

Praha, 12. December 2011

WOC in the Future - the Czech position

A modern and visible WOC

"WOC is underlined as the primary vehicle for making orienteering visible."

Taking in account the current state, is this the right strategy? Shouldn't we better develop the WC-serie as the first step (brush the race formats + set up a stable TV production)?

Btw, some experts say for TV companies it is more interesting to get a serie of high class races.

Programme structure and contents

We strongly disagree with the transformation of middle distance into a chasing-start race!!! We can't see sufficient reasons for such a radical cut!

Arguments:

- According to the valid IOF course definitions, the middle distance should be the most technical of all the disciplines we have. On contrary, the winning strategy in a tight chasing start race is quite much about tactics of a face to face run and a strong run-in. These are definitely not the essential principles of a middle distance concept.
- Moreover, by now, the middle distance with an individual start turns out to be a very suitable format for a successful orienteering TV transmission! Why shall we then erase it?!
- The prologue standings would have a crucial impact on chances in the final race. There are big doubts concerning the fairness of such a prologue for 150 people at the same course.

Allocation of places for the long final

The proposal should definitely specify in detail how the places will be distributed "according to the three latest WOCs", as this is the key part of the allocation concept. Namely, it might be much easier to keep the positions, than to win them.

The aspect of winning the places for possibly someone else feels also not correct. (Runners chance of a WOC start depends on his team mates performances in previous years.) In orienteering, the starting field is not stable, the circulation of runners is naturally rather high.



The Czech proposals to the Council:

- Don't introduce any hasty changes to the current program.
- Instead, set up a stable TV-production and enforce it at top IOF races. Let it work with the formats we already have. Then evaluate.
- We would also recommend the biennial "forest WOC" and biennial "sprint WOC" to be considered.
- The system of the IOF funding should be revised. The current system provides no motivation for a truly effective approach to the marketing issues.
- When trying to develop our sport, don't compromise it's essence!

Best regards

Jiří Šubrt
Secretary General
Czech Orienteering Federation

Český svaz orientačních sportů
Zátopkova 100/2
160 17 Praha - Strahov
DIČ: CZ00548677