

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

Summary

This section is intended as a quick overview of our recommendations. More details are provided in the next section

Background

The COF Board recognized a number of problems associated with the current structure of membership within Canada. In particular :

- Real and/or perceived inequities in affiliation fees
- Confusion over who is a member and who is not
- Administrative headaches for the Provincial Associations

This committee was formed to address these and related issues

Recommendations

We arrived at the following four recommendations. Agreement was not unanimous but the recommendations were broadly accepted.

Each of the recommendations can be treated independently

1. COF membership.

- 1.1 The COF members continue to be the Provincial/Territorial Associations rather than individuals*
- 1.2 An article should appear in the COF newsletter to clarify COF membership*
- 1.3 Annual (see below) members of Associations should be eligible to check the "COF/IOF member" box on competition entry forms. This information should appear in the COF Newsletter*

2. Membership grades. COF recognizes two grades of members within Provincial/Territorial Associations, Annual and Casual. Associations continue to define their own membership classes but they must fit within one of these grades.

An Association Annual member is a member of a Provincial/Territorial Association who pays an annual subscription, whether it is based on a calendar year or a twelve month period from the date of joining. Anybody awarded a Life membership by a club/association is also treated as an annual member

An Association Casual member is any member of a Provincial/Territorial Association who is not an Annual member

The grades would be used when discussing affiliation fees, insurance premiums and eligibility for participation in National Championships

3. Affiliation fees. Affiliation fees should be based entirely on participation

One person per event of orienteering at an assessable event represents one participation unit. Wayfaring groups shall count as a single unit

An assessable event is any orienteering event organized by the Association or one of its clubs for which an entry fee is collected but excluding:

- a) COC, NAOC and WMOC related events where a special levy is applied by COF*
- b) Private events put on for other organizations, schools, companies, corporations etc.*

If there are two or more events on a single day each event will be counted separately

We were not asked to discuss this issue but it became a natural add-on

At present, affiliation fees are based on a mixture of then number of "Full" members and participation. We felt that this placed an unfair burden on Full members, who are also the people who do most of the work in the sport. Using participation alone as the basis for affiliation fees would spread the financial load equally.

4. COF Newsletter Distribution. Each Association determines which of its members are to be on the mailing list, provides the list on request to COF and pays COF accordingly

Committee members

Kevin Ansdell, Saskatchewan

Leigh Bailey, BC

Dave Graupner, Manitoba

Marilyn Edmunds, Alberta

Alex Kerr, BC

Andree Powers, Alberta

Barbara Scheck, Yukon

Heather Shepherd, Ontario

Stig Skarborn, New Brunswick

Annette Van Tyghem, Ontario

Mike Waddington, Ontario

Background material

COF Membership options

We looked at four options:

1. COF Members are the Associations (as now)
 - Much misunderstanding about this. Need for clarification
2. Individuals in some membership grades are COF members eg Annual members
 - Any change would mean revising the COF Constitution
 - People would identify more with COF if they were members
 - The need for a COF position to maintain membership lists if individuals were member
3. All orienteers are COF members
 - Similar comments to (2)
 - Probably no interest by Casual members
4. Orienteers join COF separately from club (USOF system?)
 - Similar comments to (2)
 - Membership based affiliation fees no longer possible
 - More complex membership recordkeeping

We recommend #1

Membership grade options

There are specific grades of Association membership that COF will recognize. Associations can organize as they wished but each of the local membership types will have to fit within a COF grade

We looked at three options and estimated the “per member” affiliation cost of each option based on 2005 numbers **should COF decide to continue to base 50% of affiliation fees on membership**

1. Current system
 - Not acceptable - committee was established to find other options
 - \$7.60 per “Full” member to generate \$8000
2. Single grade for all orienteers
 - Possible high insurance rates for “one time” participants if treated like “Full” members
 - \$1.46 per member to generate \$8000
 - Allows flexibility for Associations

3. Annual and Casual membership grades
 - Allows flexibility for Associations
 - Keeps low insurance rates for Casual members
 - Similar system to that used by NB, Yukon
 - Could base affiliation costs on Association Annual membership – would remove current inequities
 - Recognizes difference between “committed” orienteers and “once a year” entries
 - Could use as a basis for championship eligibility
 - \$3.30 per Annual member to generate \$8000

We recommend #3

Affiliation fee options

Currently, COF raises \$16,000 annually by assessing Associations based on “Full” membership (\$8,000) and event participation (\$8,000). Varying definitions of “Full” membership across the country lead to inequities.

We considered four options

1. Membership portion of affiliation fee based on Annual membership
 - Minimizes inequities based on membership type definition
 - Casual members get a “free ride”
 - Annual members are usually the ones giving the most volunteer effort
2. Base entire affiliation fee on participation
 - Every participant contributes equally to COF
 - Membership data collection by COF only needed for insurance purposes
3. Affiliation fee and insurance premium based on participation alone
 - Would reduce recordkeeping
 - Impractical at present because of need to involve insurance company but worth considering in the future
4. A “static” fee based on participation alone
 - The fee would be based on (say 2006) participation but kept fixed for a period of 5 years. The next review would be based on 2011 participation
 - Associations could budget better
 - Problems if dramatic drop in attendance

We recommend #2

Financial impacts

We estimated the financial impacts of various options. They are not entirely current because they are based on 2005 numbers and changes in BC (Day members discontinued in 2006) and Ontario (no Day members reported for 2005) won't be reflected. Further, the "current system" figures aren't what were actually billed – they have been adjusted to account for an unusually high attendance at Barebones due to the Masters Games

	Current system	Annual members plus participation	Participation only
Alberta	3932	4580	4746
BC	2051	1860	1776
Manitoba	885	627	858
New Brunswick	1361	705	410
Nova Scotia	859	601	806
Ontario	3111	4259	3834
Quebec	2362	2573	2960
Yukon	1438	796	610
TOTAL	16000	16000	16000

COF Newsletter Distribution

This is another issue which we weren't asked to discuss but is related to membership.

It costs about \$5 to distribute four copies of O Canada to an address. This cost has typically been rolled into the Association membership fee for "Full" members. If distribution was to be spread to Annual members this might place an undue financial burden on Associations if they wished to keep down the cost of membership.

An option is to only publish O Canada on the COF web site but a 2005 AGM decision was to continue to mail hard copies. So leaving it up to Associations to decide is the preferred option. This, in essence, is what happens currently.