

Controller's comments

Most things went exactly to plan on the day but the main issue that Anita and I have had to consider has inevitably been the temporary loss of a control affecting several competitors, having regard of course to the appropriate BOF rules and annexes. The implications of the loss need to be considered carefully and this can only be done in conjunction with an analysis of the results for each course. It was immediately clear that the impact was less than might otherwise have been expected in some of these circumstances e.g. during a forest event, where time relocating may have been involved, or had the control perhaps been part way along a long road in an urban race. The control site was a particularly specific one and hence to some it was quickly identified that the control was not where it should have been. Some others of you will have looked further afield, but with a very confined area that the control had to be in, this did not seem to have taken most of you very long to do either.

Anita therefore had two main options, keeping the results unchanged or voiding the legs either side of the control, with each affected course needing to be considered separately. Having looked through the results for each affected course, the effect on the Nopesport and SEOUL League points and the race positions with or without the adjustment, Anita has concluded that there has not been a sufficiently significant impact to merit voiding the two legs completely on any of courses 1 to 4 and I concur with her conclusion.

Naturally a few of you will be disappointed, especially if you may have anticipated a different decision during your race and reacted accordingly. But as they say in other sports, I would encourage everyone to "play to the whistle". I sympathise with those who may feel slightly hard done (and I hope it is only slightly!) but to reiterate, there is no one approach which is the "right answer" and all options lead to a somewhat suboptimal position in these difficult circumstances, especially voiding a course completely.

David's new map received many positive comments although I apologise that I didn't pick up every instance where including the first part of a road into an out of bounds area would have been helpful to you.

Sarah and Clare's courses also had you thinking and several of you commented that you felt that they made very good use of the area through plenty of route choice. I overheard a couple of debates afterwards as to whether option A or B was better, mostly inconclusive!

There were plenty of Saxons helpers too; it is always a good sign to a Controller when the first start is capable of taking place at least 30 minutes before it is actually scheduled.

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