

# AMENDMENTS TO ONZ RULES TO ALLOW COMPETITION AT COVID LEVEL 2

## NATIONALS 2021

4/3/2021

1. The Technical Committee's (TC) over-riding philosophy is that we want the National Championships to go ahead but to ensure that the competition is as fair as possible within the restrictions imposed by COVID 19.
2. The following amendments to the rules will only be applicable if the event is run at COVID Level 2. If in Level 1, normal rules will apply.
3. The event is run under the 2021 version of the ONZ Competition Rules.

### **Start Draw**

Existing Rules:

- 12.9 The start draw must be carried out in such a way that competitors of the same class start in blocks. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the controller (e.g event officials and parents of young children).
- 12.10 For an interval start, competitors from the same Club should not start consecutively where at all possible. If they are drawn to start consecutively, the next competitor should be inserted between them.

Amendment:

- The TC agrees that these two clauses need not be followed.

Recommendation:

- The start draw is organised by "time block" where each time block has 100 people (or less). Each time block is allocated to early, early-middle, late-middle or late start slots. For each day of competition, the time blocks change which slot they are in.
- Competitors inform the organisers of their "travel bubbles" prior to the start draw. Each travel bubble is allocated to a time block which remains the same for each day of competition.
- Within a time block, start times are randomly assigned by course (rather than class). The purpose for this is to increase the numbers available to randomise a start list.

## **Water**

### Existing Rules:

- 19.8 Water must be provided;
  - Where the estimated winning time is more than 40 minutes, refreshments must be available at least every 30 minutes at the estimated speed of the median runner.
  - At the finish
  - Disposable cups should be provided at refreshment stations remote from the event centre. (It is recommended that water be available at the start especially if the start is at some distance from the event centre).
  - Any exceptions to these rules must be notified in advance by publication in Bulletin 2.

### Amendments:

- Water does not need to be supplied on-course however it is recommended, where possible, that organisers provide the opportunity for competitors to supply their own labelled water bottles for transport to a water station on-course.
- Water does not need to be provided at the finish.
- Water does not need to be supplied at the start.
- Water supply arrangements must be clearly communicated to competitors in advance of the competition by publication in Bulletin 2.

## **Map collection**

### Existing Rule:

- 23.4 After crossing the finish line, or completing the changeover, competitors must download recorded data. If required by the organiser, they must also hand in their competition map.

### No amendment:

- It is expected at a National Championship, that the competition map is collected from the competitor at the finish line, and only handed back after the last start time. This is an issue of fairness and therefore this expectation remains.

### Recommendation:

- If maps are not physically handed back to competitors, it is suggested that printable versions of course maps are posted on-line immediately after the last start time enabling competitors to enjoy the usual post-race analysis, and print their own copy if they wish.
- Organisers may wish to collect maps by Club, allowing for return to a club representative at a later date.

## Results

Existing Rule:

- 24.1 Provisional results must be published and displayed in the finish area or the assembly area during the competition.

The reason for this rule is to enable anyone who wishes to lay a complaint about a result, to do so within the 60 minute time limit stipulated in Rule 27.3.

Amendment:

- In the absence of an event arena or results display, results must be available electronically both at the event site and on the internet. It is recognised that it may be difficult to post results on the internet from areas of poor internet coverage, however it is suggested that a local wifi network be available for competitors to access provisional results. Publication on the internet must be made a priority once all competitors are finished, and the organiser must publicise the time at which the provisional results will be published on-line.

## Complaints

Existing Rule:

- 27.3 - A complaint must be made in writing to the Controller as soon as possible, but within 60 minutes of the affected competitor finishing. A complaint is adjudicated by the Controller. The Controller's decision on a complaint must be advised to the complainant and displayed on the results board as soon as possible, but in any case, within 60 minutes of receiving the complaint.

Amendments:

- Complaints may be made about issues that are apparent:
  - (i) immediately upon finishing and downloading (e.g a mis-punch, a mis-placed control)
  - (ii) sometime later (e.g DSQ following a report by another competitor or official of contravention of a rule)
- For complaints regarding issues immediately apparent on finishing, rule 27.3 as it stands, applies.
- For complaints arising from issues that may only come to light after the competitor has left the event area (and under level 2 restrictions, competitors are encouraged to leave the event area as soon as possible after finishing), rule 27.3 is amended; the complaint must be made within 60 minutes of the results publication time as stated by the organisers. Complaints may initially be made verbally by phone call, followed by a written email.
- The controller's decision on a complaint must be advised to the complainant and publicised on the internet within 60 minutes of the complaint being received.

## **Protests**

Existing Rule:

- 28.3 - Any protest must be made in writing to the Controller or a member of the jury within 30 minutes of the Controller's decision about a complaint being advised to the complainant and displayed on the result board. Protests received after this time limit may be considered at the discretion of the jury if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the protest.

Amendment:

- Protests may be lodged verbally by phone, followed in writing by email, and within 60 minutes of the on-line publication of the decision about the complaint.

## **Jury**

Existing Rules:

- 29.9 The Jury is competent to rule only if all members are present. In urgent cases, preliminary decisions may be taken if a majority of the jury members agree on the decision.
- 29.10 The Jury must meet as soon as possible after receipt of a protest.

Amendments:

- The jury may need to convene virtually (Zoom or similar).

Recommendation:

- It is highly recommended to ensure that at least one jury member is present at the event area for the duration of the event. This does not need to be the same jury person for the whole day, but if one person leaves, the controller should ensure another is there to take their place. It is suggested that one jury member is allocated to each time block.

For all complaint, protest and jury rules it is recognised that the handling of any such issues may be compromised by level 2 restrictions, however with common sense and an attitude of fair-play, a fair outcome is still achievable.

Technical Committee

4/3/2021

