
Björn Persson, Sports Director

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To: IOF Member Federations

Sprint Relay, a new format on the World Championship programme

Dear IOF Member,

At the 2012 IOF General Assembly in Lausanne, Switzerland, a new programme for the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) was decided on, including the introduction of a new format, the Sprint Relay.

The IOF Council recently decided on the details of this new format for World Orienteering Championships, a description which can be found in appendix 1 and which shall be guiding any implementation. It will be included in the IOF Competition Rules for Foot Orienteering at the next regular revision.

Sprint Relay included in the World Championship programme 2014 in Italy

The first implementation of Sprint Relay in the World Orienteering Championships will be in 2014 in Italy, after which it will be a permanent format on the programme.

Sprint Relay on international level

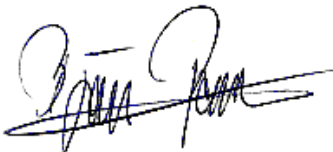
The IOF is aiming at staging the new format on the international level starting from 2013. At The World Games 2013 in Cali, Colombia, the current "Mixed Relay" will be conducted based on the format of the Sprint Relay.

Need for opportunities to gain experience on national level

In order for this new format to spread and to gain experience with it both in organising and competing, the IOF strongly encourages its member federations to find opportunities for staging Sprint Relay competitions starting from the 2013 season and onwards. This can ideally be both in small scale (club and regional level) and in larger scale (national level).

The IOF appreciates the support of its member federations in creating opportunities for gaining experience on all levels, in order for our youngest World Championship format to prosper.

With orienteering regards,



Björn Persson
IOF Sports Director

Appendix 1

Format for the new WOC Sprint Relay

Basic requirements and characteristics for the new WOC Sprint Relay are:

- Based on current requirements for Sprint (map scale, ISSOM map standards, etc.)
- Terrain and technical requirements similar to the current sprint format. Terrain to be a combination of park, park-type of forest and urban. Relatively small area required for a competition (especially with the arena passage)
- The event shall be easy to understand for the spectators
- Big part (70-80 %) of the course should be possible to cover with TV-cameras
- It should be built on a 75 minute live broadcasting and arena production concept. This means that the winning time should be about 60 minutes. 15 minutes should be allocated for broadcasting introductions, interviews and prize-giving ceremonies
- Arena passage should be used, if possible (if terrain allows it without compromising too much with course quality). When there is a comprehensive TV coverage on the course, the arena passage may not always be required. This also gives more flexibility for course planning and may enable better and more challenging courses
- Four laps: two women and two men with a fixed running order woman-man-man-woman as this running order will create more drama for spectators
- Men's courses are bit longer than women's meaning that targeted time for each lap is 15 minutes
- 2 loops per lap, if arena passage is used. Then map has a course printed on both side of the map
- Forked courses
- GPS-tracking is required and "touch-free" punching should be considered