

MANAGING EXPECTATIONS OF ELITE ORIENTEERS

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Level 3 Controllers' Course
September 2005



Managing Expectations

- Elite Competitors
- Sponsors
- Commentators
- Photographers (still & video)
- Journalists
- Spectators

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Managing Expectations

- Tell them early
- Tell them often

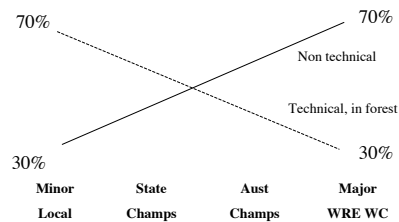
Ovind Holt IOF Workshop Albury 1998

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Controlling Effort

Ovind Holt IOF Workshop Albury 1998



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Elites

- Elites value the technical challenge above all
- Fair and equitable -- do not use compromised control sites & double check all sites
- Physically challenging, but not over taxing
- Longer, steeper not necessarily better
- Opportunities to display their skills

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Elites

- Sometimes achievements should be rewarded.
Red start group, reverse order
- Be presented and projected as elite athletes
- Success is acknowledged - presentations

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Sponsors

- Return on investment
- Their name/logo be presented in a good light
- In print and on websites
- On banner and competitors' bibs
- Announcements during commentaries
- Opportunity to attend events. Consider hospitality, meeting athletes & addressing spectators

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Commentators

- Good accommodation and location
- Good equipment - computer & PA
- Good information - background, live and interim results
- Good access to athletes soon after finishing

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Photographers

- Clear unrestricted line of shot - no spectators
- Good photographic environment, entire finish chute, good light at photographic controls
- Good background, spectators, bush, control flag (ensure it looks like an orienteering event)
- Good view of or warning of approaching athletes
- TV mixture of vision close and long range
- Ease of identifying competitors - clear numbers, start list
- Privileged parking and easy exit (IOF events - provide transport)

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Journalists

- Ready supply of timely information; what, when, who, where etc
- Start lists
- Results - high priority. Paper (& electronically if possible) asap after last finisher. Advice on complications - protests, outcomes etc
- Deadlines - television 2.30pm, AAP 6.00pm (AEST) preferably sooner, Local press negotiable until about 8.00pm (AEST)
- Access to athletes soon after finishing
- Privileged parking & easy exit (IOF events - provide transport)

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Spectators

- As much involvement as possible from start to finish
- Program
- Ease of identifying competitors - clear numbers
- Good commentary with a mixture of event progress & short interviews, no long silent gaps
- Good views of or warning of approaching athletes
- Start in arena, spectator control(s), reasonable run in
- Ramps and man made features
- Large display clocks
- Large quickly updated easily visible results display for all competitors
- Many spectators like to do their own assessments

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Managing Expectations

- Start planning early, especially blending the competition area in with the arena
- Tell them early
- Tell them often

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Issues

- Technical - in forest
- Blending competition area with arena
- Supporting commentators and the media
- Overall planning - big issues, location, parking and services

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Running Number



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Starting Ramp



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Spectators



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Man made features



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Bush / control



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Results



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Results



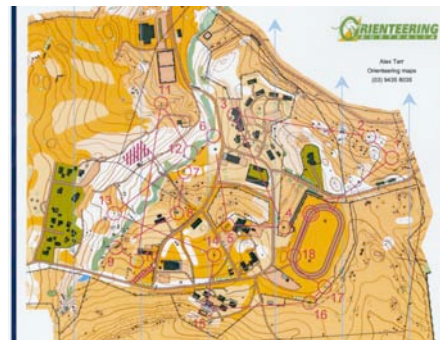
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Banners



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