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Framework for Method Ringing: Version 2

The Central Council Executive has now completed its review of Version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing. It has given Representative Members the required three months' notice of implementation, which is scheduled for 1st May 2022. Version 2 of the Framework was introduced in a *RW* article published on 4th June 2021 (p.506), and with that article we also launched a ringing community consultation on the proposed changes in V2.

Nine people submitted feedback for the consultation and their submissions are shown in Appendix H of V2, which is available at https://framework.cccbr.org.uk._Our thanks go to all submitters for their feedback. As with Version 1, feedback is shown anonymously on the website._The CC Framework Team's responses to these submissions are also included in Appendix H, and the sections below highlight some of the points raised.

Naming new methods

The proposal to standardise the required length of performance to name a new method as a quarter peal or longer generated the most feedback. Five of the nine submitters spoke against this proposal, and none spoke in favour of it. As a result of this feedback, we are **not** moving forward with the proposed change, and the method naming requirements of Version 1 will remain in place.

To recap, under Framework V1, a new method can be named by ringing a performance that either (a) contains an extent of the new method, or (b) includes the new method and is a quarter peal or longer. This means, for example, that a new Minimus method can be named by ringing 24 changes, whereas naming a new Major method requires at least 1250 changes.

As only a small number of methods have been named by ringing an extent in recent years, the V2 proposal had been for new methods at all stages to require at least 1250 changes to be named, thereby standardising across all stages and slightly simplifying naming requirements. However, we recognise that being able to name a new method by ringing an extent has been the practice for many decades, and we shouldn't change this unless there's a strong consensus among the ringing community to do so. Five people speaking against this change is enough to indicate that such a consensus doesn't exist, and so we are not moving forward with this change.

The other proposal in V2 relating to method naming was that a naming performance should be rung by an all-human band (i.e., there shouldn't be any automated bells 'rung' by a simulator). There were no objections to this proposal, so this is now a requirement in Version 2.

Requirements for peals

A submission from the Performance Secretary of one of the CC's affiliated societies raised a point that is worth covering here. The submitter asked whether a performance of 5000+ changes that does not follow all the CC norms (see section 6.C) counts as a peal or not.

As part of the major reforms in 2018, the Central Council voted overwhelmingly to move to a permissive, descriptive framework for method ringing. This followed decades of controversy over what should constitute a peal. The CC therefore no longer determines what is a peal beyond defining its length (a touch that is at least 5000 changes). However, the CC does ask for disclosure in performance reports of anything material about performances that would not reasonably be assumed if not stated.

Note that the above is not a Version 2 change – this new approach was put in place with Version 1 of the Framework.

However, affiliated societies of the CC are free to set more restrictive rules on what they will include in their performance records if they so wish. For example, a society might decide to treat performances that didn't follow all the performance norms on a case-by-case basis, and vote at the society's annual meeting on whether to include them in the society's performance records.

Other updates

Following a suggestion in the consultation submissions, we've slightly reorganised the Framework appendices. Appendices A to E now cover the substantive method ringing material, and appendices F to H cover 'meta' material on the Framework itself.

There were a few other suggestions in the consultation that resulted in small tweaks to Framework wording or content. We refer readers to Appendix H if they would like to see the details. The best way to view all the changes made in Version 2 is to review the document linked in Appendix G, section D. This document has a table summarising the changes, and these changes are also shown in 'redline' format later in the document.

Beyond Version 2

Next on the Framework Team's agenda is a full review of all the method extension requirements and processes in the Framework (which were mostly carried over unchanged from the former CC Decisions) to see what opportunities there might be for streamlining, simplification and other improvements. If you're interested in technical aspects of method ringing and would like to be involved in this effort, we would be pleased to hear from you. We can be reached at methods@cccbr.org.uk.

TIM BARNES

(on behalf of the CC Framework Team)