

11. Technical Infrastructure and Event Management

11.1 Technical Report

a) Chair of OA Technical Committee

Anna Sheldon has been appointed Chair of the OA Technical Committee until the 2017 OA AGM, to fill the vacancy left by Eric Andrews' death.

b) Technical roles in each State/Territory

It has become evident that not every state has a formally appointed Technical Officer or equivalent; sometimes the responsibilities of event scheduling, event management, implementation of rules and controller accreditation are shared among up to 4 different people, and not all of these responsibilities are fully covered in all circumstances. At a minimum, each state should have a central officer whose responsibility it is to ensure that events are of appropriate quality and maintain the required resources and education to guarantee that all course planners/organisers/controllers are aware of the technical requirements for their level of event.

c) OA Rules update – use of GPS

New wording of IOF Rule 21.4: Competitors shall not use or carry telecommunication equipment between entering the pre-start area and reaching the finish in a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organiser. GPS-enabled devices (watches etc.) can be carried provided that they have no map display and are not used for navigation purposes. However, the organiser has the right to specifically forbid the use of such equipment. The organiser may require competitors to carry a tracking device and/or a GPS data logger.

Current OA Rule 21.6: Competitors may not use or carry telecommunication equipment between entering the pre-start area and reaching the finish in a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organiser. GPS devices with no map function or signal to aid the user in finding direction may be carried. The organiser may require competitors to wear a tracking device.

d) Winning times and course-class combinations for older and AS classes

Anna Sheldon has already begun looking at course lengths vs winning times for Aust middle and sprint championships. Using this together with David Hogg's work on the Australian Long Champs (and Australian 3-Days), and taking a look at the results from the Aust Relays also, we hope to produce an updated paper of recommended changes to discuss further amongst the technical committee and will then incorporate agreed changes into the 2017 OA rules document which will be finalised early in the New Year. In advance of this we are liaising directly with Andrew Lumsden and other organisers/planners/controllers of the 2017 Aust Champs about any changes which may impact on their course-class configuration.

e) NOL guidelines update

Some small wording changes. No difference to operational matters. NOL guidelines will be distributed to managers of all states' NOL teams early in 2017 and matters which are relevant to athletes/managers highlighted.

f) Structure of Australian 3-Days

A survey was sent to competitors who attended the 2016 Australian 3-Days in ACT, asking in effect whether the sprint prologue, which is currently part of a 4-day competition for elite classes but a stand-alone competition for all other age classes, should become part of a 4 day competition for all age classes, or be made into a stand-alone race for elites also, or the status quo be retained. Respondents (overall response rate was approx. 35%) indicated the current arrangement to be mostly preferred both by elite and non-elite age classes.

There was also a question about whether reintroduction of the 'Family' Relay would be preferred over incorporating the Family Teams competition into the sprint event as has been done in recent years. Responses to this (noting that the question was inapplicable to 50% of respondents) indicated a narrow majority against reintroduction of the relay.

While the High Performance Management Group and the Technical Chair/Director all feel that the status quo is appropriate and that the issues primarily revolve around software and event entry systems, we acknowledge the burden on event organisers and the confusion competitors experience when entering these races. Further discussion with Orienteering Tasmania and the 2018 Australian 3-Days organisers will follow.

g) Controllers' Curricula and Accreditation

- It has been noted by the Australian Sports Commission that we are not meeting our KPI targets in terms of their recommended increases in numbers of accredited coaches and officials. There are a number of reasons for this, such as older controllers retiring from the system or dropping down a level, but this is all the more reason to train and accredit new controllers, which doesn't seem to be a priority in some states – for example, ACT appears to have no current Level 1s.
- Ideally, OA would have a funded National Manager Officiating role (similar to the National Manager Coaching). This person wouldn't only process accreditations but would advise & mentor states and individuals on the requirements for accreditation/reaccreditation and would review the controllers' curricula +/- conduct workshops, possibly at all levels. The position description has been drafted, but without any funding available, this is merely a pipe dream ☹
- The Level 2 curriculum has undergone recent revision although still requires final signoff by the OA Director, Technical, before submission to and endorsement by ASC.
- The Level 3 controllers' curriculum is currently expired and needs to be reviewed & updated over the next few months, before submission to ASC. Technically, we cannot accredit any new L3 controllers until this has been done, although it's possible to renew L3 accreditations in the meantime. This highlights a personnel gap in that it may be necessary to use OA funds (although the ASC participation funding probably can't be used for this purpose) to contract someone to do the work.
- Also, the Operational Manual Available from the OA website contains listings for 2 documents:
 - 1.4 CONTROLLER ACCREDITATION - LEVELS 1 and 2 which dates from 2008 and needs urgent revision;
 - 1.5 CONTROLLER ACCREDITATION – LEVEL 3 AND INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION EVENT ADVISER which has never been written.

Both of these documents will hopefully be undertaken in the next few months – although again this depends on the availability of someone who can look at them - and subsequently distributed to all state technical officers. There may be merit in expanding on the requirements for hosting

World Ranking events and the use of IOF Eventor in an additional document, or else separating out the IOF controlling document from the Level 3 one.

h) Level 3 controllers' workshop

A Level 3 controllers' workshop will be held, most likely in Adelaide, during 2017. Although controller accreditation (at all levels) needs to be renewed every 4 years, it's only necessary to attend a workshop once within an 8-year period; therefore current L3 controllers who haven't been to a L3 workshop since 2009 will need to attend. Level 2s who want to upgrade to L3 are encouraged! States to please advise Jenny Casanova of suitable candidates and then a convenient date will be identified.

i) IOF Event Advisers' clinic

Likely to take place during WMOC in NZ. Current L3 controllers may apply to attend through the OA Director, Technical.

j) MTBO controlling/rules

Kathy Liley is undertaking the arduous process of modifying foot orienteering controllers' curricula to fit with MTBO processes. Only minor changes to MTBO rules for 2017 (to be confirmed)? There are currently no MTBO-accredited IOF Event Advisers in Australia.

11.2 Future major events - 2019 Oceania and Australian Championships.

Paper outlining draft schedule and division of responsibilities is to be provided by OV and OACT for discussion at Conference.

Application to host Regional Championships in M/W21E to be submitted to IOF by end December 2016. Note that the IOF will appoint a Senior Event Adviser to these races, from another Federation in the Oceania region.

11.3 2017-2018 NOL Schedule (in High Performance papers); Major Events Schedule 2017-22 (see separate attachment)

The rotation is such that major states host both Aust Champs & Aust 3-Days within a 6-year cycle and minor/outer states are scheduled on an 8-year cycle. Oceania Championships (every 4 years) are currently allocated on a voluntary basis.

11.4 Level 3 Controllers for next 3 years

All Group A events are required to have Level 3 controllers appointed to them, as a representative of and endorsed by Orienteering Australia as per the OA Rules:

AC 3DAY	1.1	Orienteering Australia, through the Director, Technical, shall endorse the Organising Body's recommendation for OA Controller at least 3 years prior to the event. In the first instance, this may be a Level 3 coordinator who is technical coordinator for the entire carnival. This requirement applies also to Oceania Championships.
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- A** 1.2 For National Orienteering League and all other Group A events the OA Controller shall be appointed by the organising body as soon as possible after the event is announced and shall be endorsed by Orienteering Australia.

For NOL races which are outside a national championships carnival it may be appropriate to have the Level 3 Controller oversee only the elite courses, but they should still have a general knowledge of the organisational requirements detailed in the NOL guidelines.

Level 3 controllers for Group A/NOL events should be notified to the OA Director, Technical for endorsement, as soon as they have been appointed.

2017 Group A events and Level 3 controllers

- March 11 Pittwater Dunes (Hobart), Middle Distance: L3 controller Bert Elson, also individual day controller
- March 12 Pittwater Dunes Long Distance/Hagaby: L3 controller Bert Elson, also individual day controller
- March 25 Sprint Qualifier/Final Red Hill/ Canberra Girls Grammar: L3 Controller TBC
- March 26 Middle Distance Orroral Crossing: L3 Controller TBC
- June 10-12 Australian 3-Days Wagga: overall L3 controller Alex Davey (also individual day controllers for middle, long, sprint)
- August 26 ACT sprint (Glenloch Interchange): L3 Controller TBC
- August 27 ACT Ultralong (Gibraltar Hill): L3 Controller TBC
- Sept 23-Oct 1 Australian Championships Bathurst Sprint, Middle, Long, Relay: overall L3 controller Andrew Lumsden; replacement for Paul Prudhoe is sought. Also individual L2 day controllers

2018

- Australian 3 Days March 30 – April 2 Tasmania (sprint, middle, long, intermediate distances) Overall L3 controller Greg Hawthorne
- Australian Sprint, middle, long, relay championships September 22-30 South Australia Overall L3 controller TBC

2019

- Australian 3-Days and Aust Sprint/Middle Distance Championships – WA
- Australian Long/Relay Championships and Oceania Sprint/Middle/Long/Relay Championships – combined Victorian/ACT carnival (NSW may be involved in midweek Aust Schools' champs events but these don't require L3 controllers)

11.5 Mapping report

Separate paper from Adrian Uppill provided for information only – no action items.

Jenny Casanova
Director, Technical
28 November 2016