

FAIRNESS & ETHICS

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Ethics & Fairness in High Level Events

- Level 3 controllers must promote fair and ethical behaviour in event officials, course setters, spectators and competitors, especially with respect to environmental issues and landowner requirements.
- The controller will be able to apply the principles of fairness and ethics to events, and to assist and encourage others to do likewise.
(Level 3 Curriculum)

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Orienteering Australia Competition Rules

- **Rule 2.6:** sporting fairness shall be the guiding principle in the interpretation of these rules by competitors, organisers and the jury.
- **Rule 26.1:** all persons taking part in an orienteering event shall behave with fairness and honesty. They shall have a sporting attitude and a spirit of friendship. Competitors shall show respect for each other, for officials, journalists, spectators and the inhabitants of the competition area.
- **Rule 31.6:** the OA controller shall ensure that rules are followed, mistakes are avoided and that fairness is paramount. The OA controller has the authority to require adjustments to be made where necessary to satisfy the requirements of the event.

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How can the controller ensure fairness?

- All competitors treated equally and fully informed
 - access to event information, previous maps of the area
- Clear procedures, accurate information eg time/ distance to starts; start/ finish procedures
- Robust timing system, preferably with an independent backup system
- Systems in place to encourage ethical conduct eg map collection, sufficient punching devices

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Ensuring fairness – course planning

- Following can be minimised by good course planning
 - No bingo controls (less chance of bunching)
 - No doglegs (allowing catching runners to see target)
 - Position of start triangle – out of sight of waiting runners
 - Butterfly loops/ course splitting in long distance and relay events

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Ensuring fairness – course planning

- Other aspects
 - Spectator controls –
 - Siting of nearby controls
 - Control features (Rules Sect 19, Appendix 2)
 - Control numbers can't be easily confused
 - Map accuracy
 - Inaccuracies don't affect fairness of route choice eg vegetation, (MTBO track classification)
 - Avoid legs that encourage crossing of forbidden or dangerous areas

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Ensuring fairness – other

Other ways to minimise following

- Start list allocation / seeding
- allocation of vacant start times – don't give advantage to late entrants
- Public commentary
 - Shouldn't give unfair advantage
 - Safer when seeded runners are at the end of the field?

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Ethics topics

- Harassment-free sport
- No discrimination
- Ausport Officials Code of Ethics
 - Applies to all sports – need to adapt for orienteering situations
 - Safety and welfare of officials and participants are paramount.

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