



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

GUIDELINE

Sanctions



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GUIDELINE SANCTIONS

FootO 26.10, MTBO 26.11, SkiO 26.19, TrailO 26.11

Introduction

As an outcome of the Fair Play project, the rule regarding sanctions has been extended to include alternatives to disqualification.

A competitor who breaks any rule, or who benefits from the breaking of any rule, may be sanctioned.

The sanctions that may be applied are:

- *A time penalty for jumping the start in a mass [or chasing SkiO] start format race [not TrailO]*
- *Disqualification*
- *Suspension from competition for a defined period (only by the Disciplinary Panel)*

The event organiser, or (as a result of a Protest) the jury, has responsibility for imposing sanctions during an event, defined as the event programme in the event bulletin. Outside of an event, the Disciplinary Panel has responsibility for imposing sanctions.

The following document gives some guidance and examples regarding the appropriate sanction that might be imposed after a rule has been broken.

The organiser is generally referred to as the person imposing the sanction, but in the case of a Protest it may be the jury, or outside of an event, the IOF Disciplinary Panel.

What is a sanction?

Sanctions are penalties or other means of enforcement used to provide incentives for obedience with the law, or with rules and regulations. **Imposing a sanction is a punishment** for breaking a rule.

In orienteering the following sanctions are used:

- Time penalty (only to be applied for jumping the start in a mass [or chasing SkiO] start race)
- Disqualification
- Suspension from competition for a defined period

When to impose a sanction?

1. The rule deliberately says that if a rule is broken, a competitor “**may** be sanctioned” (not “**must** be sanctioned”).
2. If a rule infringement is very minor, gives no significant advantage to the competitor who broke the rule and was not deliberate, then the organiser may decide that **no sanction** is appropriate.

Example 1: In a sprint race, a competitor goes a few metres up a private driveway marked on the map in olive green, then immediately realises the mistake and comes back again.

TITLE:

The competitor has broken rule 17.2 Competitors shall not enter, follow or cross areas, routes or features drawn with the following symbols:.....ISSprOM 520 Area that shall not be entered. But no advantage has been gained (in fact the competitor lost time) and no sanction is required.

Time penalty

3. Except for the case of jumping the start in a mass start race, the organiser must not adjust the time that a competitor recorded for the course.

Example 2: A competitor saves 30 seconds in a sprint by going through an unmapped open gate in a high wall. The competitor must be disqualified. The use of a time penalty is not permitted.

4. In a mass start race, a time penalty must be given for starting too early or looking at the map too early. It is generally not appropriate to recall the competitors in a case of a “false” start because they will have started to look at their maps.

Example 3: In a SkiO mass start a competitor can be seen on the video recording to have jumped the gun.

The competitor has two minutes added to their time and their finish position is adjusted accordingly.

Comment:

The experience in SkiO, who have had this rule for several years, is that it has not needed to be used but the issue of competitors jumping the start has been eliminated. SkiO have a fixed time penalty of two minutes

In FootO and MTBO, jumping the start has not been a significant problem. At the moment, no fixed time penalty has been set for these two disciplines. Therefore, if the rule did need to be used, the organiser (or jury in the case of a Protest) would need to decide the time penalty.

Disqualification

5. Disqualification is the standard penalty if a rule is broken.

Example 4: A competitor cuts across a field clearly marked on the map as out-of-bounds. The competitor must be disqualified.

TITLE:

Example 5: A national MTBO team is seen to train in an embargoed area one month before the competition.

The whole team must be disqualified because rule 26.6 was broken.

Example 6: A competitor did not respond to an injured athlete's cry for help.

The competitor who passed the injured athlete without stopping must be disqualified as it is the duty of all competitors to help injured athletes (rule 26.2).

Suspension from competitions for a defined period

6. Suspension from competition is a ban from IOF events for a defined period, e.g. 18 months so as to include the next World Championship.
7. The sanction of suspension from competition is only appropriate for **particularly serious rules breaches**.

Example 7: A competitor is so frustrated about taking a long time finding a control that he/she throws the control unit into the bushes where the following competitors cannot see it. This unsporting action was witnessed by two other competitors.

Example 8: After having crossed the finish line, a competitor is seen to re-enter the competition terrain and to help competitors of their team by guiding them to an especially tricky control.

Example 9: An MTBO rider is found out to have used a bicycle with electric assistance, which is forbidden according to MTBO rule 21.2.

8. Suspension from competition can only be imposed by the IOF Disciplinary Panel.
9. The Event Organiser and Jury can only define sanctions applicable to the event for which they are appointed. In addition to disqualification from their competition, they can refer rule infringements to the IOF Disciplinary Panel if they feel that it was a very serious rules breach where suspension from future competition might be appropriate.
10. The IOF Disciplinary Panel decides if a rule infringement is a particularly serious rules breach and, as a consequence, justifies a suspension from competitions.

Example 10: A World Masters competitor is seen verbally abusing and threatening the finish officials at the end of a race. Based on rule 26.1, the organiser disqualified the competitor but also referred this case to the IOF Disciplinary Panel.

11. The IOF Disciplinary Panel defines the time period of a ban from IOF events.

David Rosen, Barry McCrae and Ursula Häusermann for the Rules Commission, November 2021

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