

RACE OFFICIALS NEWSLETTER



Issue 1
December 2006

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN John Doerr (GBR)

Welcome to the first issue of the Race Officials Newsletter.

The report presented to Council during the recent ISAF Annual Conference in Helsinki is the main focus of this issue. The intention is to circulate ROC Newsletters to all Race Officials at least twice a year to highlight matters relevant to all disciplines. These will be an additional communication to existing Judging, Umpiring, Race Management or Measurement communications.

The secretariat will circulate newsletters to all officials and each newsletter will be posted in the Race Officials area of the website. Please note that the format of this newsletter is subject to change for future editions.

RACE OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL 2006

INTRODUCTION

2006 has been a year of progress for the Race Officials Committee. We have been allocated nine projects from the Strategic Plan activity that will build on our current work to address the key activity of maintaining sufficient Race Officials with the appropriate experience to meet the demands that will be placed on our services in the coming years.

EDUCATION and DEVELOPMENT

During 2006 we have run 9 seminars (required for candidates progressing towards being appointed as ISAF International Race Officials) and 18 clinics aimed at improving the standards of race officials at all levels. Nine rule 42 workshops have been held in conjunction with events to improve the understanding and application of rule 42. These workshops, open to judges, competitors and coaches, mark a major step forward with the ISAF rule 42 education programme and will continue through 2007. The Race Management Sub Committee held a conference attended by 90 International Race Officers to develop best practice around the world and apply this consistently, especially at Olympic Class events.

Planning is well in hand for the first International Measurers conference to be held in February 2007 that will include others with particular interest. In December 2006 we are running a series of clinics for race officials at the Asian Games in Doha. The instructors for these clinics will remain with the team throughout the event.

Many hours have been invested improving race officials' manuals and updated versions are available for download from the ISAF Website.

The 'Question and Answer panel' was continued in 2006 and has provided a useful service for our International Officials.

This level of activity will result in a slight overspend of our budget for 2006 and we anticipate a further increase in 2007.



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ORGANISATION & ADMINISTRATION

Our total number of certified International Race Officials has slightly increased this year in total although the number of International Judges will reduce. It is clear that recruitment of new race officials remains a high priority and the majority of the ROC projects arising from the Strategic Plan reflect this. We must continue work with the member national authorities to encourage the recruitment of race officials.

In conjunction with the Constitution Committee we have completed the work approved last year by Council relating to the designated MNA of Race Officials and Council will consider the resulting submission during this meeting. Also as directed by Council, we have developed proposals for a performance reporting system for Race Officials and again this will be brought to Council in the form of a submission. The work to clarify the regulations relating to the appointment of race officials is well underway and we look forward to bringing forward a submission in 2007.

The number of appointments of race officials to events that are the responsibility of ISAF continues to increase. While this is not the responsibility of the ROC we have worked to provide the Appointments Working Party with the information they require. The list of those appointments for 2006 was placed on the ISAF website at the end of October in accordance with the approved submission from the 2005 Council meeting.

Guidance on the term 'Principal Event' has been developed and published on the ISAF website as an aid to those seeking appointment as ISAF Race Officials.

In accordance with its terms of reference the ROC has ruled on a number of conflicts of interest during the year. We have recognised that work is required in this area and plan to do so in 2007.

MEDAL RACING

Race officials have responded to the demand for the direct judging of medal races and the race management needs of the new formats. We have worked with Racing Rules Committee to develop the rules and operational framework for these races. It has been inevitable that many changes have occurred throughout the year as the learning curve has been steep. It is planned that 2007 will see this area stabilise as our athletes continue their preparation for the Olympic Games in 2008.

SUMMARY

In summary I would like to add a personal note. Without the contribution of many individuals and especially the ISAF staff it would be impossible to deliver the race officials programme. I have continued to receive amazing support throughout the year and would like to thank all of those who have contributed, especially the chairs of the four ROC sub-committees, Josje Hofland-Dominicus, Henri van der Aat, Jan Stage and David Sprague.



John Doerr
Chairman, ROC
December 2006