

## **2011 WORLD DEAF ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIP, CHERKASSY, UKRAINE, 24-30.07.2011, IOF ADVISOR REPORT**

### **Event overview**

For the first time the World Deaf Orienteering Championship was held in Ukraine. The principles of Leibnitz Convention have been implemented as far as possible. Travel time from accommodation to arenas ranged from 15 to 40 minutes. All the arenas could be easily reached by public transport.

The competition was attended by about 80 athletes and 30 coaches and team leaders from 14 countries in 3 parts of the world.

The programme consisted of six days including the rest day.

A colourful opening ceremony was held in the Valley of Roses Park on the banks of the Dnepr River in the presence of a quite large number of spectators, local authorities, Deaflympic sports authorities and the press.

The needs of the people with impaired hearing were duly attended to during the banquet as well.

### **Opinions on the competitions**

At the preliminary stage a event plan for the competition was developed, which included a list of works and deadlines. In the process of preparation for the competition the plan has been amended. The timeline of the key works (preparation of maps, courses, etc.) has been met.

Specificity of the course planning took into account the big difference in the level of training of athletes from different countries. Overall the lengths of the courses were shorter than at the "big" WOC. In addition, to avoid chase, scattering has been used not only at the long distance (4 versions of butterflies), but also at the middle distance (2 versions of butterflies). At the relay the Farsta forking system was used at all stages.

At the sprint, because of the small competition area, map change was envisaged in the middle of the course.

Specificity of the overall organisation of the competition was to establish close cooperation between deaf athletes, organizers and volunteers on the one part, staffs and hearing people on the other. Full contact failed, which led to minor confusion in the preparation and conduct of the championship, but the quality of competition in general was adequate.

The experience, equipment and personnel employed during WOC 2007 in Kiev were also used, which together with the enthusiasm of deaf volunteers allowed ensuring high quality of the organisation of competition.

A total of 22 hearing staffs, 30 deaf staffs and volunteers were employed.

The design was very colourful and worthy of the level of WOC. The results were promptly posted on the information board on the arenas.

An internet site covering the championship was launched. Two bulletins were issued. During the competition there was no live internet broadcast, the results were published online in the evening of the race day.

Doping control was exercised by the National Anti-Doping Laboratory, which has no international license. There was an agreement with the laboratory in Russia, which has the required license, so that in the event of a positive result, the sample was transported to Moscow for the official approval.

Excellent relationship with the media was established thanks to the skills of the media director. The opening ceremony was attended by 30 representatives of TV and radio channels and print media, a record number for Ukrainian orienteering. For the journalists, a briefing was held immediately after the ceremony. The event was covered on 8 national and regional TV channels, besides, 8 interviews were given on the

national radio channel. For the site of international Deaflympic Committee every day of the event was recorded. Information about the competition featured on the leading news sites in Ukraine.

The number of spectators was small. The best attendance, approximately 300 spectators, was at the opening ceremony. Mainly it was the deaf community of the city of Cherkassy.

There were no hearing Ukrainian orienteering athletes among the spectators, although the arena had the capacity to receive up to a thousand people.

Only positive feedback and comments were received from participants, representatives of national and international sports authorities.

It is arguable that the competition was held on the highest organizational and technical level.

### **Problems, strengths and weaknesses. Deviations from the Rules**

At the initial stage of preparation there were problems with the overall organization of the event related to:

A) Interdepartmental disunity of local authorities (Cherkassy regional and city administration).

B) Interdepartmental disunity between Paralympic and Deaflympic sports authorities in Ukraine.

After several joint meetings an understanding has been established, duties allocated, and all the needs of the organization of the championship have been met.

The event in Cherkassy was compact and spectator-friendly.

For each type of the programme the areas with most suitable terrain were chosen.

The quality of accommodation was not always up to the international standards.

The drawback of the WOC programme: no model event for middle distance was held, even though the terrain significantly differed from those of the sprint, long distance and relay races.

I have approved two deviations from the IOF regulations, and namely:

1. ISOM 2000: maps were printed on a colour laser printer. The Standard requires printing maps in a typography using spot colours.

2. ISSOM 2007: an additional symbol for a bench was introduced. There is a direct indication in the Standard prohibiting denoting such objects on the map.

### **Complaints, protests and decisions thereon**

No written protests and complaints were received during the competition.

### **Ideas and suggestions**

As far as I know, due to the partial financing of the event by the Deaf Sports Federation of Ukraine, it was not allowed to conduct related events.

If the parallel co-championship competition for all comers were permitted, then:

A) The attendance on the arenas would increase considerably;

B) The organising committee would receive additional income that would improve the quality of organisation of the main championship.

Victor Kirianov, IOF advisor Kiev, 04.08.2011