

Aguiar da Beira, 2022-07-08, 20h30

Total ban on forest access in Portugal

Due to extreme risk of fire, that has developed over the last couple of days resulting in multiple forest fires in various parts of Portugal, the Portuguese government has issued a total ban on access to its forests starting on Friday 8th July – and so far lasting until Friday 15th July.

This has serious impact on the Junior World Orienteering Championships. The JWOC organisers and local government, police and firefighters have worked closely together to be allowed to stage the JWOC forest distances as planned, but unfortunately we have got the final message, that this will not be allowed. This means that the JWOC forest distances will be postponed to a time after the above mentioned period.

As a result of the ban, **all training and other activities in the forest is strictly forbidden.**

The JWOC Sprint will be organised as planned and the IOF and the JWOC organisers are currently working together to organise additional JWOC sprint competitions during the JWOC week. Information about this will be given as soon as the deciding bodies within the IOF has made a decision about this.

This means that the JWOC accreditation, sprint model event, opening and Team official meeting on Sunday will go on as planned and more information about the rest of the week will be given at the latest at this Team Officials Meeting.

The IOF will be represented by the SEA and ASEA in the Event Center both on Saturday (9h00-14h00) and Sunday (11h00 until Team officials meeting) to answer questions. The IOF SEA will also be available for the teams on telephone and e-mail as stated for the SEA below.

Sincerely,

Rafael Miguel – Event Director

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