the map is severely criticized by those who use it, the mapper most likely won't continue to want to maps. This is where the mentor program can help. Making appropriately drawn sprint maps is important and keeping up with the standards moving forward will be important. Poor maps require different courses, perhaps, but this can be frustrating for the course setter and/or the competitors.

To make the mapping process efficient, there needs to be a way to help prospective mappers get a base map to work with, get data in the field and then transfer this data to an actual map. These three parts are all important and have different needs. Two of them can be done through webinars while one needs more personal interaction.

In order to move forward, the board needs to approve spending on:

- A) Attaining a base map.
- B) Use of GPS and other devices.
- C) Learning how to field check a map.
- D) Putting the field checking information into a final product.

A) To attain a base map:

Because there are many ways to obtain base maps, a webinar needs to be developed to assist new mappers. For simple maps of parks, the webinar may work with web based photos of the area and how to deal with the issues associated with these “pictures” of the ground. If the map is of a new area that is forested, there needs to be directions on how to obtain LiDAR information either directly or through another individual. A few people have been translating the LiDAR data into useful base maps but more people with this skill are needed.

In this regard, we need:

- 1) A Webinar dealing with how to get a base map of some sort.
- 2) A Webinar dealing with how to produce a base map from LiDAR. (This may have to be done by a one-on-one dialogue and may therefore cost more money.)

Cost: \$1000 for webinar development, \$1000 for training of people to deal with LiDAR data.

B) Webinars for technical mapping skills.

A webinar should be developed to discuss the use of GPS and other technologies that speed the mapping process. There should be a “lending library” of books that are related to mapping skills that will help new mappers. This will be something that can ultimately be used by many prospective mappers and will include resources such as Harvey's *Mapmaking for Orienteers* or perhaps these should be provided to interested parties for free. An article or two in ONA may also be helpful. Total cost \$1000

C) Learning Mapping skills.

There are a few models to help a new mapper learn the skills in the field. No one model will, most likely, be one that helps an individual club most efficiently. Therefore, there should be flexibility in how this is done. It may also be that some methods are tried that are not as successful as others so, moving forward, the successful ones will be the models to use in the future. The models include:

Clinics at National Meets with an experienced mapper leading the group.

Clinics run at local clubs with a paid individual doing the training with their expenses paid.

Clinics run at local clubs with a volunteer mapper doing the training with their expenses paid so that they are not spending money to be a volunteer.

Working on a more individual basis with a “mentor” program. This would match up experienced mappers to work with a new mapper in the woods and on the drafting of the map so that the new mapper gains confidence and skill to make appropriate maps.

Note: The amount of time in the field may vary but suggested times for fieldwork and drafting with the prospective mapper ranged from 6 to 20 hours.

Cost for this will include travel expenses for the instructors and participants (if needed) and stipends for the instructors if they are not just volunteering their time. \$8000.

D) Webinar to assist new mappers on how to deal with putting field notes into a useful map. \$1000.

On a historical note, Bill Shannon used to run mapping camps at Fahnestock, but attendance trailed off. Ed Hicks works with people presently in various capacities. Presently, there are people who would be willing to help with mentoring in either the paid or volunteer model.

People who have responded to my questions have indicated that that buying hardware is not useful as computers become obsolete. Mapping software is available in different forms. Open Orienteering Mapper (<http://www.openorienteering.org/>), GhettoCAD and OCAD are all options. OCAD seems to be preferred by some but is expensive although clubs often have licenses.

Ghettocad may or may not be supported in the future. It may be that OUSA should provide software for small clubs so that they have OCAD or similar tools to make maps.