

TrailO Athletes' commission (TOAC)



Please help us to make our sport even better:

1. Fill out our survey after WTOC 2015:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RQDHJNV>

2. Talk to us at events to share your thoughts on courses, organisation, race formats etc.

3. Get in touch via email with any ideas and experiences from your local/regional events throughout the year.

We will integrate ideas & feedback and use this to make recommendations to the IOF and TOC.

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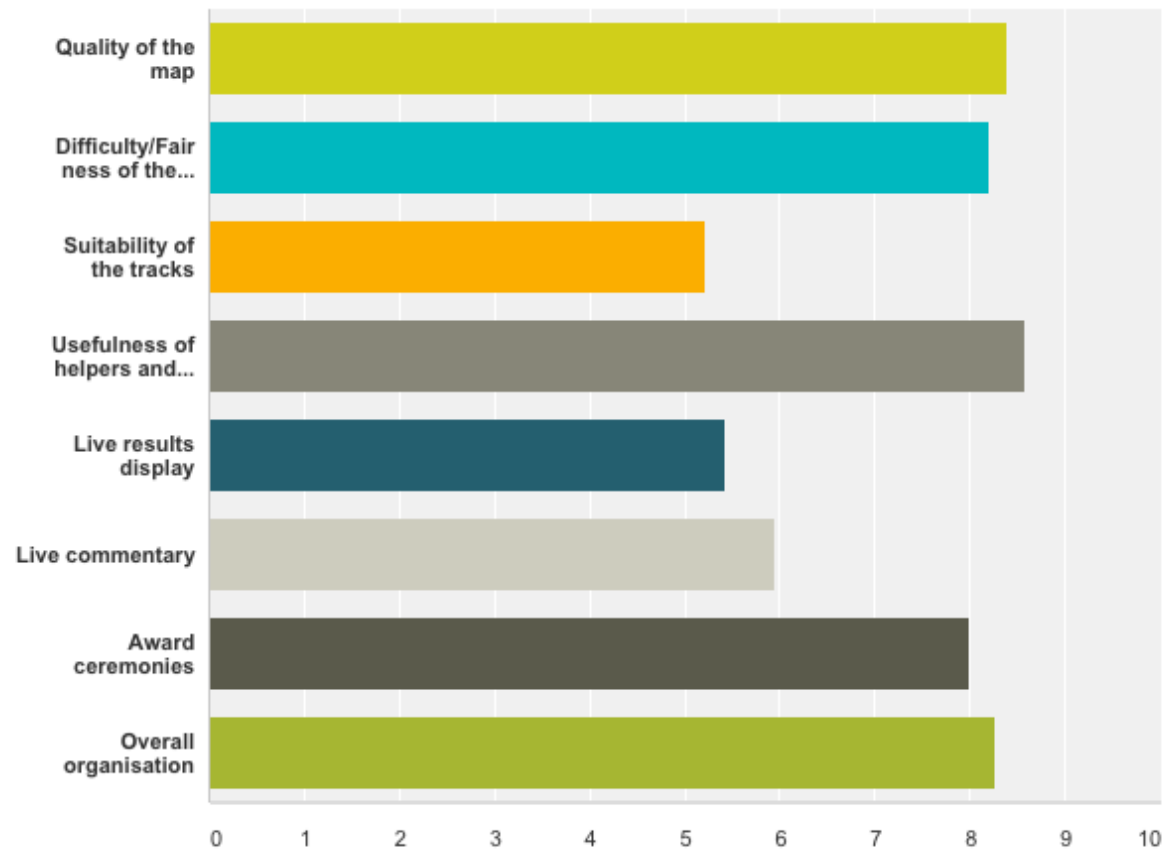


57 responses
from 19 countries

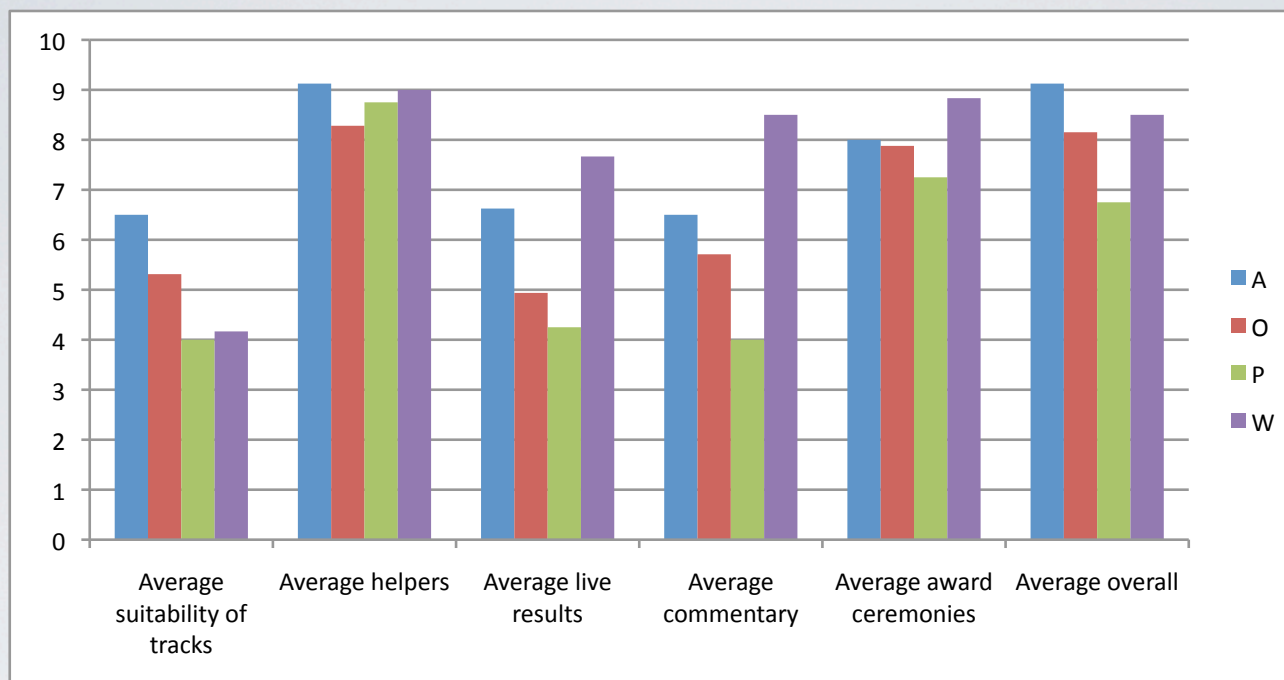
Overall event quality

How do you rate this WTOC in comparison to other major events you attended previously? Rate on a scale of 1 to 10.

Answered: 56 Skipped: 1



Quality - organisation



“The organization (IOF Delegate/Advisor included) must remind that this is an outdoors sport and the trail must be chosen very carefully for the wheelchairs users (also this in presence of strong assistant). This is to avoid injury for all participant (for the first day PreO track).”

***Pre-O 1. day was not suitable for wheelchair competitors.
Not only because of the rain.***

Without a helper absurdity to accomplish.

Quality - organisation

“Results came too slowly. But the boys putting them up were so enthusiastic!”

“The results were published on facebook before they were published on the arena - that's not acceptable. Good with live results, but even better if they were presented to the people at the arena.”

“They involve all people for assistance or for the marshals that they did not pay special attention on commentary and on English of the volunteered commentator.”

“tempo station “correct/false” showing was good”

“It wasn't good that we had to turn our backs towards the medalists when raising the national flags - otherwise it was good!”

“Nice with flowers and cute girls/women”

“Without problems with track on PreO day 1 and with faster results, the Championships would be one of the best until now.”

Quality - maps

The rating for the WTOC maps was **very good**. The biggest issue was over precise mapping. Especially on the map of park Maksimir (Model, relay, tempo model) and Preo day 1 map (Sesvete). There were **many too small point features** which were not according ISSOM symbols. Some features were only 20-30cm high (ISSOM says >1m). Many of those details were **invisible in the terrain**. Competitors didn't comment tempo (qual +final) maps which were mainly according ISSOM symbols.

"The quality of competition maps was excellent, tempo/preo1 model map was more like joke."

"The maps were not according to the ISSOM, many features were too small to be on the maps (like rootstocks)."

Difficulty / Fairness of problems

Difficulty was mostly at a good level. Most of the competitors felt that courses were fair and many of them praised zero control definition to largely contribute to that, e.g. ***“The zero control definitions eliminated the need for guessing between a flag and a zero answer.”***

A few standing competitors thought that on some controls standing people had probably an advantage. Wheelchair users had pros and cons. One wheelchair user writes ***“Overall very fair controls even for low/sitting point of view.”*** Another wheelchair user writes ***“big difference between sitting and standing position”***.

Guidance for zero controls

The organisers provided guidance for zero controls in bulletin 4. Did you find it useful? Do you think it made the competition fairer? Should the guidance for zero controls be more specific, e.g. per control?

81% of participants considered zero control definition as useful or very useful. 6% didn't like it and don't see it as useful. 12% had neutral opinion.

"I think it could be with or without"

-"I didn't find it useful, because it will be more questions with this guidance for zero controls."

"It was great to be able to concentrate on this without worrying whether the control may have been deliberately placed a small distance out to make it a zero."

Guidance for zero controls

"You did not need to guess what is the course planner's style of setting zero controls because that was written down on the paper. I also liked that the zero controls were not too tight and there were more difficult decisions between two different flags."

"... very useful and made the competition very fair. I am always confused about zero control in our national competition, but in WTOC2015 I was not confused at all."

"...Yes - I didn't make mistakes guessing whether a kite was close enough or not. No - guidance per Day is sufficient, per control is overkill."

"Yes, very useful. Maybe it could be simpler."

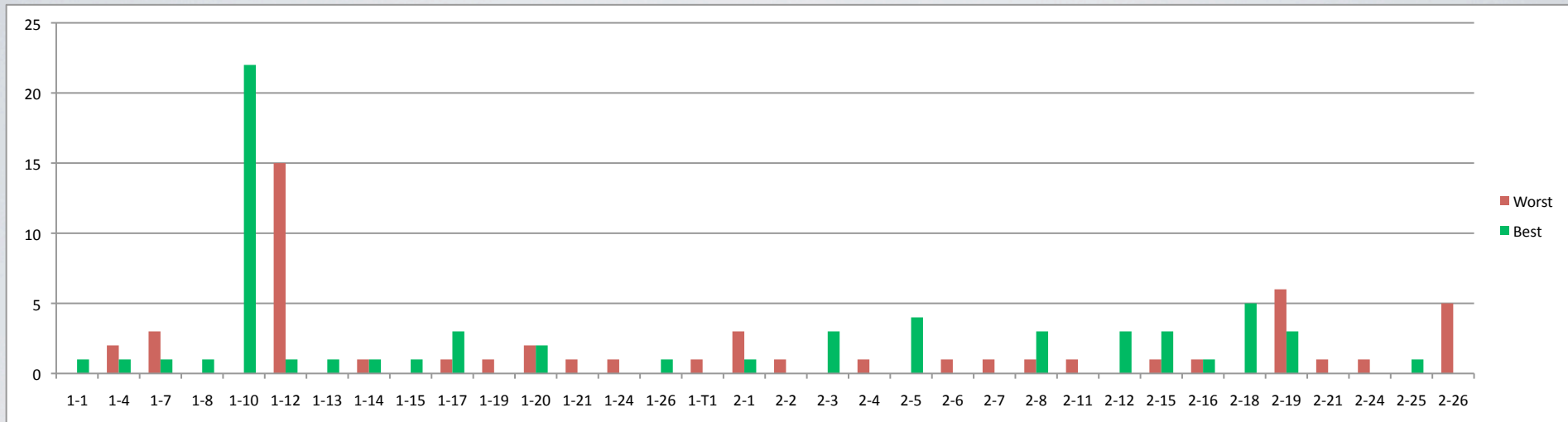
"The zero controls guidance was useful and made the competition more fair and interesting. I don't think that we needed a specific guidance for each control. But the zero tolerance distance should take in consideration the distance of the flags and the competitor. Flags positioned far from the competitor should have a zero distance greater than flags that are near, for instance."

Guidance for zero controls

There is now very strong evidence that trail-o needs zero control definitions for each competition. For the first time in 7 years there weren't any complaints about the courses in WTOC.

A general rule given in meters and degrees or so that zero answer is not possible when there is a control flag on the right feature works well. Other forms are possible and should be discussed.

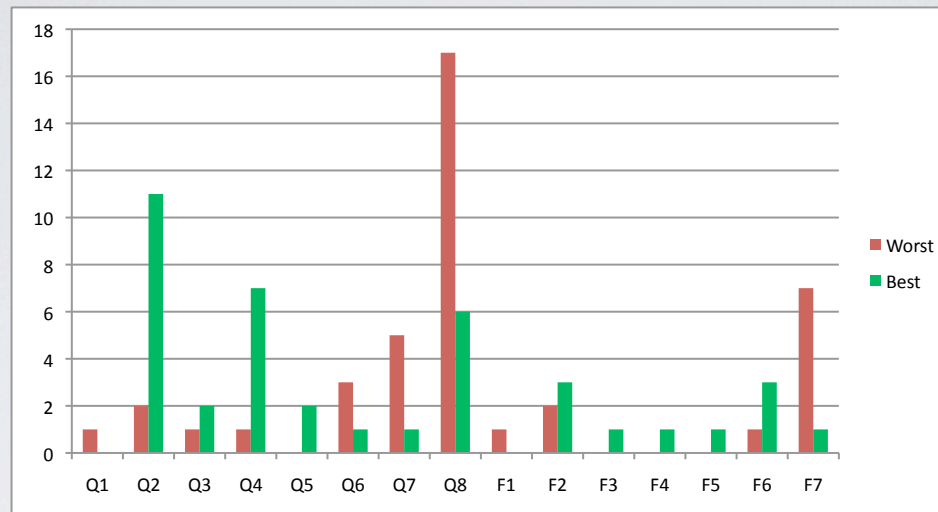
Quality - PreO controls



The **best PreO control** was clearly 1-10 which had 22 votes. **Many competitors failed to solve it, yet nobody didn't thought it couldn't be solved.** Beside that, problem 2-18 got 5 votes and problem 2-5 got 4 votes while controls 2-3 and 2-12 got 3 votes each. All those controls were **good and fair zero problems** without any negative comments.

The **worst PreO control** was also selected very clearly, it was 1-12 which was **deemed unfair because there was no good way to find solution and instead of solving the answer should have been guessed.** Beside that one control 2-26 got 5 negative votes because map wasn't good on that station and the **problem setup was overprecise.** Control 2-16 had some split votes while 3 people said that it was interesting, 6 complained that it was **too far to be fair.** There was also three complaints on controls 1-7 (too far) and 2-1 (bad mapping).

Quality - TempO controls



The **best TempO control** was clearly Q2 which had 11 votes. Although some complained that it was only trees and grass most people think it was interesting station were it **wasn't easy to find correct solution**. Control station Q4 got 7 votes because it **involved map reading and flags were clearly visible**. Third control that was pointed was Q8 which had **4 good zero problems**, but obviously those who complimented setup of that station had favourable visibility (late start or sun obscured by cloud).

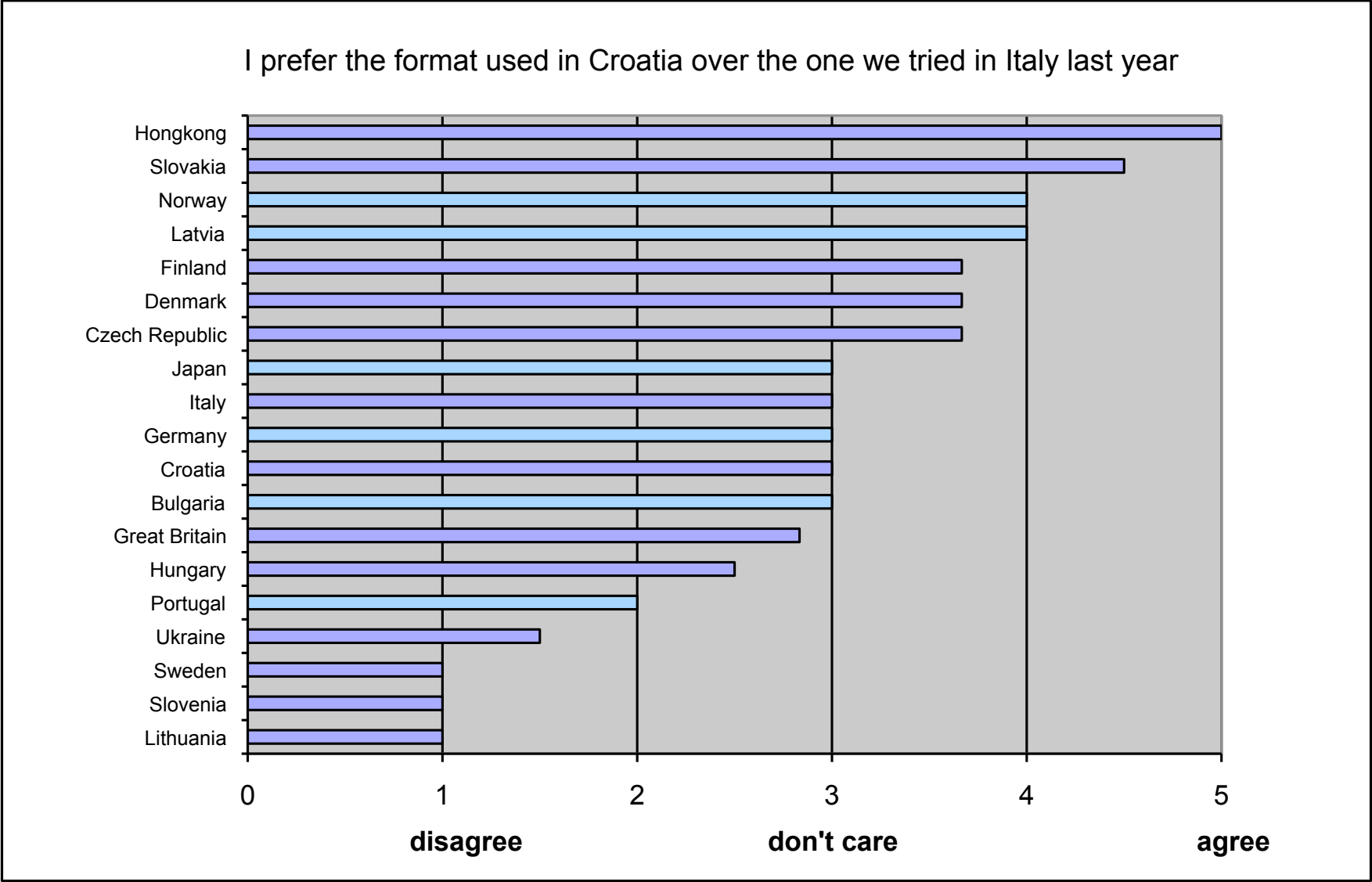
The **worst TempO control** was clearly Q8 which received 17 negative votes due to **visibility problems** (sunlight / dark shadows). Similar issues were reported for Q7 by less people. On the station Q6 which received three negative votes people complained about the **indecisive setup** of first problem.

Quality - Summary

General opinion gathered by this survey is that this WTOC had very good - well above average WTOC courses.

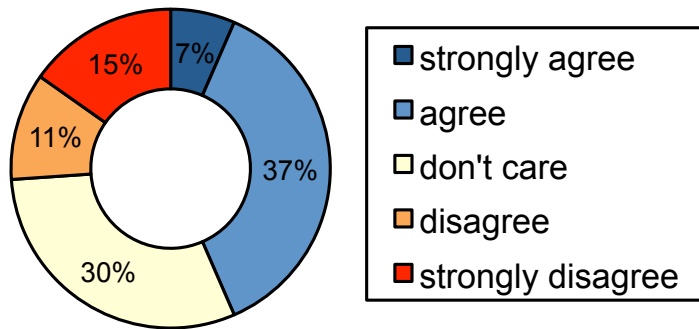
Future organisers of WTOCs should take note about nature of complaints. In PreO there were several old style controls (for example 3 flags on a spur/re-entrant) with little to decide between adjacent flags. Also some competitors complained about long distance problems which involved inspection from very remote points. In the TempO the biggest concern of the course setter should be **visibility**. Long distance problems combined with **unfavourable lighting** conditions yield unfair competition. Special care should be taken to ensure that all controls on all stations should be visible in strong sunshine during whole time span of the competition (4 hours = 60 deg change in sun position). Same applies for timed stations in PreO. Also, to avoid problems with **poor presentation** and possible spending of additional time for flag presenting, it is best if all flags on the station are instantly visible and there is no need to show each flag separately.

Relay format

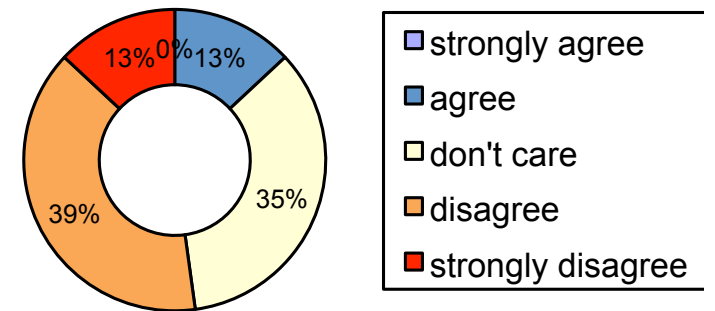


Relay format

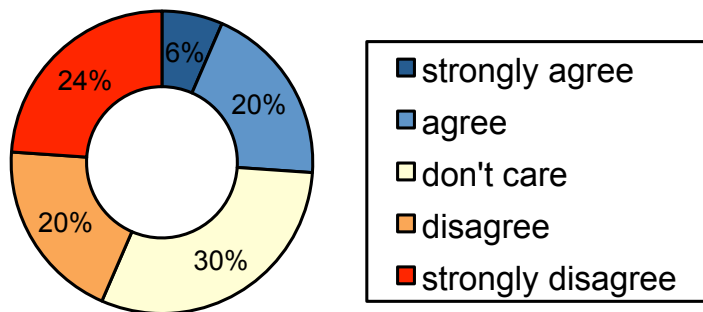
The competition was an exciting head-to-head race



Control sites were too crowded

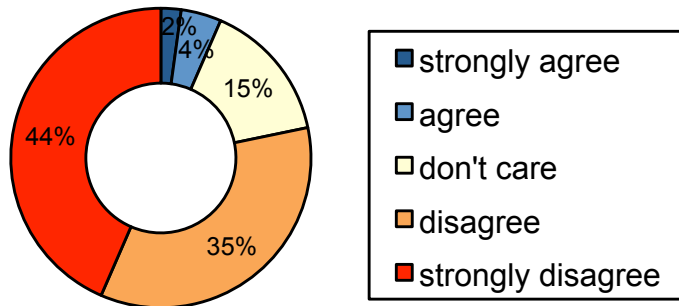


Time allowance was too short

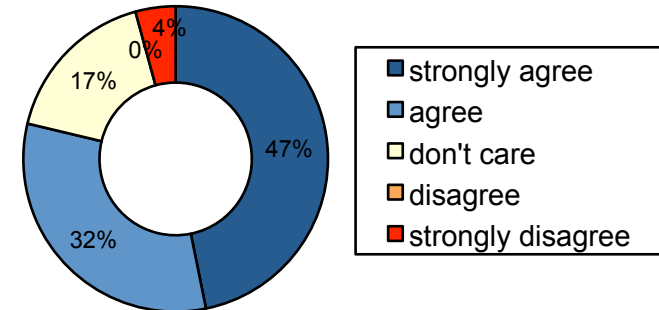


Relay format

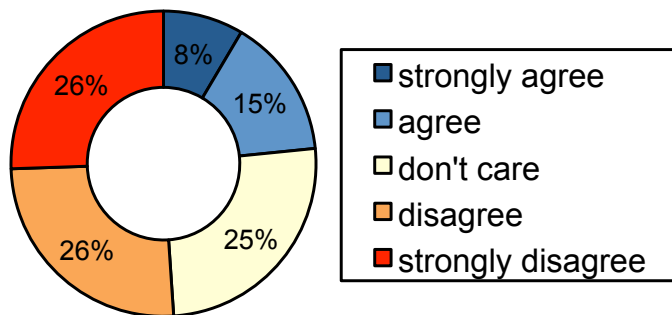
The format should change to only include A controls



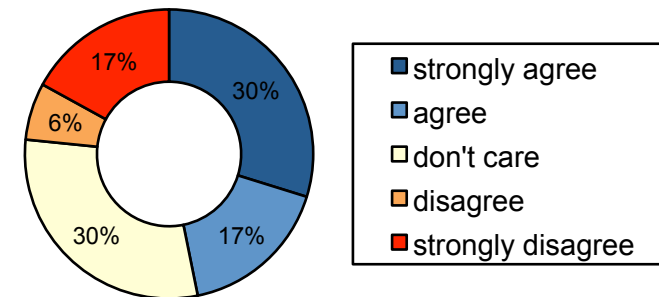
Competitors should be allowed to answer in any order they want



There should be more TempoO controls



Relay results should be calculated as a sum of time penalties and decision time



If you could change one thing about TrailO competitions / rules / classes, what would this be?

occurrence	comment
14	Limit paralympic class to competitors sitting in a wheelchair only
2	Introduce separate class for height difference
5	Provision of zero tolerance definition (minimum distance) at each event
2	Retain current team competition
2	Remove Timed Control / TempO due to long waiting time
3	Add electronic recording rule / Remove penalty for mispunching

If you could change one thing about TrailO competitions / rules / classes, what would this be?

occurrence	comment
	Split PreO classes (i.e Sprint & Classic) for more medals
	Add results processing rule
3	Add extra time for wheelchair competitor / para in open class
	Add timed-out toilet break in PreO
	Change overtime penalty from 5 min to 10 sec interval
	Include course setting requirement by hand-driven wheelchair

Issues and comments for TOAC to take forward?

Competition formats

occurrence	comment
	New discipline "middle" PreO with AZ answers and shorter time limits. mass start, small map, free order.
	Relay to include team strategy and quick results (2nd leg runner should know results of 1st etc.)
	Reduce duration of competition calendar, too much waiting
	Fix the number of PreO questions between years to make it comparable.

Issues and comments for TOAC to take forward?

Classes

occurrence	comment
2 (+14)	Remove para class or make it fair (remove walking running competitors, establish control system at events.)
1 (+1)	add junior class
1	add paralympic class to ECTO

Issues and comments for TOAC to take forward?

Communication

occurrence	comment
	Establish constructive dialogue with TOC
	TOC to announce format for relay ASAP
	Publish anonymised survey results in public
	Repeat survey after every WTOC and ETOC

Issues and comments for TOAC to take forward?

Organisation

occurrence	comment
1	provision of quiet quarantine area further away from start
3	Visibility of controls: consider sun/shade, large kites affect distance judgement, use double flags or board behind flag to increase visibility
2 (+1)	To develop mechanisms to improve results speed.
1	Planner to drive hand-driven wheelchair when making the course
1 (+1)	Use forking stations for TempO to reduce queues

Issues and comments for TOAC to take forward?

Things to learn from WTOC 2015

occurrence	comment
3	WTOC in Croatia was great!
1	Low-cost venue providing public courses
1 (+1)	Include Pre-WTOC event to make travel more worthwhile
1 (+5)	Clear zeros and map reading problems

Summary

WTOC 2015 was one of the best thus far.

Main issues to be addressed in the future:

- fairness in selection for paralympic class / biggest impact is height difference and ability to stop anywhere rather than speed
- introduction of a mandatory zero control definition
- clarification of relay format
- addition of guidelines to ensure suitability of track and control problems for wheelchairs
- introduction of electronic punching for instant results and any physical issues with pin punching