

Helsinki, 29 September 2006

Russian Orienteering Federation
Office 517
Entuziastov hw. 17
Moscow 111024
Russia

SUBJECT: WORLD SKI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2007

Dear Orienteering Friends,

With reference to my e-mails of 7 and 16 August regarding the organisation of the 2007 World Ski Orienteering Championships, I regret to have to express the IOF's grave concerns about the current situation.

The organiser's agreement was signed in September 2004, when the IOF General Assembly awarded the 2007 Ski-WOC to Russia. By accepting the terms and conditions of the agreement, ROF has agreed to organise the event in accordance with the valid Competition Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events, and other relevant IOF rules and regulations.

Since the allocation of the event, ROF has failed to comply with several of the terms and conditions set out in the agreement, such as:

- According to the valid Competition Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events (rule 8.7), Bulletin 1 shall be published 24 months before the competition, and the bulletin shall, among other things, include the dates of the competition (rule 8.3). The bulletin was not, however, published in accordance with the rules, and the dates were not confirmed until the first week of August 2006, i.e. less than 12 months before the event.*
- Bulletin 2 shall be published 10 months before the event (rule 8.7). The bulletin was received on 5 August, i.e. less than 7 months before the event. Further, it did not include all the information required in the rules (rule 8.4), nor had it been submitted to the IOF Senior Event Advisor for approval. As advised in my e-mail of 16 August, the bulletin included several changes to the previously approved arrangements. In order to facilitate the process, the IOF therefore decided to publish and circulate to the member federations all the approved parts of the information as 'Bulletin 1'. In addition, ROF was asked to publish all existing maps of the planned terrains on the event web page, plus one general map of the area. To date, no maps have been published at <http://www.skiowoc2007.ru>.*
- Further, ROF was required to publish Bulletin 2 in September and to include all information as required by the rules. In light of the fact that, by Tuesday 26 September, the IOF SEA Juraj Nemeč had not, despite several requests, received any information or material on the basis of which the document can be approved, it will not be possible to publish Bulletin 2 by the given deadline.*
- Preparations are now significantly behind what is required for a Ski-WOC and, considering the late announcement of the event dates and the requirements and procedures related to obtaining visa, a number of national teams are likely to cancel their participation in the event.*
- The first instalment of the sanction fee, 4,500 EUR, to be paid by 31 January 2005, has not yet been paid in full. Further, the IOF has not yet received payment for the invoices related to the 2007 membership fee and the sanction fees for the Ski Orienteering World Cup events and Junior World Ski Orienteering Championships held in February 2006.*

Because of the above listed and other failure to comply with IOF rules and requirements, and the terms and conditions of the organiser's agreement signed in September 2004, the IOF has determined that you be asked to provide by 13th October 2006 the following information:

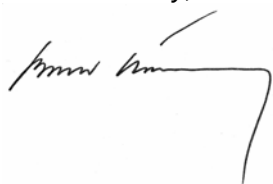
- *Bulletin 2, approved by the IOF Senior Event Advisor Juraj Nemec, and containing all the information required in Rule 8.4 of the Competition Rules for IOF Ski Orienteering Events;*
- *An explanation of how the visa problems are to be resolved;*
- *Confirmation that the full costs of additional SEA and Assistant Event Advisor visits will be met by your Federation (see clause 9.3 of the organiser's agreement);*
- *Confirmation that Anti-Doping tests will be carried out in accordance with rule 5.2.1 of the valid IOF Anti-Doping Rules and the IOF's requirements, and at the costs will be borne by ROF.*
- *Satisfactory guarantee that the outstanding debt regarding the 2007 membership fee and the above listed sanction fees will be settled by 31 December 2006.*

According to clause 6.4.3 of the organiser's agreement the IOF Council can void the sanctioning of the event if the organiser fails to comply with the rules, the norms, the Event Advisor's directions or the information submitted in the application. The organiser cannot claim damage in this case.

It is my sad duty to inform you that, in case you are unable to provide the required information to the satisfaction of the IOF, Council will have to consider removing the 2007 Ski-WOC from Russia and to seek, at very short notice, another Federation to stage the competition.

I am sorry to have to write to you in these terms but hope you understand that the IOF's priority is to ensure that the Ski-WOC is organised to the standards expected and required of IOF events and, in particular, that it will assist us in achieving the goal of getting ski orienteering included in the Olympic Winter Games. It is my sincere hope that you will be able to respond positively and I look forward to receiving the required information by the above mentioned deadline of 13th October 2006.

*On behalf of the IOF
Yours sincerely,*



*Barbro Rönnberg
Secretary General*

*Copy to: Åke Jacobson, IOF President
Laszlo Zentai, IOF Council Member
Juraj Nemec, IOF Senior Event Advisor for the 2007 Ski-WOC*