MTBO AUS/NZ Challenge Rules

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction 1
2. Challenge teams 1
3. Individual challenges 2
4. Relay challenges 2
5. Results and trophy 2
6. Amendments 2
7. Review of policy 3

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. As agreed between the two nations, Australia and New Zealand will compete in a two nation mountain bike orienteering competition, known as The Australia v New Zealand MTBO Challenge (AUS v NZL MTBO Challenge).

1.2. The Challenge will consist, as a minimum, of a championship level Individual Long Distance event, and at least 2 other disciplines (Middle, Sprint, Relay or Mass Start) as presented by the host.

1.3. The Challenge will normally be held every 1-2 years.

1.4. Challenges should normally rotate between each country; however, the order can be changed with agreement of both federations.

2. CHALLENGE TEAMS

2.1. The Challenge shall be conducted in M21 and W21 and any of the following classes: W16, W20, W40, W50, W60, W70, W80, M16, M20, M40, M50, M60, M70, M80.

2.2. The visiting country shall nominate the actual classes to be contested in the Challenge, with the minimum being M21 and W21.

2.3. The visiting nation is to advise the host nation of the classes to be contested at least two months prior to the Challenge.

2.4. Each nation's team will consist of a maximum of three competitors in each Challenge class.

2.5. The same three riders normally will compete in each individual or relay challenge event stage. Substitution can only be made due to the exceptions outlined in clauses 2.9 & 2.10.

2.6. Team members must be members of a State Association or National Federation and either:

- A citizen of the nation they are representing; or
- A permanent resident of the nation they are representing; or
- A New Zealand citizen who has been resident in Australia for at least four years may represent Australia; or
- An Australian citizen who has been resident in New Zealand for at least four years may represent New Zealand.

2.7. Each team member may be nominated for one age class only.

2.8. The selected team riders for each class are to be advised to the opposing nation's team manager and the event organizer at least 2 calendar days before the event start date.

2.9. Team changes due to exceptional circumstances (such as illness, injury, or bereavements) after the event start date or during the event can be made with the agreement of the opposing team manager.

2.10. Where a team member has a role as a controller, course planner or other coordinator for a particular event stage that precludes them from competing in that stage, another rider can be listed in the team for that stage. In this case the substitute rider must be listed as per item 2.4.

2.11. An open invitation should be extended to those not selected for the official teams to be able to ride on the day.

3. INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGES

3.1. In each Challenge class, for each nation, the times of the two fastest team members are added to give the team time for the stage. The nation with the lower team time is the winner of the class.

3.2. The nation with the most class wins is the Individual Challenge winner.

4. RELAY CHALLENGES

4.1. All teams, both Challenge and non-challenge, will start together as is normal for relays.

4.2. For each Challenge class, the winning nation is the one whose Challenge team has the lowest time for the stage.

5. RESULTS AND TROPHY

5.1. The Challenge result will be determined by the number of class wins across the formats contested. The nation with the most class wins is the winner and takes possession of the AUS v NZL MTBO Challenge banner until the next Challenge occurs.

5.2. In the event of a draw the previous Challenge winner retains the perpetual banner.

5.3. Australian and New Zealand team members should be clearly identified in any on-site results displays.

5.4. Progressive results for the Challenge should be displayed near the normal stage results.

5.5. The perpetual Challenge banner should be presented at the closing ceremony of the event to the opposing team manager or their representative.

6. AMMENDMENTS

6.1. These rules may be varied or waived from time to time by agreement between Orienteering Australia and Orienteering New Zealand.

7. REVIEW OF POLICY

7.1. This policy shall be reviewed every three years (or earlier if required) by Orienteering Australia and Orienteering New Zealand. Sign off is by the Boards of both Federations.