



International versus National Orienteering Culture

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Based on presentation by Marcel Schless and Vincent Fiey



Agenda

- General differences between international elite and common national events
- Particular parts of the race
- Course Planning for Elites
- Fairness

Goal of the session: to understand, that international elite events have certain quality requirements exceeding national habits

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2



General Differences Between International Elite And Common National Events

- Importance
 - WOC, JWOC, WCup, WMOC, WRE
- Number of participants and classes
 - E.g. WOC finals with 2 classes with 51 runners
 - "Technically an easy event"
 - "Extremely high requirements on everything"
- Extraordinary demanding and experienced participants
 - Consider the participating elite runners as professionals that require professional conditions
- High demand on facilities and environment

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3



Particular Parts Of The Race (1/4)

- Map
 - International standard
 - Scale according to particular discipline (1:15 for long "mandatory")
 - **Scale - ask the competitors!**
 - Use good judgement to decide on an appropriate scale - legibility, mapper, discipline, course
 - Size as small as possible
 - Protected against moisture and damage ▶ plastic bag

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4



Particular Parts Of The Race (2/4)

- Start
 - If start is at the finish ⇒ conflict between LC and fairness
 - Transfer of information
 - Quiet start (separate pre-start and start)
- Finish and event centre
 - Good conditions for spectators + media people, VIP
 - Easy accessibility
 - Spectator control
 - Finish may be in the event centre
- Refreshments
 - Preferable on the control, not on the leg

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5



Particular Parts Of The Race (3/4)

- Controls
 - Few other controls (WOC, JWOC, WC) vs. many controls (WMOC, WRE)
 - Neutral type of features, no local specialities, no controls on special map symbols
 - Eliminate chance, preserve fairness ⇒ flag shall be visible to competitors when they can see the described position
 - Elite orienteering is not "flag finding"
 - No hidden flags
 - No flags down in deep depression, re-entrants, gullies, ditches, etc.
 - **Simple controls are always better than unfair ones !!!**
 - **Dodgy map – don't put a control there!**

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6

Particular Parts Of The Race (4/4)

- Course design
 - Discipline specific ⇒ long, middle, sprint have different requirements
 - Elite level
- Media
 - Media friendly event is the first priority
 - To plan facilities for media people - dedicated areas at finish, public controls
- Minimum level of the Arena Concept standards
 - Good speaker
 - Familiar with the HW and SW used in the speaker booth
 - Supported by a team

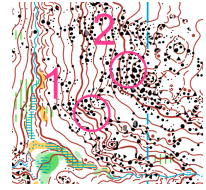
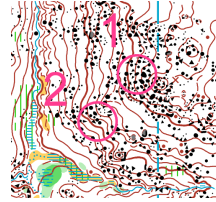
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7

Course Planning for Elites

- NOL Guidelines
- Elite level competitors...
- Physical vs Technical



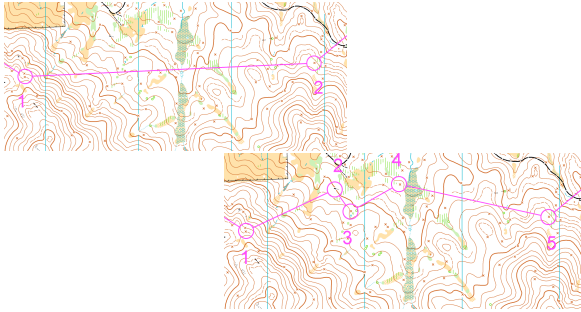
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8

Course Planning for Elites

- Long legs are not technically difficult just because they are long!



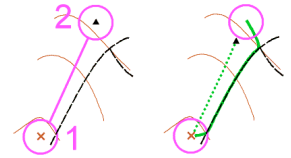
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9

Fairness

- "The map was wrong but it's the same for everyone"
- In a leg with route choice it's not the same for everyone...
- SECONDS COUNT!!
- WOC 2007 Sprint – Mens 10th place was 42 seconds behind the winner

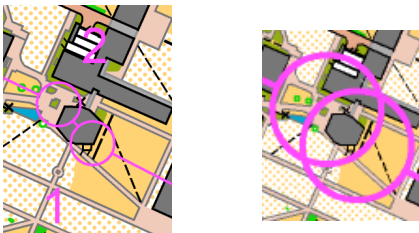


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10

Scale



- Map scale influences the course design...

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11

Fairness

- Consistency - no surprises
 - Start procedure
 - Terrain description
 - Course details
- Standardized
 - Interstate competitors
 - International competitors...
- Start draw
 - Random
 - Red start group
 - Evenly spaced

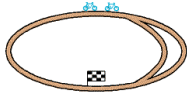
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12

Fairness – Hagaby/Relays

- Again – its not “the same for everyone”
- Result of the race should not be determined by forking allocation
- Swedish Championships eg...
- “Navigational drafting”



Consider...

- Many elites orienteers commit a large part of their lives to being semi-professional athletes!
- In OA's interests to encourage these athletes...
- Development of our juniors and elites
- World ranking points are valuable (race qualification) and the opportunities to earn them scarce!
- Priority – carnival schedule, plan around WRE
- Area – suitability for an elite-level race

Discussion

- Reports from various personal experiences from the floor
- Experienced difficulties as competitor in another country
- Compare WRE requirements with your national standards
 - Similarities
 - Differences
 - Possible conflicting issues that need early attention by the advisor