

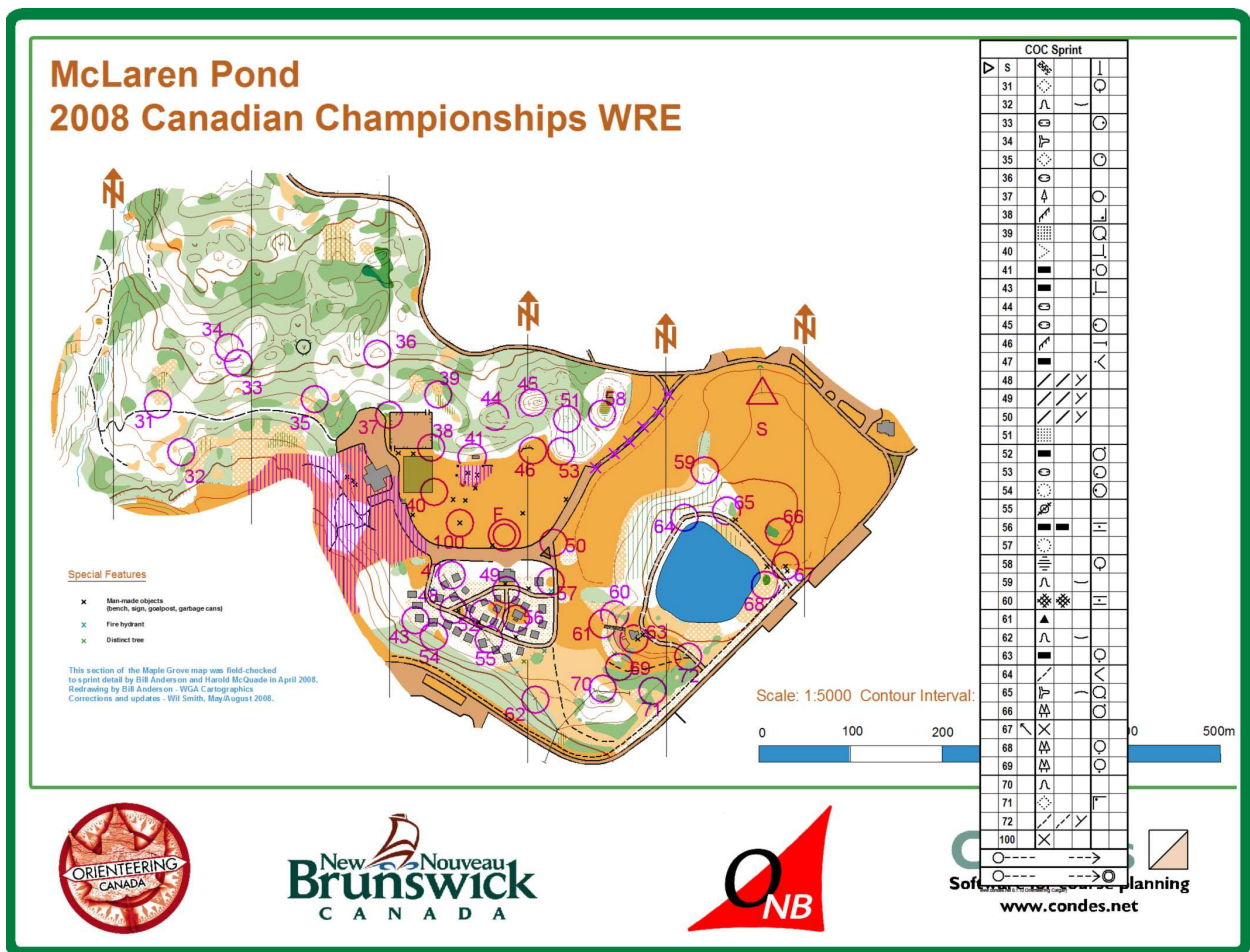
# IOF Event Advisor Report

## Canadian Championships – Sprint Distance Fundy National Park, New Brunswick Aug 22, 2008

Submitted by Adrian Zissos

According to the IOF's *WRE Guidelines* reports to the IOF should only be made if there are unusual circumstances. This report is being submitted since the organizers took advantage of the experimental Sprint Rules described in Appendix 3.

Here is a copy of the "All Controls" view of the event, including non-WRE-course controls.



The original reason for the request to use the Experimental Rules was to provide the course planner with flexibility to fully exploit the complex area of small chalets immediately south of the finish area. During test running it was felt that having controls spaced according to the "normal" rules would simplify the orienteering due to high visibility. The idea of the course planner, supported by the IOF EA,

was to maintain navigational difficulty in the chalets by requiring orienteers to navigate to the feature – rather than seeing the flag from far away and simply running to the flag. It was felt that having more than one flag in sight would improve the technical challenge. At the same time the planner was very aware that he did not want runners to slow down (he was not attempting to make a micro-O – like course), so would use the experimental rules only if absolutely necessary.

As it turned out the course planner was able to find suitably different control features in the area that allowed him to stick to the original rules with no controls “given away” by too-high or too-early visibility. However some controls were very, very close to 30m apart and so it was nice to have advertised in advance that controls may be closer than 30m as this prepared competitors for a high density of controls and also eliminated any possibility of protest.

In the event the planner did make two pairs of controls closer than the normal rules, but these were not in the chalet area. Here is a brief report:

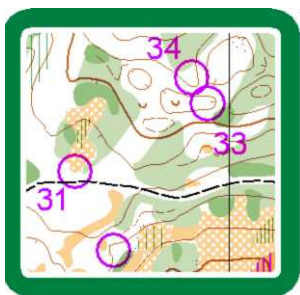
### **Controls 60 / 61**



This picture shows control #60, second control on the M21E course. The feature was “between two copses”. Control #61 was on a boulder 17m to the southwest (see the ‘All controls’ map above).

There was one mis-punch at this control site. The runner, a member of the Canadian National Team, explained that the loose control description sheet was very long and to fit it into his arm band he had to fold over the sheet so that the first two controls were not visible. His route choice took him through the open field west of the lake and so past control 61 which he punched. Note that control descriptions were also printed on the front of the map; this runner did not check these descriptions. As well, the size of the loose control descriptions had been published in advance of the race.

### **Controls 33 / 34**



This picture shows Controls #33 & #34 which were 20m apart. The W21E had a leg from 31-33, and the M21E had a leg from 31-34. The two control sites were used to split up the courses while keeping them both within the channels of fast forest. The features were very different and there were no issues.

## Control 52



This picture shows control #8 from the M21E course. There were four runners (out of 38) who did not punch at this control since they went directly from #7 - #9. As described earlier, this area did not use the Experimental Rules and all controls were spaced according to the normal rules.

In summary, the Experimental Rules were used sparingly. It was comforting to the organizers to know that competitors expected close-together controls and that controls could be placed at the limits of the normal rules with no worry about protests over a meter or two here or there. Competitors enjoyed the courses and made very few comments about the use of the experimental rules. My opinion is that so long as the rules are not used to change the nature of a Sprint race (i.e. so long as they are used to maintain or enhance navigational difficulty while maintaining high speed) that they are useful to the course planner and can provide for more enjoyable and more challenging orienteering.

Respectfully,

Adrian Zissos, Calgary, Canada

September 8, 2008