

Coaches Conference 2023

Report DISCUSSION

The coaches all described a high workload for all of them and sometimes it is a pity that personal coaching and the contact with athletes is therefore reduced. Kilian Imhof described similarities between all nations, for example that there is a big enthusiasm in the orienteering community in general. Additionally, he appreciates the orienteering environment as being an open culture and nations do not work against each other.

Some coaches consider the high number of travelling days as one of the biggest challenges as a full-time coach in international orienteering. Furthermore, selections are always difficult for the coaches as they are sometimes even personal coaches of the athletes.

There are different opinions when it comes to the discussion about the Olympics. On the one hand, orienteering would get more attention in general and more appearance on TV which is a big chance. On the other hand, much work must be done to ensure fair play when taking part in the Olympics. Some coaches even stated that they refuse the idea to get to the Olympics because they simply would like to maintain the current way of doing orienteering in general.

There was also a discussion about how to support athletes in the age of 18-23 as they drop-out quite often in this age group. Charly Boichut explained that the federation gives them more time to develop in this age and the performance is not that important as it might be from the age of 25. The coaches concluded that there should be opportunities for this age group to compete on a high level as well. That's why they support competitions like WUOC, Eurometing (and e.g. U23-WOC in the future), which can be season highlights for B-team athletes.

Finally, the coaches all agreed that cooperation between the nations is valuable for all involved people. Many of the coaches stress out that they would support common activities for national teams (and also for individuals from small orienteering nations) in the future. Full discussion [here](#).

The Austrian Orienteering Federation would like to thank all coaches for their participation and their interest in the Coaches Conference! All summaries and reports can be found [here](#).