

## OA Technical News June 2012

### Event Organisation and Management

The following items are discussed as follow-up to recent major events in order to bring further awareness to those involved in all aspects of event management, not only at National events but at all levels of event.

#### Emergency Response Planning

All events should have emergency response planning in place; for many events this may be the plans produced by state associations to be implemented for events on their calendar. For major events, an event specific plan may be required covering Risk Management, Search and Rescue Planning and assignment of responsibilities. One area that should be included is the process to retrieve injured competitors from a bush event area. According to orienteering rules, competitors are required to abandon their course and offer assistance to injured competitors. This may include returning to the assembly area to notify the organisers that an injured competitor needs to be retrieved from the event area. The organiser must have a plan in place to permit this to happen as quickly and efficiently as possible. Some organisers may assign this responsibility to Ambulance Service attending the event, these services may provide the personnel and vehicles.

However the organiser (and the designated Search and Rescue coordinator if assigned) is still responsible for the following at a minimum.

1. Initiating the retrieval
2. Providing personnel as required e.g. to accompany Ambulance Service or provide the personnel to undertake the retrieval
3. Ensuring access is possible (e.g. have keys to locked gates)
4. Event/course maps are available to plan the retrieval
5. Vehicles available to drive into the area using the available track network
6. Having required equipment – stretcher, first aid kit, communication equipment (radios or mobile phones)

#### Water on Courses – Foot Courses

The Orienteering Australia Foot Rules cover the provision of water on courses (Rule 19.9 and Appendix 4). Organisers are responsible for providing water of sufficient volume for all competitors. Under warmer weather conditions, organisers need to be aware that competitors will drink more than the basic requirement at any control, and that water needs to be provided more frequently. This is particularly true for longer elite courses where competitors may be on course for 2 hours or more, and may also consume gels at water stations adding to their water requirements. Although placing water at controls is onerous, this is less so if water placement is part of initial course

planning. This enables water stops to be planned in more accessible areas nearer to tracks, at spectator controls near the assembly area etc.

If sufficient water is not provided for all competitors and later competitors miss out, an element of unfairness comes in to play for a course.

### **Process for Complaints and Protests**

The process for lodging, managing and adjudicating on complaints and protests is described in the orienteering rules. In addition, Appendix 10 of the Foot Orienteering Rules provides further guidelines for competitors, organisers and juries. As competitors do not normally attend events carrying copies of the rules, major event organisers generally outline the process to lodge complaints and protests in Event Program booklets. However competitors should be aware, that although complaints may be given orally, a written complaint is recommended as then the issue of the complaint will be clearly defined. The complaint/protest process should follow the rules unless approval is given for a variation.

In particular the organising team needs to be aware of the following:

1. Complaints are adjudicated by the organiser, hence the Program booklet should make it clear who the Event Organiser is. If the complaint is to be lodged via the Registration team, they need to be aware that a complaint needs to be conveyed to the organiser.
2. No standard time limit for complaints and protests applies, however if the organiser requires that all complaints and protests are managed on the day of the event and before results are finalised, they should publish the time frame for lodging complaints in the Program Booklet and possibly announce when this time is approaching at the event.
3. If an organiser adjudicates on a complaint, they need to make it clear to the complainant that if they are not satisfied with the decision, they have the right to protest. A protest is made in writing to a member of the Jury. Hence the organiser must also ensure that the jury members' names are published in the program booklet (or if displayed at the event, then the process for doing so at the event is in the Program Booklet).

### **Closely Spaced Controls on Foot Orienteering Courses**

This is covered in Rule 19.4 and in Item 3.5.5. in Appendix 2 on Course Planning as follows:

Controls on different courses placed too close to one another can mislead runners who have navigated correctly to the control site. According to Rule 19.4a, controls should not be sited within 30 m of each other (15 metres for map scales of 1:5000 and 1:4000). *Further, only when the control features are distinctly different in the terrain as well as on the map, should controls be placed closer than 60 metres (30 metres for map scales of 1:5000 or 1:4000). All distances are the straight line distance.*

This makes it clear that having close controls on different mapped features is not sufficient; they must be distinctly different in the terrain as well. For example, controls in a shallow gully and an adjacent (<60m) shallow gully with a minor water course may not be visually different in the terrain although the mapped features are different.

So if in doubt, keep potentially similar controls more than 60 m apart (or 30 m on 1:5000 and 1:4000 maps).

The competitor is still however responsible for punching the correct control (Rules 20.5 and 20.6).

### **Other Controlling Comments**

Event controllers for Group A events need to ensure familiarity with all event Rules and Guidelines, as well as documents referenced in the OA Rules. For example if the event is a NOL event, they should refer to the OA Operational Manual 2.2 National League Guidelines. Although not part of the Australian rules, documents such as IOF map specifications are referenced, hence familiarity with these is required. The latter contains information on out of bounds routes and forbidden areas - which has become more relevant with the introduction of sprint events.

The IOF control descriptions contain useful information e.g. size of control description boxes when printed (5-7 mm), information on how mandatory crossing points and passages are shown. They also contain the statement:

“Note: Control descriptions should not be used to correct map errors”

Details on showing the orienteering course are in the Mapping Specification and under overprinting symbols specify how a control circle is placed -

“The control points are shown with circles. The centre of the circle shows the precise position of the feature.”

So if centre of the circle is on the “feature”, when the control is on a point feature, this is in the centre of the circle.

Not every area that is the responsibility of the controller is covered in rules and guidelines, hence experience, common practice, common sense and risk management are also relevant. For example having controls near the edge of a map where the map boundary is not clearly marked in the landscape by a major feature such as a road, may be a risk management issue, especially if the control is on junior and moderate navigation courses. This situation can easily result in a competitor “running off the map” and hence their safety is now more at risk.

The competition rules do not specify that a control requires a stand to hold the control flag and display the control number, although metal and sometimes wooden stands are common practice. The rules are clear though on the position and nature of the control flag and that the control number shall be clearly visible when the competitor is using the “marking device” (SI Unit or punch)

### **Changes to Elite Winning Times: applicable from 2012**

Controllers for National League and any other events where elite classes are offered need to know that there have been some changes to winning times as spelled out in OA Foot Competition Rule 16.10:

16.10 For classes : M/W21E, M/W21A, M/W17-20E and M/W17-20A the following winning times shall apply:

General event formats	M 21E	W21 E	M21 A	W21 A	M17-20E	W17-20E	M17-20A	W17-20A
Sprint	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15	12-15
Middle distance	30-35	30-35	30-35	30-35	30-35	30-35	30-35	30-35
Long distance	75-90	60-70	75	60	70	55	60	50
Relays*	135	120	135	120	120	110	120	110
<b>Specific events</b>								
Australian 3-Days Prologue	12	12	n/a	n/a	12	12	n/a	n/a
Australian 3-Days Day 1	30	30	55	45	25	25	45	40
Australian 3-Days Day 2	85-90	65-70	55	45	70	55	45	40
Australian 3-Days Day 3	45	40	55	45	45	40	45	40
Australian Long Distance Championships	90	80	75	60	75-80	65-70	60	50
Australian Relay* Championships	135	120	n/a	n/a	120	105	n/a	n/a

\* Relay times (for teams of 3) are given by the total time of the winning team.

## Mapping Committee and Mapping Items

The mapping Committee met at the Australian Three Event in Brisbane, meeting minutes are available here - <http://www.orienteering.asn.au/technical/mapping/mappers/>

The following items of interest from these minutes are repeated:

1. A mapping Workshop is to be held at 2012 Australian Championship Carnival in Tasmania. It will be held at the St Helens School on Monday 25th Sep. The focus will be on Making Street / Park maps using the school grounds. Topics include how to use base maps, undertake field work and draft maps for street / park orienteering.

For more information contact Adrian Uppill on aruppill@chariot.net.au

2. Mapping Vegetation - Green stripe V full green colour.

At the meeting Eric Andrews opened discussion about mapping standards and in particular the level of detail that is expected for an orienteering map. This led to discussion on the mapping of difficult vegetation types such as lantana.

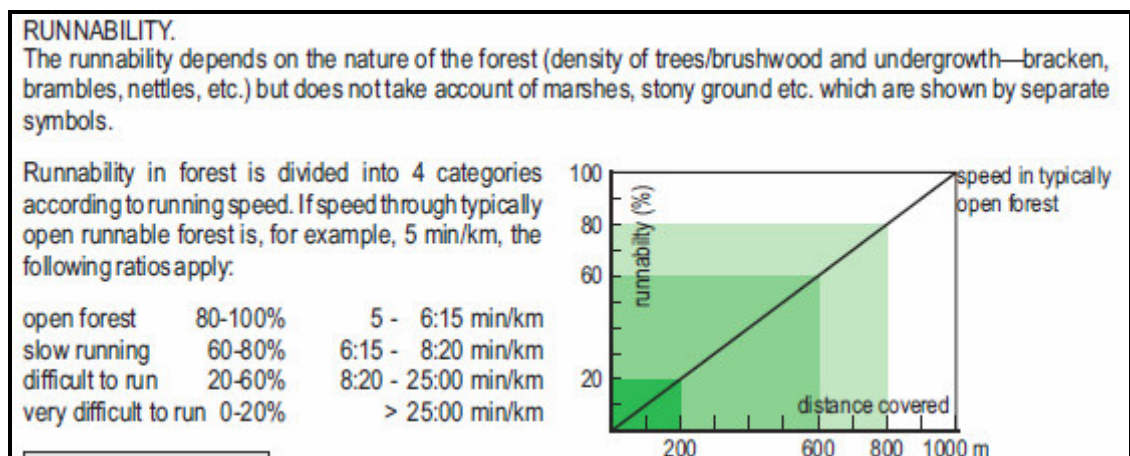
This can pose a dilemma to a mapper re choice of symbol that best represents the vegetation feature and whether guidance notes are needed. Discussion ensued on the use of the Green stripe and the full green colours. A map image using a combination of both stripes

(symbols 407 & 409) and the full greens (symbols 406, 408 & 410) was displayed for discussion. There was some strong opinion from members against the use of random green blobs. Time restraints prevented further discussion.




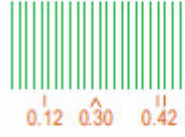

*General comment by AU:*

It is considered that the existing stripes, the full green symbols or a combination thereof are sufficient for the mapping of difficult vegetation. Where uncertainty exists in the interpretation, agreement should be reached between the mapper and the controller early in the mapping process. Further, mapper's notes on the treatment of mapping difficult vegetation are essential for information to orienteers in the event information.

As further background the following extracts from ISOM are provided. Use of green and green stripe is based on runnability and visibility (i.e. green stripe reduces runnability by the same amount as the comparable full green, but visibility is not reduced i.e. it is the same as in open forest. Hence it is generally used where the vegetation impeding running is below eye height.





	30%	<p><b>406 Forest: slow running</b>        An area with dense trees (low visibility) which reduces running to ca. 60-80% of normal speed.        Colour: green 30% (60 lines/cm).</p>
		<p><b>407 Undergrowth: slow running</b>        An area of dense undergrowth but otherwise good visibility (brambles, heather, low bushes, and including cut branches) which reduces running to ca. 60-80% of normal speed. This symbol may not be combined with 406 or 408.        Colour: green 14.3% (11.9 lines/cm).</p>
	60%	<p><b>408 Forest: difficult to run</b>        An area with dense trees or thicket (low visibility) which reduce running to ca. 20-60% of normal speed.        Colour: green 60% (60 lines/cm).</p>
		<p><b>409 Undergrowth: difficult to run</b>        An area of dense undergrowth but otherwise good visibility (brambles, heather, low bushes, and including cut branches) which reduces running to ca. 20-60% of normal speed. This symbol may not be combined with 406 or 408.        Colour: green 28.6% (23.8 lines/cm).</p>
	min. 0.25	<p><b>410 Vegetation: very difficult to run, impassable</b>        An area of dense vegetation (trees or undergrowth) which is barely passable. Running reduced to ca. 0-20% of normal speed.        Colour: green 100%.</p>

## Controller Accreditation

The following was included in the last Technical News but is repeated here as some confusion still seems to exist over the requirements to accumulate points.

The following changes have been implemented:

1. Accreditation period is 4 years for all levels, however the points can be accumulated over rolling periods of 5 years for Level 1, and 8 years for Levels 2 and 3 (previously 10).
2. Re-accreditation Points – have changed to remove less relevant activities from higher levels, and require attendance at a mandatory update session over the period at which points can be accredited e.g. at least once in a 8 year period since initial accreditation and in each 8 years thereafter for a level 3 controller.

Details of the points required for re-accreditation are set out in the following table from the OA rules (Appendix 5):

Task	Number of points towards re-accreditation at:		
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Controlling – Group A event	NA	NA	40*
– Group A2 or B event	NA	30*(a)	30
– Group C event	20*	20	
Course-setting – Group A event	25	25	25
– Group B event	20	20	20
– Group C1 event	15	15	
– Group C2 event	10		
Organising – Group A event	25	25	25
– Group B event	15	15	15
– Group C1/2 event	10	10	10
– Group C3 event	5		
Attend controller update session	20*	20*	20*
Attend organiser/course planning course	10	10	10
Conduct controller workshop	20	20	20
Train new controller	10	10	10
Other appropriate tasks	As determined by State Association Technical Director		As determined by OA Technical Director
Total points required	60	75	100
Re-accreditation period	5 years	8 years	8 years

\* Mandatory task

(a) May also include a Group A2 event.

Attendance at update courses provides opportunities to interact with other controllers. Considering the changes that can occur to event formats, technology, rules and event organisation requirements (e.g. Risk Management, Environmental Requirements) over the periods in which points can be accumulated, update courses will assist all controllers in keeping up to date.

To clarify/simplify the accumulation of points for newly accredited controllers, the following guidelines will be applied at all levels of controlling:

1. If you do not attend an update workshop in the first 4 years, then your initial workshop may count towards points for the first re-accreditation at 4 years. But an update workshop is then compulsory in the next 4 years – i.e. before your second reaccreditation (8 years).
2. If you aren't able to control a mandatory event within the 4 years after initial accreditation, then you can use that first controlling activity completed to get initial accreditation to count

for points towards your first reaccreditation. But you will then definitely have to control the required event in the next 4 years.

## Other Items of Interest

### ANZ Challenge and Oceania Rules

Changes to these rules are currently being negotiated with new Zealand.

These include:

1. Inclusion of Middle and Sprint Distance in the ANZ Foot Challenge, these are already in the MTBO Challenge
2. Removal of the requirement for challenge runners to start first in their class (this was contrary to rules that govern the Oceania Championships at which the challenge is now generally run)
3. Ability to substitute a reserve if a team member is an official (controller, course planner, organiser) for an event in the challenge. With 4 events in the challenge, potential team members involved in organisation of one event would be excluded from all events if this change is not made.

### IOF Event Advisor Workshop

An IOF Event Advisor workshop to be held with the Oceania Carnival in NZ in Jan 2013. Applicants to attend this are required to have international competition experience and must be endorsed by OA.

The following are the specific requirements to become an IOF Event Advisor:

1. Be an active foot orienteer.
2. Have competed in countries other than your own.
3. Have successfully controlled major national events in the last 3 years.
4. Be competent in the English language.
5. Have attended, and have been an active participant in, an IOF Event Advisers Clinic
6. Be familiar with the following IOF Publications:
  - a. Competition Rules for Foot Orienteering Events
  - b. International Specifications for Orienteering Maps
  - c. Control Descriptions
  - d. Principles for Course Planning
  - e. Guidelines for World Ranking Events
7. Be recognised as a top standard controller/event adviser and endorsed as suitable by your Federation.

Achieving requirement 3 may be difficult for candidates from SA, WA, Qld and Tas where major national events are held less frequently than in the other states.

Within Australia, events requiring IOF event advisors are primarily those designated as IOF ranking events for elites (both MTB and Foot Orienteering). If the host state does not have any accredited





IOF event advisors, commonly they will ask an IOF EA from another state to oversee the elite courses only.

They should follow the Event Advisors' Handbook for World Ranking Events, downloadable from the IOF website. The Guidelines for World Ranking Events will if necessary override any similar OA rules.

International Championship events such as World Masters, JWOC, WOC, World Cup, World Games require a Senior Event Advisor.

The list of current Australian based IOF Event Advisors (as per the IOF Web site) is:

Robert ALLISON, Eric ANDREWS, John BRAMMALL, Christine BROWN (\*), Greg HAWTHORNE, Andy HOGG, David HOGG (\*), Kathy LILEY, Dave LOTTY, Robert MOUATT, Paul PRUDHOE, Jonathan SUTCLIFFE, Alex TARR (\*), Blair TREWIN

\* Senior Event Advisor

The IOF has expectations that IOF Event Advisors, as well as being familiar with the IOF Rules and other dependent guidelines, they also implement. Recently the IOF have sanctioned an IOF Event Advisor where this was not done, The following is an extract from IOF Council Meeting 160 Minutes.

#### Item 11.2 Sanctions for breaches of IOF rules

BP stated that the IOF does not have any appropriate sanctions, nor any standard procedure for how to retroactively deal with cases where event organisers have not adhered to the IOF rules. As a specific example, he mentioned that a map with the scale 1:7500 had recently been used for a World Ranking Event in Spain without the organiser having filed any request for rule deviation. This was clearly a breach of the IOF Rules and should be subject to appropriate sanctions.

The Council agreed that a retroactive withdrawal of the WRE status would not be fair on the competitors. According to the rules, the Event Adviser is responsible for ensuring that the organiser adheres to the IOF rules and had thus failed to fulfil this duty. The Council therefore decided that the Event Adviser's license be withdrawn for a period of two years and that the Spanish federation be informed of the decision.

Note BP is Björn Persson (Sports Director).

Like the IOF, the OA does not have procedures for sanctions where event organizers have deviated from OA rules without having a variation from the rules approved.

#### **Technical Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the Technical Committee meeting held at the Australian Three Days can be found here - <http://www.orienteering.asn.au/technical/TechNewsArchive/> - see link at the bottom of the page.