

What we are up to at the COF

At the COF's AGM in the fall, a new Executive was elected. The Executive is charged with running the Canadian Orienteering Federation. The 2006 Executive has a lot of new faces and a lot of energy and we are looking forward to doing what we can to move orienteering forward in Canada. We encourage Canadian orienteers to 'think nationally' and to imagine how their volunteer and competitive efforts can be used to enhance and further develop our great sport and wonderful orienteering community. The 2006 Executive is:

Charlotte MacNaughton / President / Alberta
Andrée Power / Vice-President Finance / Alberta
Ted de St. Croix / Board Member / BC
Jennifer Hamilton / Board Member / Manitoba
Hans Fransson / Board Member / Ontario
Mike Smith / Board Member / New Brunswick

Since the AGM, we have gone through a brain storming process and we approved the following plan:

TECHNICAL RACES GUIDELINES

In light of the change from two day classic to a sprint, middle, long format, there is a need to update the COF guidelines re course lengths and winning times, etc. There is also a need to revisit the current A meet 8 course structure – are the current guidelines meeting the needs/abilities of competitors in the various age categories (this is especially a concern in the older age categories)? We need to ensure that the COF is keeping its rules and standards up to date in light of changes at the IOF level, trends in international orienteering and the challenges of organizing events in Canada without creating excessive requirements for volunteers.

EVENTS AND SCHEDULING

It is a priority to develop and well publicize a process for bidding for and assigning championships events in Canada (COCs and NAOCs). It is our desire to have the hosts for these events assigned well in advance. In that regard, it is absolutely crucial that a host for the 2007 COCs be identified immediately. (Update: the COF board has approved in principal a bid from the to-be-formed Saskatchewan Orienteering Association – with assistance from the AB Orienteering Association – to host the 2007 COCs)

The COF will create a national event listing on its website and will ask event organizers to submit their event dates and information to the COF as early as possible to facilitate travel planning for orienteers and to help avoid scheduling conflicts between events.

The COF is very supportive of the initiative developed by the Foothills Wanderers Orienteering Club to develop "Orienteering Week in Canada" – a week selected each year when clubs across Canada organize events under the "Orienteering Week in Canada" banner. This initiative provides good promotional opportunities and foster good communication between clubs. The COF will provide promotional support to this project.

The COF would like to ensure that 2+ World Ranking Events (WREs) are held each year in Canada. These events provide greater opportunities for North American elite orienteers to get ranking points on the international ranking list maintained by the COF. WREs can be incorporated into existing events.

The COF supports the work being done by some Canadian orienteers to develop a "Canada Multi-Day" event concept – an annual or bi-annual multi-day event (similar to the Swiss 6 Day or the Scottish 6 Day, etc.)

HIGH PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

The COF Board supports the continued development of the High Performance Program, and specifically the creation of a longer term approach to elite athlete development. The COF will provide more information on its website to potential high performance orienteers about the process for ultimately representing Canada at the Junior World Orienteering Championships and the World Orienteering Championships. The COF supports increased fund-raising initiatives for the high performance program and will provide promotional support. We will look at the HPP fund to see if new guidelines are required.

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

The COF sees that it has a role in facilitating information sharing between the clubs across Canada which have developed various school and junior programs. And the COF will improve relevant content on its web site. The COF will encourage Newfoundland and Saskatchewan to join the COF.

MEMBERSHIP

We will revisit the membership structure to ensure effectiveness and efficiency.

COMMUNICATIONS

The COF web site will be significantly revamped and expanded to provide greater information and assistance to Canadian orienteers. The new web site will endeavour to increase information sharing between clubs and associations by including "best practices" information. The COF will create an email list to facilitate communication between Canadian clubs and associations. The COF newsletter will evolve to include fewer results and more information about future events. We will also endeavor to increase our profile within the Canadian amateur sport community. The new website will include a "Route Gadget" database system which can be accessed by all clubs in Canada. (Route Gadget is a great race analysis tool). Having a central Route Gadget database will ease the volunteer burden in individual clubs and associations wanting to use this web-base software.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

COF will facilitate communication between clubs and associations regarding volunteer issues and volunteer recognition . The COF will look for ways to reduce the amount of volunteer effort required to stage events and will also look for ways to reduce the amount of duplicated volunteer effort between clubs by encouraging nation-wide sharing of tools and resources (for example, the development of a national RouteGadget course analysis tool, the potential for a national event registration software system, the potential for a national membership signup/renewal database). The COF board acknowledges that volunteer burn-out and a general lack of volunteers is an issue for the development of orienteering in Canada. Acknowledging the importance of recognizing the significant volunteer efforts by Canadian orienteers, the revamped COF website will include a volunteer recognition element.

OFFICIATING

It is a high priority for the COF to update the officials course materials, especially to keep current with new technologies.

COACHING

The COF Board fully supports the coaching program redevelopment currently underway, being spearheaded by Bill Anderson. The COF will do what it can to assist with this initiative.

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

The COF will prioritize succession planning in preparation for the Executive Directors' retirement. The COF Board will write a yearly plan. The COF will investigate other opportunities to increase revenues. The COF Board will solicit ideas and feedback from Canadian orienteers.

We are in the process of doing volunteer recruitment to help us with these tasks. Please do contact me if you are interested in lending a hand. Also, the COF Board welcomes feedback from orienteers. Please do contact us if you have any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. We want to hear from you!

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