

SAOF Technical Portfolio Report July 2011

SAOF Executive Meeting

17 July 2011

High-Performance

The JWOC squad has finished their competitions in Poland with comparatively good results, particularly on the sprint and middle distances. The results confirm that the sprint is the distance where there are possibilities for high placings by South African orienteers on the international stage. Although there is improvement compared to previous years, SA athletes are still far from aims of being in the top 10 to 20. Suggestions for coming years should include raising the bar for international selection and encouraging participation in multiday events where more orienteering practice is on offer than in a World Championships event.

The Youth Tour to Hungary (5-day event in association with the World Masters OC) was very successful, particularly in motivating and encouraging the youth to work towards future international events. Colin also notes that SA should consider regular tours to the WMOC, as it is a well organized event with good competition but South Africans can be competitive (as shown by Colin with an A final 25th on the sprint), and the value of taking the youth squad to a large, high-level event where there is not too much pressure on them. The youth squad members improved very well in the events, and this is a good incentive which should continue as finances allow.

Note that after WOC, the results from JWOC and WOC should be carefully evaluated in terms of future selection policy. A significant revision of this policy should be considered by the selection committee elected for 2011-2012.

Development of Materials

An important future step is implementation of the LTPD and the coaching framework, which will require the development of materials which can be used to inform and implement these strategies at club level. As a first step, this involves making the main points of the LTPD easily accessible. The implementation of the expansion plan is a first step in also implementing the LTPD.

In view of the aim to grow orienteering in several provinces, and the clear need to start more clubs, there is also a clear need to develop material for a resource pack for event organization, basic mapping and coaching, and club administration.

Map Making

Map making will be particularly important as the expansion plan is kicked off and need maps for teacher's courses and introductory events. In addition, there is a need to identify strategic maps which should be targeted for future national events.

The mapping commission should be resurrected to oversee mapping targets and priorities. Recommended targets are championships level maps in the area near Polokwane and updating the maps made in the Pietermaritzburg area some years ago.

Coaching Framework

The coaching framework has been available for comment. So far no changes have been suggested. The next step is preparing an implementation plan.