SURVEY RESULTS

WTOC 2017

TrailO Athletes Commission

RESPONDENTS

The survey was opened immediately after WTOC 2017 and competitors were encouraged by the commentator during PreO Day2 and on the event Facebook page to fill the survey.

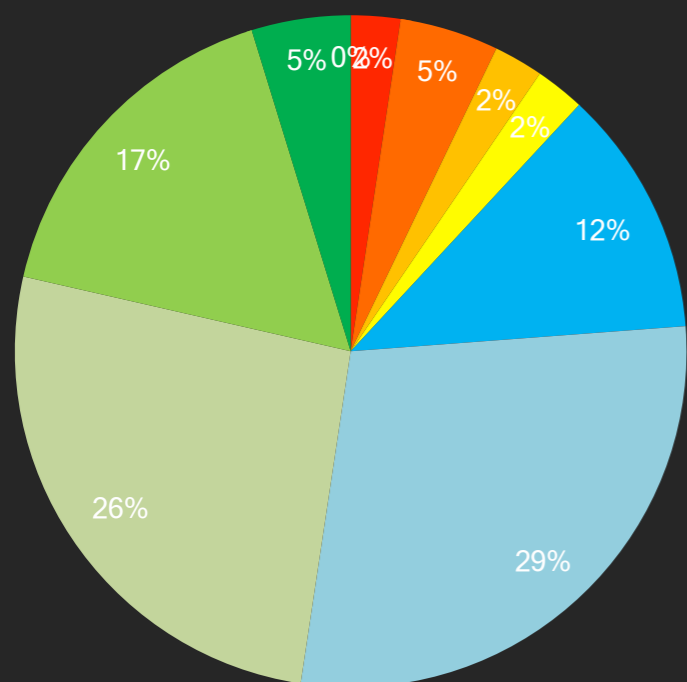We had 42 responses and closed the survey in October 2017

‣ 27 responses were from open class competitors

‣ 11 responses were from para class competitors, 3 of which use a wheelchair

‣ 4 responses were from team officials/escorts (at least one of which took part in public competition)

From those who left their email address, we can see that respondents cover Scandinavia, other West European countries, East European countries and non-European countries. Thus reflecting the geographical diversity of participants at WTOC.
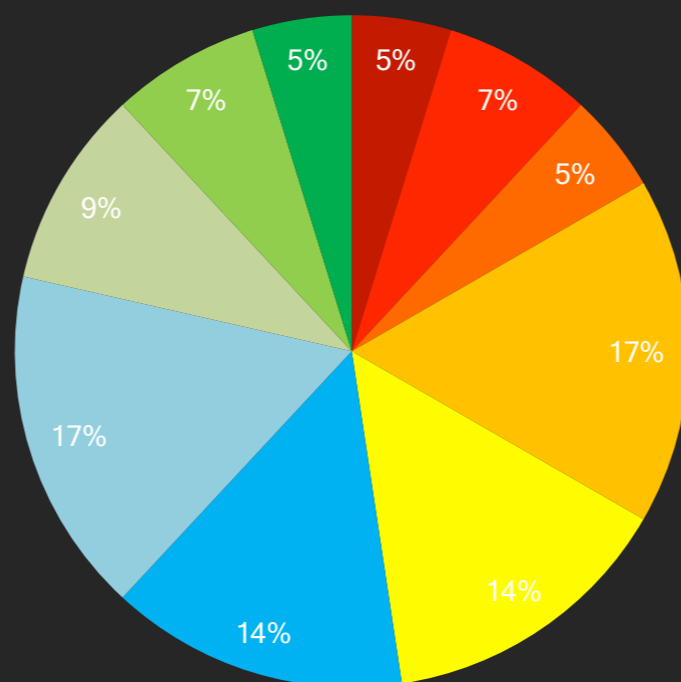
ORGANISATION

First we asked competitors to rate the following aspects on a scale of 1 (worst ever) to 10 (best ever).
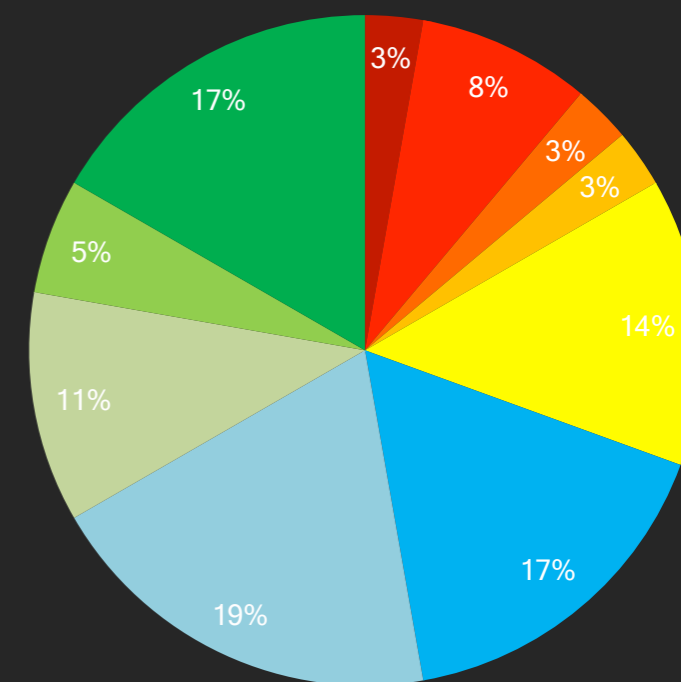

Quality of the map

2% 5% 2% 2% 0% 5% 17% 26% 29% 12%

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Fairness of the problems

5% 7% 5% 17% 14% 14% 17% 9% 7% 5%

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Suitability of tracks

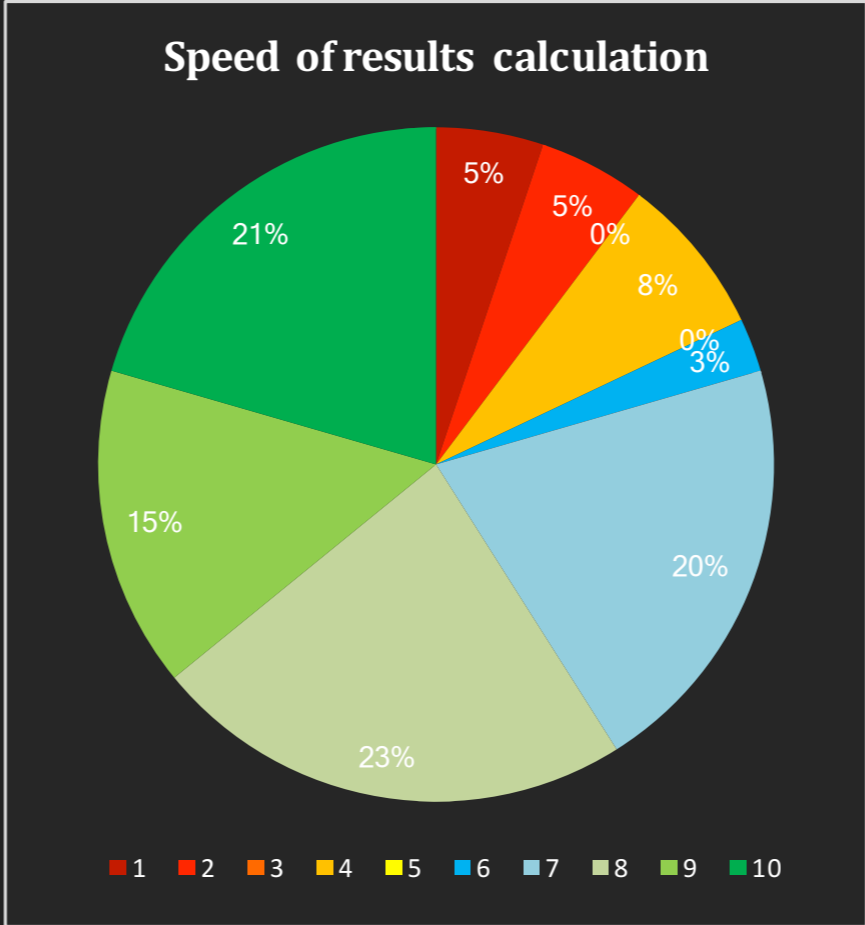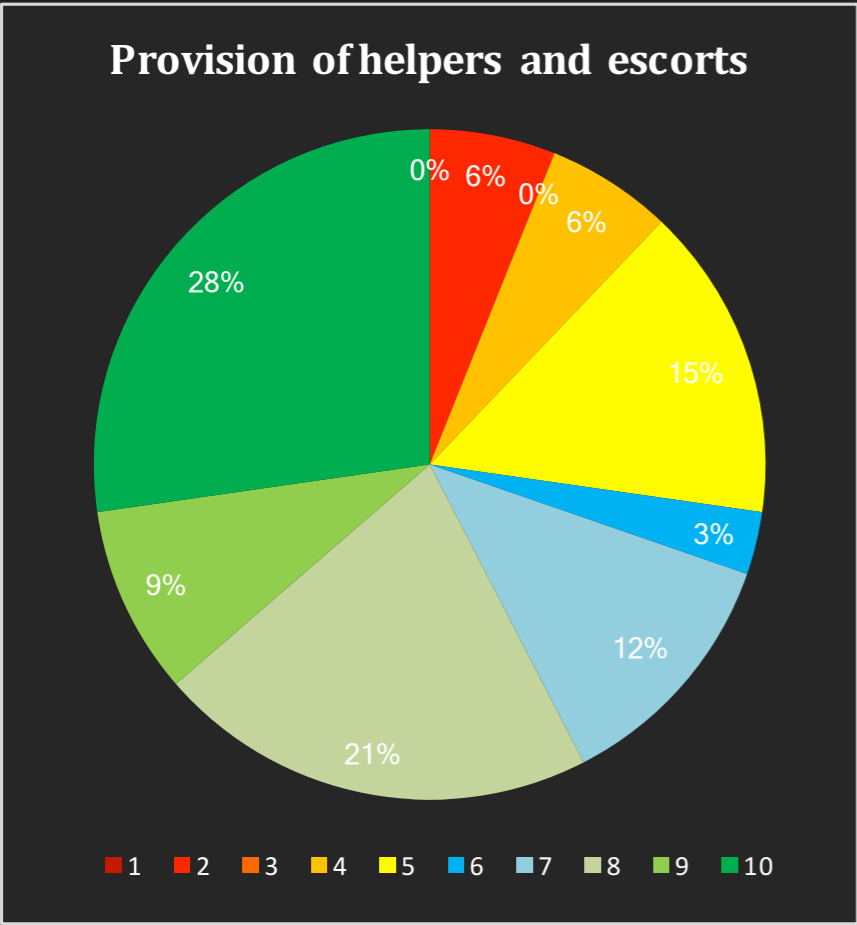3% 8% 3% 3% 14% 17% 19% 11% 5% 17%

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

ORGANISATION

First we asked competitors to rate the following aspects on a scale of 1 (worst ever) to 10 (best ever).
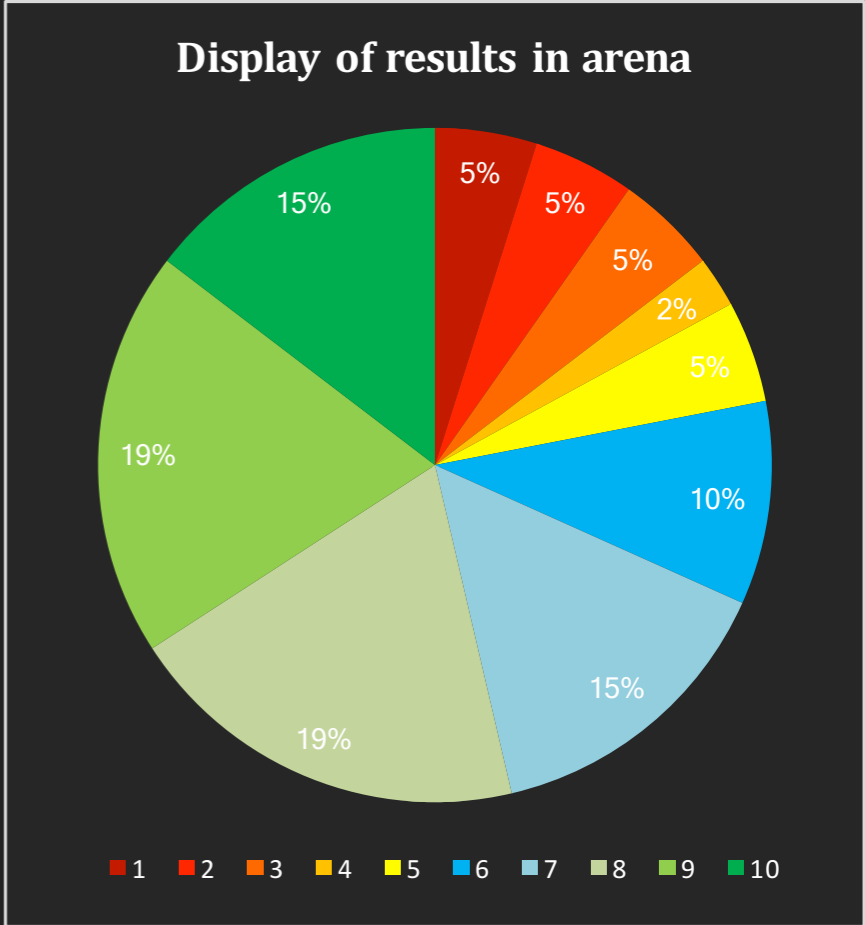
ORGANISATION

Thus this was the worst rated event since we started major event surveys in 2015. We also asked for further comments on the organisation and event quality of WTOC 2017.

Overall organisation

Legend: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Pie chart values: 5%, 10%, 18%, 10%, 11%, 8%, 16%, 8%, 11%, 3%
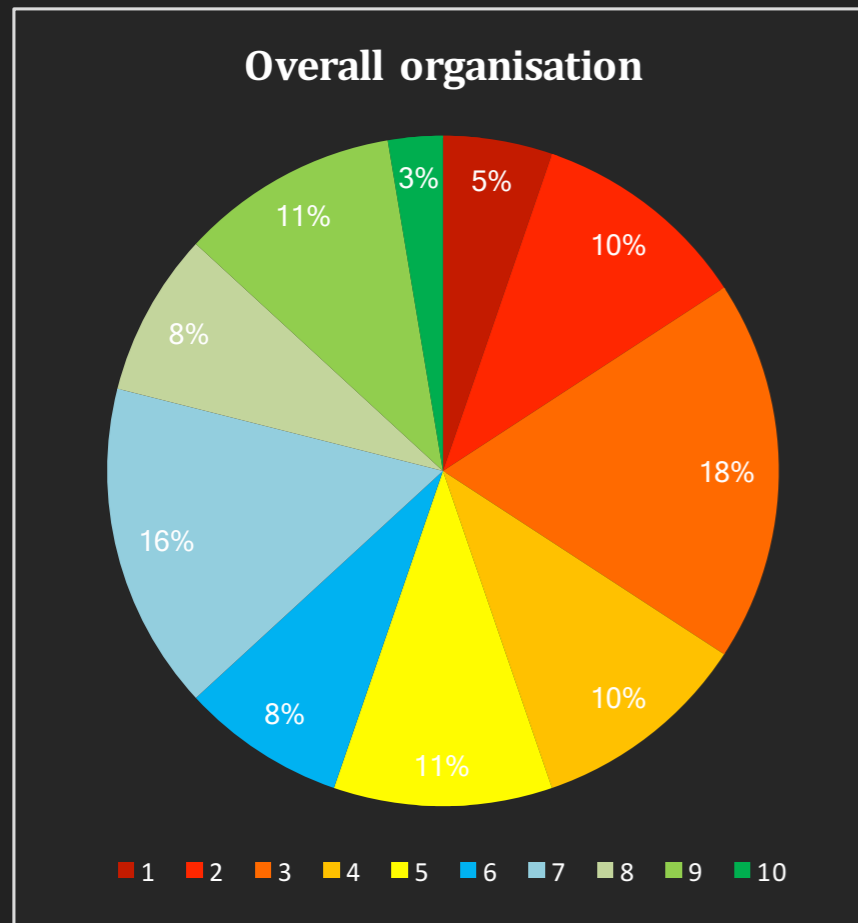
Average score 4.8 - compare to 8.2 (WTOC 2015 and WTOC 2016) and 7.8 (ETOC 2016)!

This was good at WTOC 2017:
‣ Good/OK maps
‣ Course planning was generally OK and with stronger controlling would have been good
‣ Very well working and friendly marshals
‣ The various event terrains chosen were good
‣ Very good hotel for everyone, people interacted very often
‣ The general organization was in a really high level
‣ "Anyway all my respect to Andrius"

Problems at WTOC 2017:
most participants left negative comments about the following topis - detailed on next pages
‣ general organisation
‣ courses
‣ controlling
‣ maps

PROBLEMS WITH GENERAL ORGANISATION

‣ Too small organisation, failure of the main WTOC official to delegate

‣ There were too few Lithuanian key organisers. (Without help of Croatians..)

‣ Event office has sometimes been closed at times when the bulletin said it will be open.

‣ Some arenas were without shelters, enough toilets, enough places for sitting etc.

‣ No printed results

‣ The time schedule of organisation was unrealistic and planning poor. (It made also impossible for the event advisor to check for example relay course).

‣ Delayed starts. The delays were communicated too late, when the first competitors were about to start

‣ Team official meetings were bad, a clear english communication should be made.

‣ inconsistency between information in bulletin and real settings

‣ obvious rule violations, some of which were only corrected at the last minute

‣ in the banquet there was lack of food and some lunch in the arena were too small.

‣ Public event results are still not published.

PROBLEMS WITH COURSES

‣ Too many problems with courses. Main problem was a lack of definite keys for solving some CPs at the PreO1 and PreO2. Also there were questions about some CPs on Relay.

‣ It had nothing to do with the precise orientation (for example setting and measurement of CPs shortly before start of competition).

‣ The flags must be to exactly point, not 4-5 meters around

‣ The tracks for relay and especially for PreOs were substandard

‣ TempO is all about speed of reading map and/or control description. Now description part was not asked and speed went down because of too narrow flagging.

‣ Quarantine was used too much for course setup. PreO courses should be setup before competition is about to start.

‣ Somebody was in the relay 7 hours of the day in quarantine, that is too much.

PROBLEMS WITH CONTROLLING

‣ SEA was not involved enough, because map problems should have been identified before.

‣ Organizers and controllers should have checked correspondence between control description and actual the number of flags and between control description and SI stations.

‣ SEA here failed to recognize the catastrophe of the "one-man-show" organisation model. IOF should start process of voiding SEA licenses.

PROBLEMS WITH MAPS

‣ Maps were very precise. However that came with cost of readability.

‣ Vegetation mapping was problematic - canopies especially. White forest means multiple trees on runner level, not on 6-10 meters above. We should not have special maps for TrailO

BEST AND WORST CONTROLS IN PREO

The best controls are CP4 & CP23 on Day 2 with 5 votes each:

‣ CP4 "required careful terrain interpretation, different viewing locations and was set clearly"

‣ CP23 required "solving the control very early at CP11 in the course"

The best Day 1 PreO control is CP12 with 3 votes

‣ "nice detailed terrain, possible to solve with careful terrain reading"

The worst controls is Day 2 CP20 with 8 votes (~15%)

‣ The comments are mainly concerned about mapping accuracy in vegetation around this long distance control

The worst Day 1 PreO Control is CP2 with 7 votes also concerned about mapping quality as well as unsolvable setting
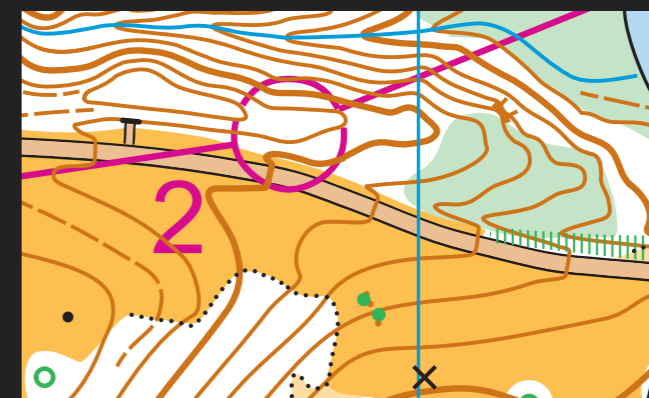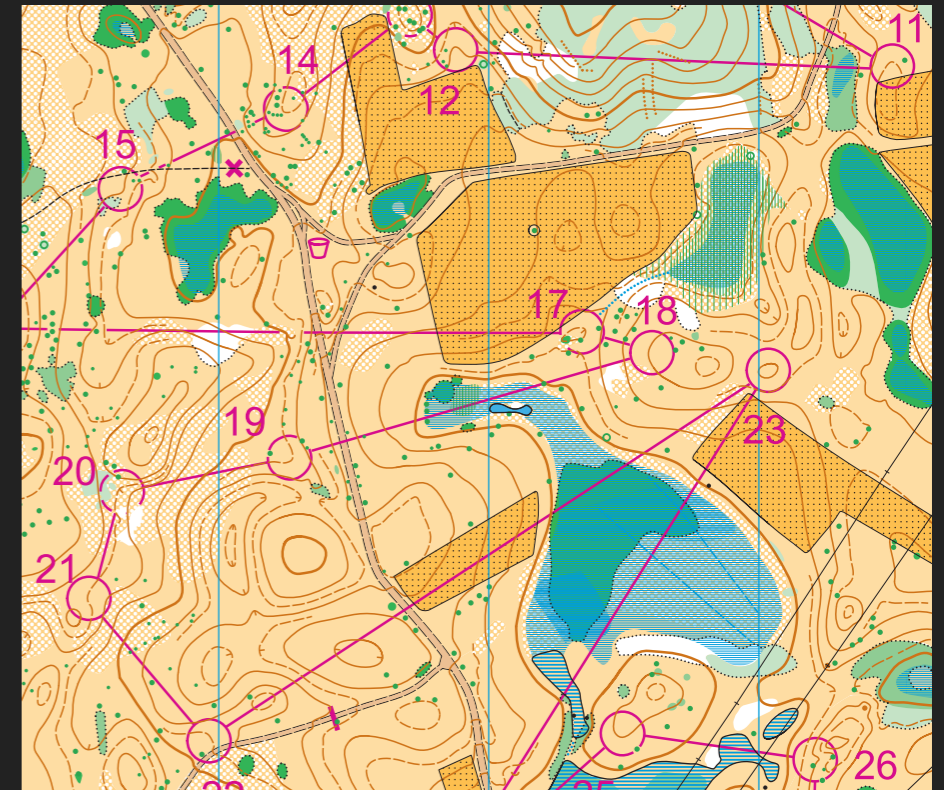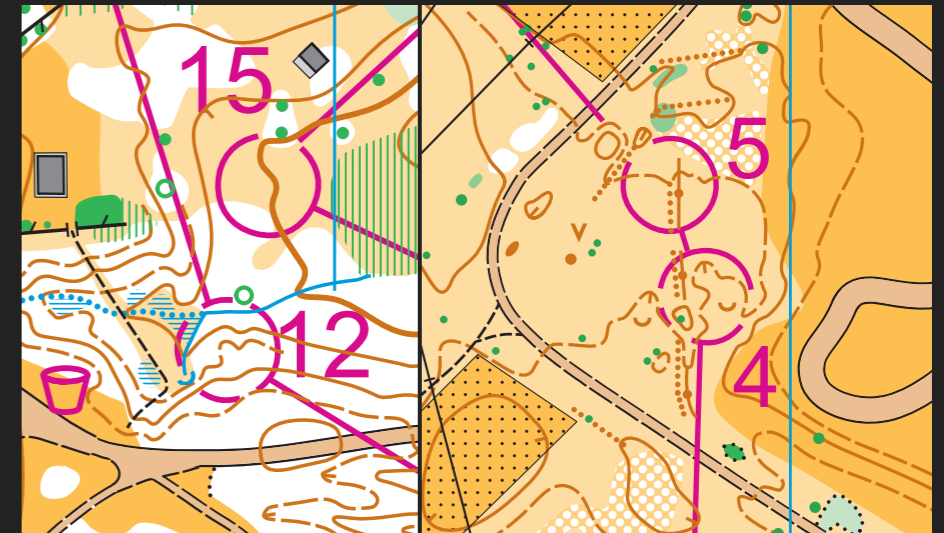
BEST AND WORST CONTROLS IN TEMPO

The best TempO station is Qualification Station 3 with 5 votes

▸ It contains many features in details requiring quick and precise map reading
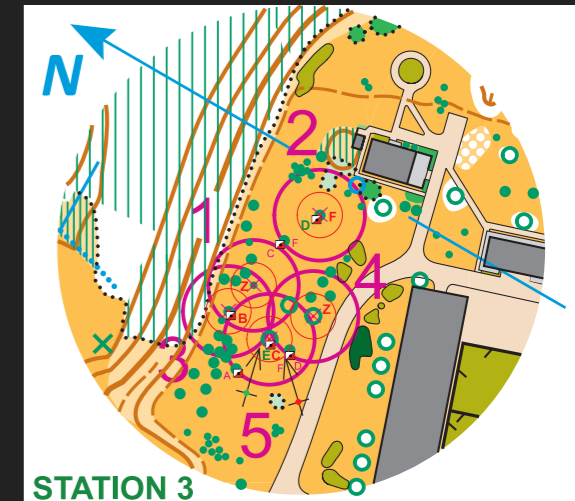
STATION 3

The worst TempO Station is Qualification Station 5 with 9 votes (~20%)

▸ The setting is too difficult for TempO using BETWEEN problems

▸ It is not interesting for only counting of trees

▸ It also provides unfair condition for answering Zeros strategy
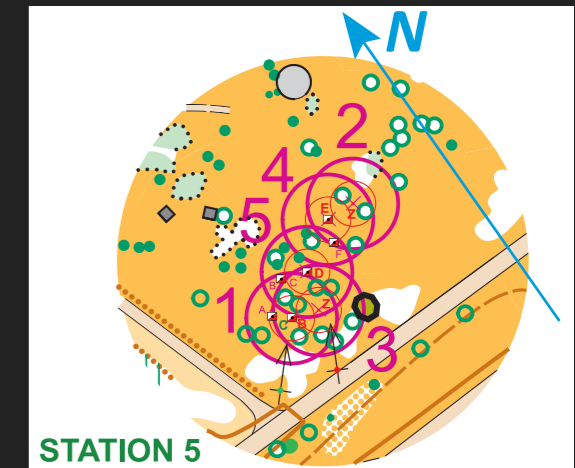
STATION 5

Also, Qualification Station 2 has 6 votes

▸ due to unclear view of the flag location in flat terrain over long distance

STATION 2
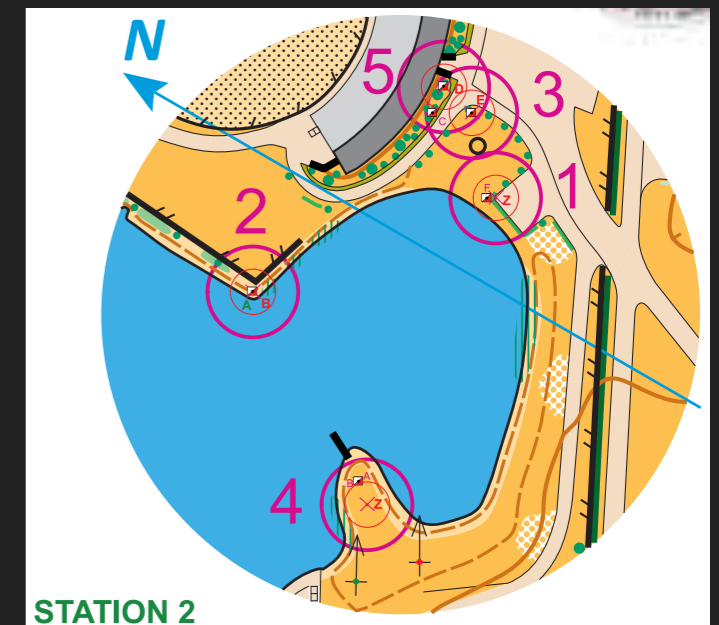
ZERO TOLERANCE GUIDANCE

Do you think that zero tolerance guidance as given in bulletin 4 was helpful to answer correctly?

Were Zero controls set clearly in TempO and the TempO part of the Relay?

Were Zero controls set clearly in PreO and the PreO part of the Relay?

Zero tolerance guidance

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Don't know

Zero controls at TempO

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Don't know

Zero controls at TempO

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Don't know
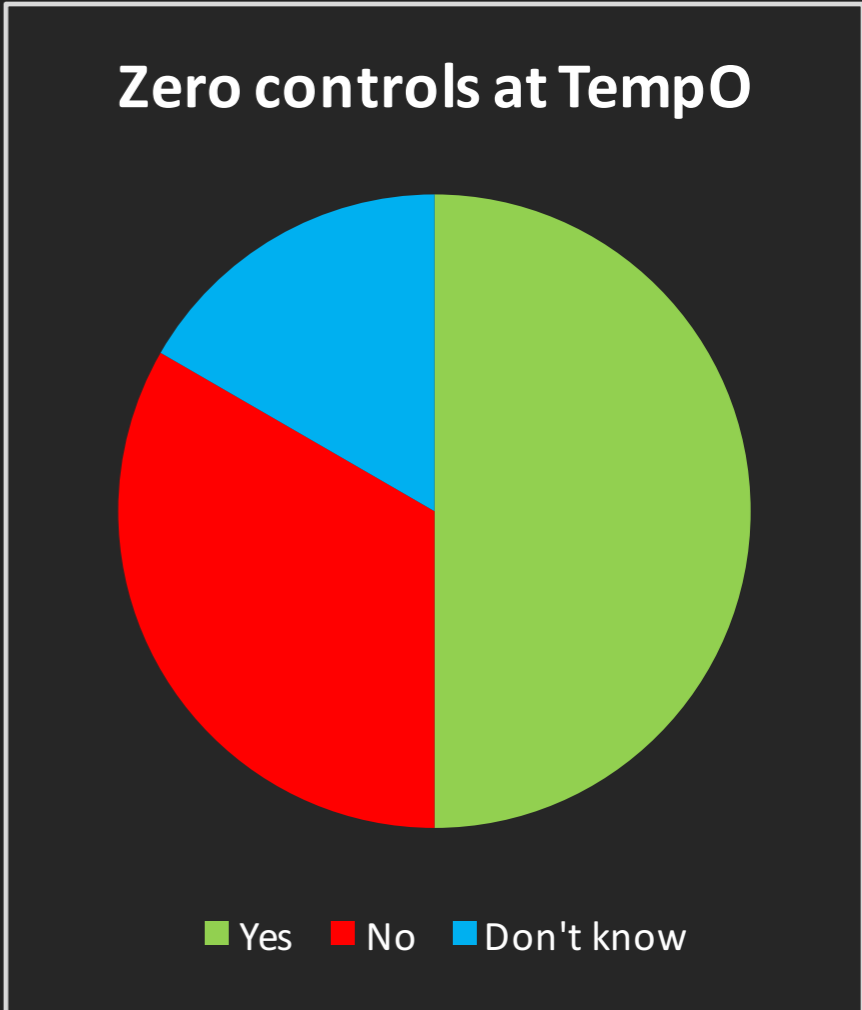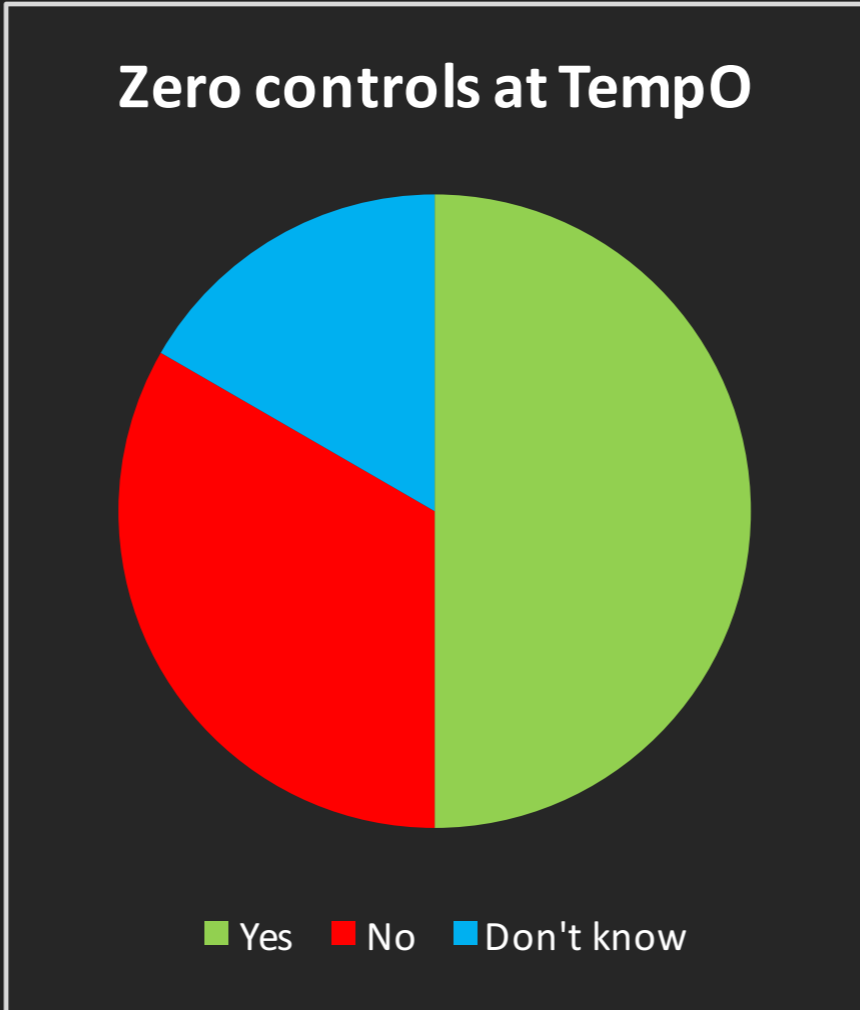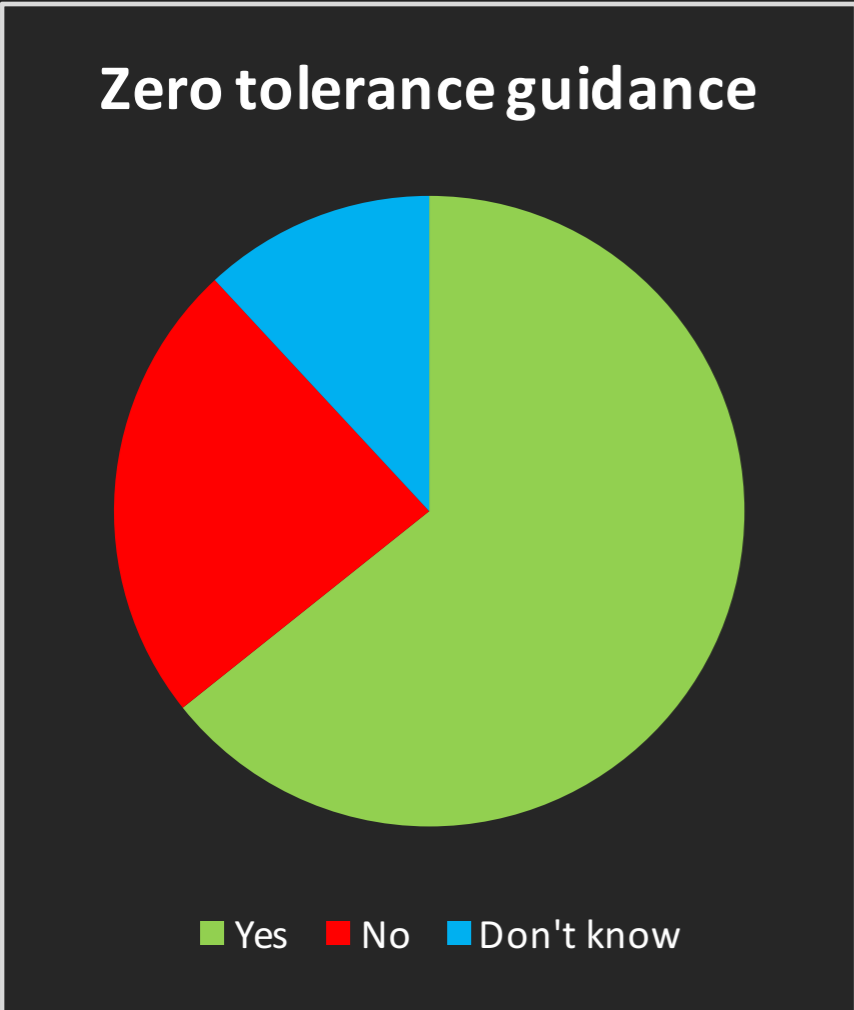
ELECTRONIC PUNCHING

Did the double recording on control card and mobile ANT system work well at the TempO?

31 out of 42 responders said that the double recording on control card and mobile ANT system worked well at the TempO. (74%)

ELECTRONIC PUNCHING

Did the electronic punching setup with SI units work well for the TrailO? I.e. was it easy to operate and private when punching?

24 responders were simply happy with the electronic punching setup with SI units (It worked well for the TrailO, it was easy to operate and private when punching.) Only 3 responders were not happy with the above (notably two of these being paralympic competitors), and 15 left a comment.

‣ many comments were about the cover - it could work well if it was properly attached to the punching system (too light, not sustaining the wind, obviously the organizer didn't think about it in advance,..)

‣ quite few people commented on the **privacy** - they didn't feel enough privacy while punching. This seems the major issue competitors had with this type of punching.

‣ some comments preferred carousels to the system used in Lithuania, one had it otherwise - commenting on the fact that in Lithuania you didn't have chance to recognize what the competitor before you punched (which might be a problem with carousels).

Most of those 15 responders leaving comments were generally happy with the punching however dislike some details around it.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Are you happy with the complaints/protest procedure for TrailO competitions?

Complaints Procedure

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know
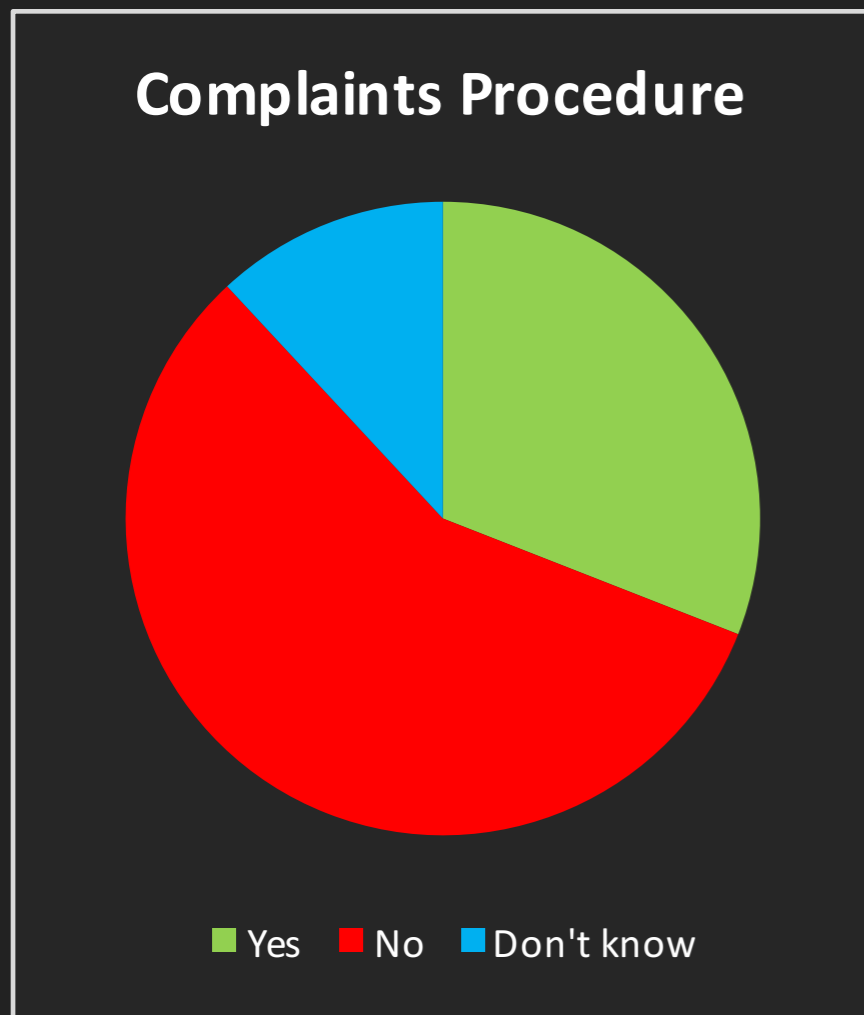
‣ several comments on 15min being too short for drafting complaints

‣ one thinks fee is too low, others think fee is too high - only affordable for rich countries, some federations do not permit cash payments to make a protest - this causes imbalance

‣ until the deadline for protest, no detail results should be published; jury should be independent and not aware of detailed results

‣ there could be two different time periods for two different types of protests/complaints. First, competitors know only the final standing, final score & time and make complaints about controls they feel were really wrong. Only after these are sorted, competitors can see their punching and get solution maps. New time period begins for complaints about wrong count.

‣ it would be much better if competitors could go back onto the course with planner/controller before deciding whether to make a formal protest.

JURY COMPOSITION AND REMITS

Do you think that the jury should make decisions to void individual controls?

Most competitors agree that individual controls can be voided. Some comments below:

‣ Jury should make such decisions assuming they are neutral between organizers and competitors. They should not know detailed results and might need to be quarantined.

‣ The real problem this year was the appalling performance of the controller & IOF advisors, leaving the jury in an impossible situation. It would be better, if the event advisors would represent the competitor and not protect honour of organisers. If that were the case, we don't need jury and jury decision.

‣ One possibility is to not void any controls; this would mean that the same mapping issues are presented to all competitors, but it would allow for real-time answer presentation, increasing the watch-ability of PreO. Competitor coming to the finish should know which place s/he achieved. It is not good if the competitor could make extra push on organiser and jury if they made a mistake to get a better result. Some protests were not solved as they should be (probably lack of technical abilities of the jury) and some were not considered at all.

‣ The jury should not reassess the mapping and course setting as it should have been checked by more qualified people before. They should only consider matters of fairness (e.g. visibility), rule violations, how to mitigate impact of organisational errors on competition.

JURY COMPOSITION AND REMITS

Are you comfortable with recruitment of jury members amongst team officials?

The majority of respondents has concerns about jury composition and suggest ways how to recruit differently or improve their ability to make impartial decisions.

‣ Jury should make such decisions assuming they are neutral between organizers and competitors. They should not know detailed results and might need to be quarantined. Jury should not talk to any competitors before the competition is closed AND they should NOT know detailed results (punching) before the competition is closed and the problematic controls are solved.

‣ Recruiting jury members amongst team officials is okay, but it should be more varied, as some have been jury members for years in row. This year, the jury also made opposite decisions on complaints / protests of similar nature (technical breach of rules that nevertheless didn't gave any advantage on the course), which raises questions about the objectivity of the jury.

‣ Certainly a jury member should stand down from the decision on a particular control if they know the protest has come from their country or will affect their country's medals.

‣ Jury members should be appointed from a set of experienced competitors and active advisors with (at least) travel expenses refunded and accreditation fee waived.

PREFERENCE FOR URBAN VERSUS FORREST TEMPO

Do you prefer forest or urban/park terrain for TempO competitions?

TempO location

- Forrest
- Urban/Park
- no preference
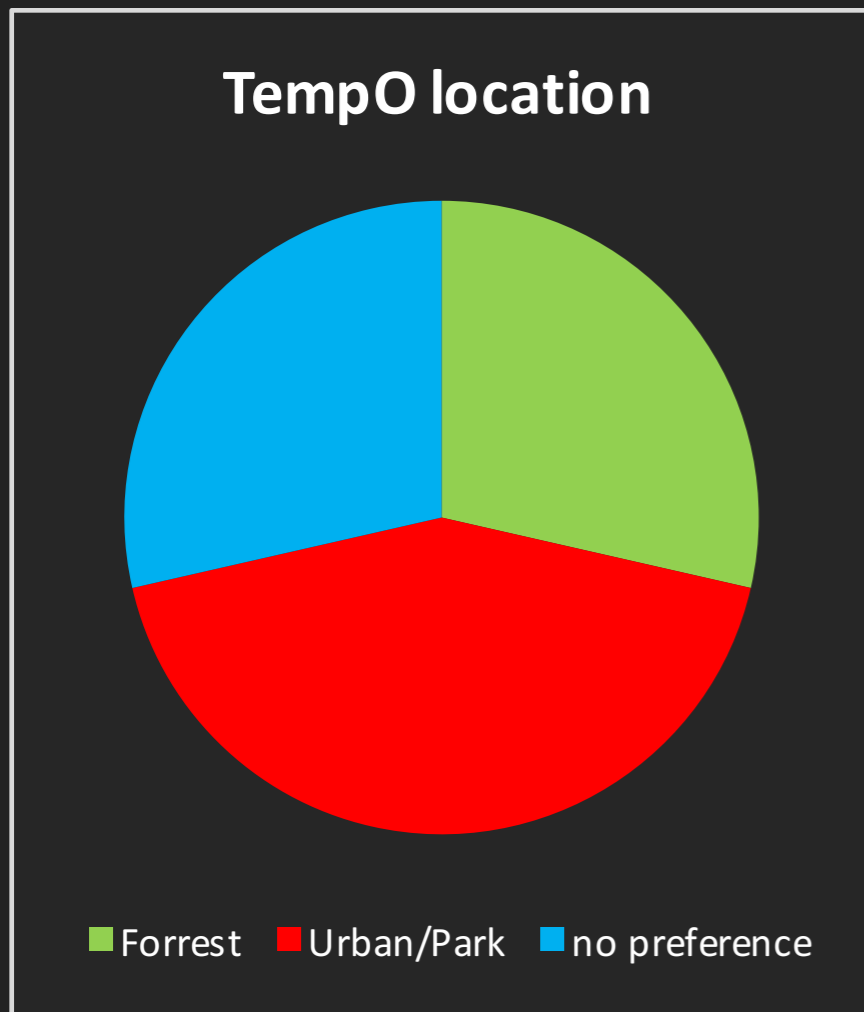
General comments:

‣ It depends more the variety of the tasks not terrain alone. Map of the TempO should be just sprint orienteering map not specialised one.

‣ Planners need to keep the task relatively simple in either terrain. Too much zeros should not be used.

Comments preferring urban/park terrain:

‣ Park terrain challenges everyone to have absolutely fast answer, but not too encouraging Z-ing difficult terrains

‣ better tracks for wheelchairs

‣ better visibility

Comments preferring forest terrain:

‣ contour-reading is better TrailO than tree-counting

NEW URBAN TRAILO FORMAT IDEAS

Do you have any ideas for a new TrailO format that would be possible to hold in an urban/park setting?

▸ TempO team competition

▸ One-man relay

▸ Limited time fixed viewing point team competition

▸ several A- Z problems from one decision point with limited time /1min/task/

▸ two versions of TempO: one with big zero tolerance (no reading of CDs) and one tighter one.

SPLIT WTOC?

How do you envision the programme for a split urban/forest WTOC?

▸ Over half of the responses (14 comments) disagree splitting WTOC into urban & forest format because "urban terrain not complex enough for PreO"

▸ Also "existing format for TempO in urban/park & PreO in forest" works well.

PARALYMPIC ELIGIBILITY

Do you think that the Paralympic eligibility criteria work well?

Paralympic Eligibility

Yes   No   Don't know
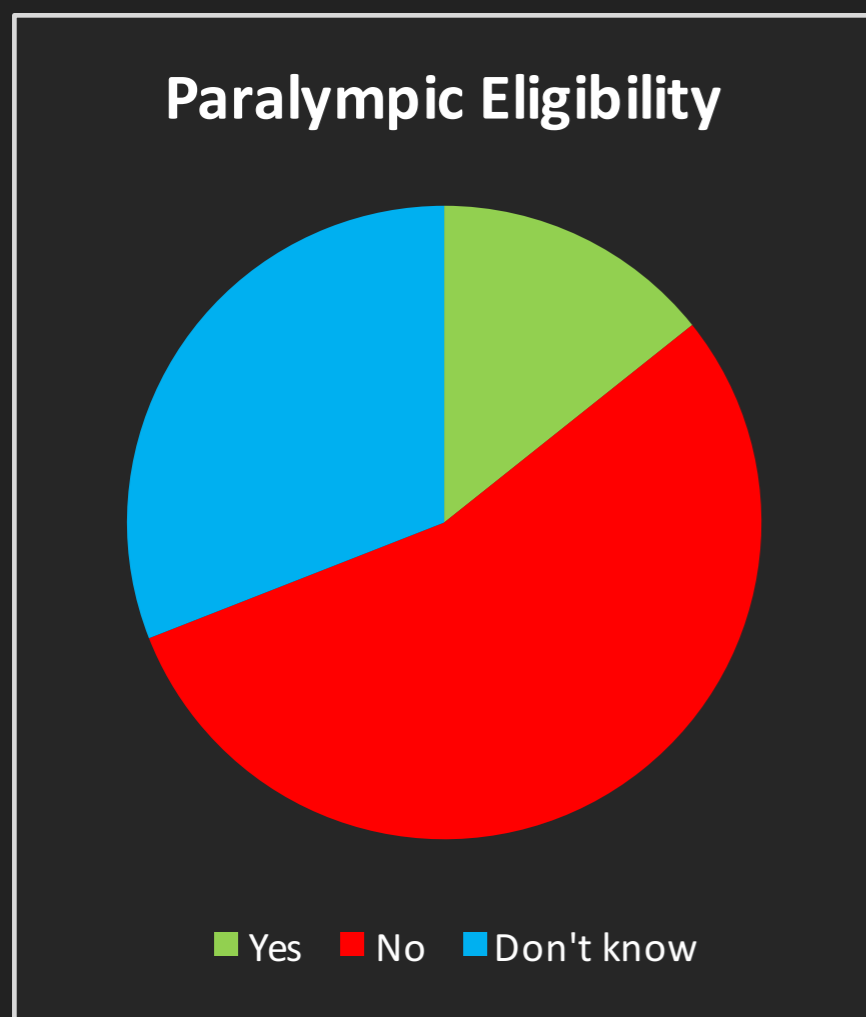
‣ missing clear mobility limits with some para competitors - these should take part in open (quotes: "some para competitors run faster than open ones", "current rule makes it too easy to cheat", "criteria only work if there is a control body"

‣ different classes for sitting and standing competitors suggested - for different experience they have on the course

‣ several proposals to introduce some handicap (extra time) for similar group of Para competitors (walking, electric wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs, etc.).

‣ several suggestions to forbid running / jumping for all in Para, and possibly jumping for all categories generally.

‣ TOAC proposes the introduction of a fair play rule that forbids running and jumping on the course for competitors in the paralympic class