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SUBJECT	ARDF RULES		
Society	BFRA	Country:	Bulgaria
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Author:	Milcho Milanov, LZ1RF		

Introduction

The paper deals with changes in some ARDF Rules.

Background

The ARDF Rules, used in the moment in Region 1 (and in general in Regions 2 and 3, too), have been adopted by IARU Region 1 ARDF Working Group in 2001 and later approved by San Marino General Conference, 2002. Since than a few minor changes, initiated by ARDF WG and Region 1 Executive Committee, have been made. Regrettably some of them have not been precisely coordinated with other paragraphs of the Rules and raised controversies. Some additional omissions, especially concerning the procedures in ARDF WG, have been noticed last 2 - 3 years. Finally, seven years after their creation, some of the Rules are no more adequate to the demands of rapidly changing environment and growing interest in ARDF worldwide. Therefore BFRA finds necessary to offer to the General Conference for approval some Changes and Clarifications in ARDF Rules.

Key points

18 proposals for changes of ARDF Rules are listed bellow. Each proposal includes the existing text of the relevant Rule (Version 2.7 / April, 2006, last version so far), the proposed new text and the reasons/arguments for the change proposed.

Recommendation

The Final Plenary is asked to decide changes in ARDF Rules as described bellow.

Proposal 1: Add New Rules A2.9 and A2.10

Proposed text: **A 2.9** Not more than one month after any agreed change (or after approval if needed) in any part of these rules the full text of the updated rules must be published amongst ARDF WG members and on the Regional website by the ARDF WG Chairman.

A 2.10 If not stated otherwise, any change in any part of these rules shall be in force from the beginning of the year succeeding the year of the decision (or approval if needed).

Existing A2.9 becomes A2.11

Reason/Explanation: Regulates the process and the obligations when any changes in the Rules have been made - things not covered so far by the Rules, but absolutely necessary.

Proposal 2: Change in Rule A6.1

Existing text: The costs of organising an event shall be borne by the organising society and to cover these costs an entry fee may be charged. Such entry fee shall be kept as low as possible and shall be approved by the ARDF WG.

Proposed text: The costs of organising an event shall be borne by the organising society and to cover these costs an entry fee may be charged. Such an entry fee shall be kept as low as possible and shall be approved by the ARDF WG when approving the host society of the event. After approval no changes to the entry fee are allowed. Only competitors and team officials shall be charged an entry fee.

Reason/Explanation: There have been examples last years when the entry fees have been increased after the relevant society has been approved to host the event.

Proposal 3: Change in Rule A6.7

Existing text: The relevant IARU Regional Organisation shall bear travel expenses to and from the place of the Championship, together with the costs of accommodation and board, of the Chairman of the International Jury. The organiser shall bear accommodation and board of the members of the International Jury. Their travel costs shall be borne by the societies to which they belong.

Proposed text: The relevant IARU Regional Organisation shall bear travel expenses to and from the place of the Championship, together with the costs of accommodation and board, of the Chairman of the International Jury. The organiser shall bear accommodation and board of the members of the International Jury. Their travel costs shall either be borne by the societies to which they belong or by the individuals themselves.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Demanded by the reality.

Proposal 4: Change in Rule A7.3

Existing text: Bulletin 1 (invitation) shall include the following information:

- Organising Society with address, telephone/fax number and e-mail address
- venue
- dates and types of competitions
- any participation restrictions
- expected starting fee and costs of accommodation and board
- any peculiarities of the event
- latest date to reach the organiser and address for Letters of intent

Proposed text: Bulletin 1 (invitation) shall include the following information:

- organising society with address, telephone/fax number and e-mail address
- venue
- dates and types of competitions
- any participation restrictions
- approved entry fee and expected costs of accommodation and board
- any peculiarities of the event
- latest date for the Letter of intent and the contact address to reach the organiser

Reason/Explanation: Approved entry fee is important information; the last bullet is wording.

Proposal 5: Change in Rule A7.4

Existing text: Bulletin 2 (event information) shall include the following information:

- all information given in Bulletin 1
- entry fee for competitors and team officials

- types and cost of accommodation and board etc...

Proposed text: Bulletin 2 (event information) shall include the following information:

- all information given in Bulletin 1
- types and cost of accommodation and board etc...

Reason/Explanation: Entry fee goes to Bulletin 1 (see previous proposal).

Proposal 6: Change in Rule B17.1

Existing text: A team officials' meeting shall be organised on the day prior to each competition. This meeting shall start not later than 19.00 hours. The Chairman of the International Jury shall lead or supervise the meeting.

Proposed text: A team officials' meeting shall be organised on the day prior to each competition. This meeting shall start not later than 20:00 hours. The Chairman of the International Jury shall lead or supervise the meeting.

Reason/Explanation: The experience shows that 19:00 has not been respected, because it usually has been a dinner time.

Proposal 7: Change in Rule B21.3

Existing text: On the day of the competition, the use of any map of the competition area by competitors or team officials is not allowed until permitted by the organiser.

Proposed text: Delete this Rule

Reason/Explanation: Not actual anymore, impossible for observance and needles nowadays when obtaining any kind of map is essential.

Proposal 8: Change in Rule B23.4

Existing text: When, competitors must have the opportunity to practice them at the model event.

Proposed text: When an electronic marking system is used, the organisers shall supply competitors with electronic chips. Competitors must have the opportunity to practice with them at the model event.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Specifies the requirements when electronic marking system is used. The existing text is unintelligible.

Proposal 9: Change in Rule B23.5

Existing text: Competitors shall be responsible for marking their starting ticket at each transmitter using the marking device provided. They are responsible for correct markings which must be clearly identifiable.

Proposed text: Competitors shall be responsible for marking their starting ticket at each transmitter using the marking device provided. They are responsible for making the correct markings which must be clearly identifiable. When an electronic system is used, competitors shall register at each transmitter and at the finish line with their electronic chip.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Specifies the requirements when electronic marking system is used.

Proposal 10: Change in Rule B23.8

Existing text: Competitors who lose their starting tickets shall be disqualified.

Proposed text: Competitors who lose their starting tickets/electronic chips shall be disqualified.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Specifies the requirements when electronic marking system is used.

Proposal 11: Change in Rule B24.3

Existing text: The following information shall be shown on a special board at the start area:

- time limit
- transmitter frequencies
- starting list
- first start time (in local time)
- sample of the flag and marking device
- clock showing the official time of the competition

Proposed text: The following information shall be shown on a special board at the start area:

- time limit
- transmitter frequencies
- start list
- first start time (in local time)
- sample of the flag and marking device
- clock showing the official time of the competition
- transmitters to be located by particular categories.

Reason/Explanation: Last bullet is absolutely necessary information.

Proposal 12: Change in Rule B25.5

Existing text: Transmitters shall operate on each band in the following sequence:

- finish beacon sending code MO continuously
- transmitter No.1 sending code MOE in the first minute
- transmitter No.2 sending code MOI in the second minute etc.

Proposed text: Transmitters shall operate on each band in the following sequence:

- finish beacon sending code MO continuously
- hidden transmitters:
- transmitter No.1 sending code MOE in the first minute
 - transmitter No.2 sending code MOI in the second minute etc.

Reason/Explanation: Very important. Determines transmitters 1 – 5 as “hidden” transmitters – see 27.1 below.

Proposal 13: Change in Rule B25.6

Existing text: Transmitters shall be searched for by each category as follows:

- M21 category shall search all six transmitters including the finish beacon.
- M19 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 3 (MOS)
- M40 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 5 (MO5)
- M50 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 2 (MOI)
- M60 category shall not be scored for two transmitters defined by the siting referee.
- W19 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 2 (MOI)
- W21 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 4 (MOH)
- W35 category shall not be scored for transmitter No. 1 (MOE)
- W50 category shall not be scored for two transmitters defined by the siting referee.

Proposed text: At least one year prior the relevant Championships the ARDF WG shall decide the total number of hidden transmitters to be located by each category. The WG shall bear in mind the rank of the Championships, the expected relief, climate etc. The siting referee shall decide the

exact transmitters to be located by each category and shall announce them at the team officials' meeting.

Reason/Explanation: New proposition. Going out of the fixed principles, which do not work effectively. Gives the starting referee more flexibility when designing the courses for different categories.

Proposal 14: Change in Rule B25.13

Existing text: Each transmitter must be easily recognizable by its code number (one to five), which shall be fixed to the flag for easy identification by the competitors. In case of competitions with transmitters working on two different frequency bands there must be another clear sign indicating the frequency band of the transmitter.

Proposed text: Each transmitter must be easily recognizable by its code number (one to five and beacon), which shall be fixed to the flag for easy identification by the competitors. In the case of a competition with transmitters working on two different frequency bands, there must be another clear sign indicating the frequency band of the transmitter.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Adding beacon.

Proposal 15: Change in Rule B26.1

Existing text: The competition ends for a competitor when crossing the finishing line.

Proposed text: The competition ends for a competitor when the finish line is crossed or, if an electronic system is used, when the competitor registers at the finish line.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Specifies the difference when electronic marking system is used.

Proposal 16: Change in Rule B26.4

Existing text: The finishing time shall be measured when the competitor's chest crosses the finish line. Times shall be rounded down to whole seconds. Times shall be given in either hours, minutes and seconds or in minutes and seconds only.

Proposed text: The finish time shall be measured when the competitor's chest crosses the finish line or when the competitor registers at the finish line if an electronic system is used. Times shall be rounded down to whole seconds. Times shall be given in either hours, minutes and seconds or in minutes and seconds only.

Reason/Explanation: Wording. Specifies the difference when electronic marking system is used.

Proposal 17: Change in Rule B27.1

Existing text: The place of an individual competitor depends on (first) the number of transmitters found and (second) his or her running time. Only transmitters which are scored for the particular category are considered. Competitors who have failed either to find any transmitter or who have exceeded the time limit, shall not be classified.

Proposed text: The place of an individual competitor depends on (first) the number of transmitters found and (second) his or her running time. Only transmitters which are scored for the particular category are considered. Competitors, who have either failed to find any hidden transmitter (see 25.5) or exceeded the time limit, shall not be classified.

Reason/Explanation: Very important! Prevents a possible case when a competitor goes straight from start to beacon, even without receiver(!), because the beacon is marked on the map, and if has a chance his/her teammates to win a team medal, that competitor should be awarded medal, too!

Proposal 18: Change in Rule Y25.6 (Appendix 6)

Existing text: Transmitters shall be searched for by each category as follows:

- M15 category shall search for three to all five transmitters.
- W15 category shall search for three to four transmitters.

The transmitters which are not to be searched for are determined by the siting referee.

Proposed text: Delete this Rule

Reason/Explanation: The change in the Rule 25.6 regulates this subject (see above).