**The Use of GPS Devices for Navigational Purposes**

Further to our recent consultation with Race Organisers (RO’s) on the use of GPS devices, this topic was formally considered at the WFRA’s AGM on 14 October.

In response to the views expressed by the majority of WFRA members, including RO’s and votes cast at the AGM, the WFRA Committee has determined that:

**From 1 January 2019, the use of GPS devices for navigational purposes will not be permitted at any WFRA registered race.**

This requirement will be incorporated into WFRA’s rules for competition.

**Rationale:**

The use of GPS devices for navigational purposes is not commensurate with the ethos of our sport. The use **of such devices is no different from flagging the whole route of any race for someone using such a device. GPS track use takes away a fundamental element of our sport – that of route choice and finding your own way using mountain-craft, (as well as map and compass).**

Fellrunning is a simple sport - you have some hills and some checkpoints to visit. You use your skill and fitness to get between these points as fast as possible. Sometimes the RO flags it if they want you to go a certain way, or gives specific instructions. Other than that, it is up to the runner - t**hat is fellrunning**.

The widespread use of GPS devices for navigational purposes threatens the fundamentals of our sport.

**Explanatory Note:**

At WFRA registered races, you will be allowed to:

* wear a watch/ carry a device with GPS functionality
* record your route using such a device
* have distance travelled displayed
* use an altimeter

**In an emergency: You are, of course, allowed to use a GPS device to navigate yourself to safety, but must declare yourself as a ‘non-competitive’ participant at the Finish.**

You will not be allowed to:

* follow a pre-loaded GPS (‘breadcrumb’) route
* use a GPS device which displays a map
* load checkpoints onto the GPS device.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please get in touch with any Committee member or contact me directly: andrew@wfra.org.uk

Andrew Blackmore

Secretary (WFRA)