

Technical Officer's report to SCOA Committee, September 2023

Reminder re 2023 rule changes

Please do not forget that, as of 1 Jan 2023, controllers for Level B events do NOT have to be from outside SCOA, although they MUST still be from a different club and "perceived to be able to act independently of event officials.....ideally the Controller would be from a different Region".

Event Officials

Following the last committee meeting in June I have seen that there are two Level B Events registered in SCOA in 2023 that have not had their officials approved at SCOA level.

4 Nov 2023, BAOC urban event

I have had no officials notified to me, there are no officials listed that I can find, either on the BOF or BAOC website. This event will take place before the next SCOA meeting so approval of officials will have to be done outside the normal meeting schedule. BAOC need to let me know their officials and their relevant experience as soon as possible.

Urgent action required

10 Dec 2023, Chiltern Challenge (rescheduled date)

After requesting information I have been told that the officials are:

Organiser, -Chris Poole, organised/co-organised at least 2 Level C events, and 1 level D. No dates given but these must have been within the last 10 years as I have records up to 2015.

In addition he was the Safety Officer at the British Relays 2022.

Planner – Nigel Bunn, pre-2010 planned 1 x level B, 2 x level C.

Planned 2 x Level D, 2017 and 2020, assistant planner, Level C 2017, multiple training session 2017-2020.

Both have completed the Event Safety workshop, I recommend approval.

Approval required

Note that both this event and the 2024 Chiltern Challenge (officials already approved) do not yet have a controller appointed. I request that SCOA give permission for approval to be given outside the meeting, assuming the controller meets current BOF Rules.

Approval required

28 Jan 2024, Concorde Chase

Organiser – Eddie Walsh, recently moved to civilian orienteering, completed Event Safety workshop and Introductory Organisers course in 2023 and organised Level D event, July 2023. Organised and Planned and organised a number of Military League Scotland events.

Assistant organiser - Fiona Clough, organised 2 events at Level A (S Champs 2014 and JK Ind 2019) and 4 at Level B. Attended Event Safety workshop

Planner – Martin Wilson – planned S Champs 2014 at Level A and subsequently multiple events at Level B. Attended Event Safety workshop.

Controller – Peter Jones, SN, Grade B, attended Event Safety workshop

I recommend approval of these officials.

Approval required

Moving forward

It has become increasingly difficult to work with the current process for approving event officials at Level B. Asking for forms to be submitted for approval at one SCOA meeting for a meeting 3 months later does not work effectively. Especially when Level B events are registered or moved 6 months or less before being held. I therefore have to wait to see if clubs provide them in time for a meeting and then chase them if they do not. Plus the only way I find out if level B events are being scheduled or rescheduled is to look at the BOF website.

Can I ask that, if changes happen to Level B fixtures, that the regional fixtures secretary informs me? Or, if not, is there some way I can find out quickly without scrolling through the BOF database on a regular basis?

Action requested

One issue is that club representatives on SCOA are rarely the right contact within a club to get information from regarding event officials. So messages to or from the SCOA committee take time to get to the correct person, or may not even get there. This role varies from club to club so can club representatives please let me know, who, within their club, is responsible for arranging/appointing officials to events?

Action requested

Pre-2023 forms do not reflect the 2023 change regarding controllers and I will send the latest version of the approvals form to that person in each club.

Whilst the Rules require that association approval is required for officials at Level B events it does not specify how this should be achieved. Most other regions already delegate this authority.

To date SCOA has expected that the full committee approve event officials for all level B events. Waiting for a 3 monthly meeting to do this is a highly inefficient process and I am asking to have delegated authority to do so unless the proposed officials do not meet to current guidelines. Note the only requirement within the Rules for Organisers and Planners is that they have attended an Event Safety workshop. The rest are recommendations for good practice.

I therefore ask for delegated authority to approve officials for events, only raising concerns to the SCOA committee where they do not meet the current recommendations, or do not have relevant other experience to support their approval. Relevant other experience would entail, either coaching (good for understanding the usual issues regarding planning for juniors and newcomers) or experience outside the framework of BOF events.

Approval required

Katy Stubbs