

**ORIENTEERING
AUSTRALIA
LEVEL 3 CONTROLLERS'
WORKSHOP**

OCTOBER 6TH, 2011

Why is a controller needed?

To ensure that:

- Rules are followed**
- Mistakes are avoided**
- Fairness is paramount**

The controller is the representative of Orienteering Australia and has ultimate responsibility to ensure that all aspects of event are planned and completed satisfactorily, and that errors are minimised

When is a Controller needed?

Level 3: Group A Events

Australian Championships in Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay, MTBO

Australian Three Days, all other NOL events

Level 2: Group B Events

State Championships in Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay and MTBO Australian Three Day - single day (group A2)

Australian Schools individual and relay championship

Badge Events (group B2)

Event Officials

Roles of event officials

Controller -

- **supervise all aspects of event organisation and work in close collaboration with organiser and course planner**

Organiser -

- **Overall event management**
- **Plan, schedule and implement all required tasks (with other helpers as required)**
- **Support course planner**

Course planner

- **all aspects of course planning and implementation**

Role of the Controller

Controllers' Responsibility

- **Check land access granted**
- **Approve courses – don't actually need to plan them!**
- **Ensure controls correctly positioned**
- **Approve organisation including assembly, start and finish layouts**
- **Assess reliability of time-keeping and results methods**
- **Be present during the event 😊**
- **Ensure results are distributed promptly**

Role of the OA Controller

Controller's responsibility is to ensure that fairness is maintained

Should be appointed 3 years out from major carnival; for other group A events as soon as is practical

Must work in close collaboration with organiser and course planner – and in some cases with overall technical coordinator, +/- day controllers

Role of the Controller

Controllers' Responsibility with Respect to Courses

- **Understand the principles of course planning and role of course planner**
- **Check course planner's work to ensure no errors occur**
- **Course descriptions are correct – distance and climb**
- **Control descriptions are correct and according to specifications**
- **Control placement is correct and matches descriptions**
- **Control placement is fair and rules with respect to proximal controls are followed**
- **Courses are printed correctly on maps**

Course Planning Requirements

Controllers must:

- **Be familiar with course planning guidelines**
- **confirm course specifications for event**
- **initial review of courses on paper**
- **field check after course planner has taped sites**
- **integrate changes resulting from field check**
- **check all master maps, control descriptions etc**
- **check control marking devices (punches, SI units)**
- **review all control sites after control placement**
- **integrate any changes after final control check**

Course Planning

- **Common problems with course planning**
 - **control site too difficult for course specification**
 - **control site too easy for course specification**
 - **control site confusing or ambiguous**
 - **control is hidden**
 - **course lacks variety, has dog-legs**
 - **lost distance**
 - **course unnecessarily physical for age group**
 - **running feasibility of course hasn't been considered**
 - **routes and controls too close to edge of map**
 - **winning times deviate significantly from expectations**

Update regularly!

Examples of common course planning errors:

- Minimum distances between controls
- Changes to IOF mapping specifications (e.g. mapping to sprint specifications)
- Changes to IOF control descriptions (may be using old version of OCAD)
- Controls being described as seen on the ground (WRONG), not how they are drawn on the map.
- Wrong colour purple, circles and lines not cut

It is the controller's responsibility to ensure that the most recent regulations are followed

It doesn't stop with the courses!

Need to be satisfied with:

- **Venue and terrain**
- **Map conforms to IOF standards**
- **Event budget?**
- **Catering/accommodation/transport where relevant**
- **Entry form**
- **Start book information**
- **Control descriptions**
- **Ceremonies/presentations/media**
- **Results on the day and publication thereof**

Need to be satisfied with...

Event Planning

- **Environmental considerations**
 - **major factors to be considered (refer to OA rules)**
- **Course planning activities**
 - **flow chart of activities**
- **Preparation of Maps and Courses**
- **SI equipment**
 - **some key points**
- **Event Safety**

Timeline!!!

3 years out:

- **Appoint Level 3 controller/technical coordinator**
- **Appoint carnival coordinator**
- **Investigate map areas**
- **Confirm access**
- **Tender for mappers**

2 years out

- **Appoint mapper(s)**
- **Confirm course planner and organiser for each event**
- **Event secretary**
- **Prepare website**
- **Determine entry process**
- **Finalise event schedule**

1 year out

- **Entry form/online entry**
- **Confirm age classes/formats**
- **Controller to proofread!**
- **Determine equipment required**
- **Assembly area access & layout**
- **Safety/first aid considerations**
- **Check map!**

6 months out

- **Check courses/control sites**
- **Course combinations**
- **Event information**
- **Plan processing of entries and start draw**
- **Timing process**

Computer Games

Controller should be satisfied that organiser has adequately arranged processes of :

- Capture of entries, creation of database
- Importing database into SI software
- Start draw
- Importing course/class/control code relationship into SI software
- Programming of units
- Running the finish on the day
- Results on the day

Controllers need not deal with these directly if they have confidence in the persons responsible

Applying the OA Rules

Rules and Guidelines - form framework for running orienteering events, few rules govern competitor actions

- **Competition Rules for OA Foot Orienteering Events, updated 2011**
- **NOL guidelines**
- **MTBO Guidelines**

Applying the OA Rules

Section 5 - Classes

For Australian Championships in sprint, middle, long, relay

Section 8 - Information about the event

- **8.1 and 8.2 provide useful checklists for event information**

Section 9 - Entries

Section 12 – Start order and draw

Section 14 - Terrain (embargoes)

Section 15 - Maps

- **15.1 Course marking and overprinting**
- **15.2 & 15.3 Map scale**

Applying the Rules

Section 16 - Courses

- **16.3 and 16.4 Definition of course length and climb**
- **16.9 and 16.10 Winning Times for different formats**

Section 17 - Restricted areas and routes

- **17.2 Out-of-bounds or dangerous areas, forbidden routes, line features that shall not be crossed are to be marked on the map and described in information**
- **17.3 Compulsory routes, crossing points and passages shall be marked on the map and on the ground**

Section 18 - Control Descriptions

Section 19 – Control set-up/equipment

- **19.4 proximity rule**
- **19.8 & 19.9 availability of 'refreshments'**

Applying the Rules

Section 22 - Start

- **mainly relate to events with pre-set start times and relays**

Section 22 - Finish and time-keeping

- **23.6 Two independent time-keeping systems**
- **23.10 - accounting for all starters**

Section 24 - Results

- **24.4 - information to include in results**
- **24.10 - disqualification at organiser's discretion**

Section 26 - Fair play

Sections 27, 28, 29 and 30 - Complaints, Protests, Juries and Appeals

Section 31 - Event Control

Section 32 - Event Reports

Applying the Rules

Appendix 1 - General competition classes

- **Defines degrees of difficulty**
- **Suggested course groupings and % lengths: for State Championships and badge events; and for Australian Championships**

Appendix 2 - Principles for course planning - essential reading

Appendix 4 - Health and safety guidelines

- **Sections on general hygiene, drinking water, first aid**

Appendix 5 - Event classification and controller accreditation

Appendix 6 - Badge scheme

Appendix 7 - OA Environmental code of practice

- **Event organisers' and controllers' responsibilities**

Applying the Rules

Appendix 8 - Event formats

Course and event profiles of different competition formats (Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay

This ties in with Adrian Uppill's course/class/winning time relationship documents, based on kilometre rates for different age groups

Appendix 9 – The Leibnitz Convention

Raising the profile of orienteering by increasing visibility

Appendix 10 – Guidelines for complaints and protests

Appendix 11 – Good Friday events

What Makes a Good Event?

- **No complaints or protests indicate that at least the rules were followed, but is this all that is required?**
- **Competitor satisfaction with courses – competitor mistakes were not the result of poor course setting or control placement.**
- **Winning times match expectation, few DNFs**
- **Spectator satisfaction with assembly area,**
- **Neither the assembly area or courses have detracted from each other's requirements**