INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

Revision of the IOF Control Descriptions

The IOF Control Descriptions were last revised in 2004. There have been many developments in the sport since then and the IOF is now starting a process to consider revisions for a new version to be valid from September 2017.

Over recent years a number of suggestions for changes have been made and the key ones are noted below. We now invite any Federations and interested parties to submit further suggestions, or comments on those already received. Please send them to iof@orienteering.org by 1st March 2016.

We aim to circulate a first draft for discussion in June 2016.

The revision project is being managed by the IOF Rules Commission (in liaison with the other IOF Commissions) and the project manager is Barry Elkington GBR who led the previous revision.

Key points that have already been suggested are noted here. However, their listing here does **not** necessarily imply that they will be adopted.

No.	Section/Ref	Suggestion	Reason
1	General	Optional extra line showing the distance to start triangle from timed start.	This will help competitors and could also be used by course-planning software to calculate the true course length.
2	Use of Columns	Clarification of text for using columns E and F.	Assisting planners as two symbols are not allowed in Column D.
3	General	Remove descriptions where there is no specific map symbol e.g. ant hill, rootstock.	Better just to use special item symbols 6.1 and 6.2
4	1.10 & 2.4, 2.5 & 2.6	Use 1.10 (black circle) for boulder and use an elongated dot for knoll. Use black triangle for boulder cluster. Use three randomly orientated triangles for boulder field.	It is best if the description symbols are like the map symbols. A boulder is more naturally represented by a black circle and a boulder cluster by a black triangle.
5	4	New symbols proposed for hedge and small bush.	Useful for sprint.

No.	Section/Ref	Suggestion	Reason
6	5	Add a new symbol for Out-of-Bounds area or flowerbed.	No such symbol currently exists but can be a useful Sprint control site.
7	5.19	Remove charcoal burning ground symbol.	They are generally too difficult to see.
8	5.23	Description to also include "canopy".	General usage.
9	8.1-8.8	Remove these "appearance" symbols. The appearance is usually clear from the map.	The control description should not duplicate what is on the map except for the basic feature.
10	9	Write 3 rather than 3.0 in dimensions if it is a whole number.	The extra decimal place implies a false level of accuracy.
11	11.7-11.8	Move 11.7 Bend and 11.8 End to column E.	To allow control to also have other Column G symbols e.g. Side.
12	11.9-11.13	Clarify which symbols should be used to denote top/foot of stairs.	Sometimes Upper/Lower part is used. Others use Top/Foot.
13	12.3	Remove radio/TV control symbol.	The radio equipment is so small that it is insignificant. The TV equipment can also be rather small and may only be present for part of the time.
14	Examples	Include example showing side of hill.	Description is valid for small, single contour, hills.
15	General	Make the pdf file searchable.	The current pdf file is not searchable for words or phrases.