

Updates to Competition Rules for 2025

The following changes have been made, implementing decisions made in principle at the October meeting:

- Adding text to 25.8 (now 25.7) to define club affiliation for the purposes of the Champion Club trophy.
- Requiring English descriptions to be printed on the map only for very easy and easy courses (which still requiring them to be available pre-start for moderate courses). This has been done by rearranging text in 18.3 and 18.4 and deleting 18.5.
- Removing the requirement in 8.1 to state approximate course lengths in Bulletin 1 and replacing with a new requirement to state these as early as possible and not more than 1 week before the closing date. (Consensus was not reached on this point at the October meeting so I will be seeking a specific decision on this point).
- Deletion of Appendix 6 (Leibnitz Convention) and renumbering of subsequent appendices.

It has come to light that some of the rules approved in January 2024 were cut and pasted incorrectly into the new format – this has been fixed.

Other changes proposed since the October meeting (other than minor editorial points and cross-referencing):

- Replacing “runner” and “athlete” where they occur with “competitor”, mirroring equivalent changes in the 2025 IOF Competition Rules. (No other changes in the 2025 IOF Competition Rules have implications for the Australian rules).
- Deletion of a number of provisions which are covered elsewhere or no longer applicable (e.g. rules for the Silva and Swedish Ambassador’s Trophies, which are no longer contested).
- Addition of a provision (3.6) that the events described in rule 3 (other than approved National League events) are day events – this was prompted by the 2025 Australian Relays rule deviation request (there is no existing rule that would preclude a championship event from being held at night).

Although it is not part of the Competition Rules, an updated document on Sledge guidelines has also been posted, taking in points raised in discussion there.

Blair Trewin
24 November 2024