

SAOF Technical Portfolio Report February 2011

SAOF Executive Meeting

19 February 2011

Responsibilities

Develop and enforce structures for meeting the aims of the SAOF, in particular with respect to:

- (i) Promote the interests of orienteering and orienteers, and uphold the rules relative to the amateur status and the eligibility of orienteers to compete under the rules of the SAOF and the IOF.
- (ii) Commission and supervise annual national and provincial championships and IOF sanctioned events.
- (iii) Attend to the selection of orienteers who are to represent the federation.
- (iv) To provide official records of performance.
- (v) Manage all structures put in place to encourage the pursuit of High Performance Orienteering.

Assessment

This has been my first few months on the SAOF executive, and as such most time has been spent getting to grips with what the portfolio entails, and the current state of affairs. The result is that I have not achieved much beyond keeping the wheels turning, but now feel in a place where I have caught up on the background work and am prepared to move forward.

Nicholas Mulder has been appointed as high-performance manager, and the work of the selection committee has resulted in the selection of national squads for 2011, and the production of selection criteria for national teams. Training camps have been scheduled to ensure the skills development of the national squads (development, youth, junior, and senior squads included). In addition, fitness tests will be held throughout the year to monitor athlete development.

The National Championships for 2011 have been commissioned to ROC, and IOF have approved World Ranking Event (WRE) status for these events. A 5-day international event is being planned for early 2012, and this will also be a WRE. It is critical for the international profile of South African orienteering, and the level of competition at events in South Africa, that WRE events are organized as regularly as possible, and these planned events are therefore of great importance and must be supported by SAOF as much as needed.

The second SA sprint championships will take place in Cape Town in April, a map of the V & A Waterfront has been commissioned by the organizing club and funded by money set aside by SAOF for development of orienteering by increasing the number of accessible maps. A national event at the Waterfront is hoped to both increase the profile and public awareness of the sport, and be used in future events such as for the final venue for a school sprint series in the Western Cape.

With the national squads and sanctioned and national events commissioned, the remaining aims for 2011 must also focus on the development of the sport. Based on the technical report from 2010, the aims for the next part of 2011 are outlined briefly below.

Aims for 2011

High-Performance

A high performance manager has been appointed to manage the selection and training of the national squads. The high performance plan is still monitored by the SAOF and must for the next few years focus on developing athletes for the 2013 and 2017 World Games, Although international participation is critical for athlete development, which events are focused on should be reviewed to maximize performance in the future.

Development of Materials

In view of the aim to grow orienteering in several provinces, and the clear need to start more clubs, there is a need to develop material for a professional *Resource Pack* to be given to people interested in starting Orienteering in new areas. A number of people have generated such material for various Club initiatives. So the aim will be to consolidate this into an official SAOF branded resource pack that can be used in the implementation of the Federation's *Expansion Plan*. An additional aim is to continue with the development of the level structure, course material for each level and associated accreditation mechanisms for each of the Technical Areas.

This was raised last year and needs to be addressed with some urgency.

Map Making

As part of the *Expansion Plan*, we wish to encourage the mapping of schools, which is a pre-requisite for the initiation of schools leagues. The SAOF has set aside money to fund a number of these maps at a cost of R500-R1000 per map. The standard of the maps is not that for club Sprint events, but rather suitable for introductory events. Members are encouraged to engage with the SAOF about any possibilities.

In addition, the mapping framework still needs work, with the aim to produce a policy of map making that leads to sustainable development in new areas. A key element is producing quality maps where they will be used for future events. In the beginning, this may need to focus on school and park maps that are easily accessible and within the ability of novices in areas where orienteering is not an established sport. As the sport becomes established, the hope is that new clubs will drive the mapping of more complex areas as skills improve.

Coaching Framework

We need to put in place a coaching framework, outlining how we will train coaches at all levels. The framework needs to be in agreement with national standards. The first Level 1 Teachers coaching course was held in Johannesburg in January, and more of such courses should be held to help interested teachers introduce orienteering at their schools. A workshop with SASCOC is set for the 7th of March to discuss the coaching framework.