

11.6 Mapping Report to OA Conference

a) Mapping Committee Chair

Neil Barr has been appointed as chair of the OA Mapping Committee, replacing Adrian Uppill who has in turn been appointed to the IOF Mapping Commission.

b) Mapping Statistics

The way we manage maps these days has completely changed from the past: map subsets, additions here & there to existing maps, printing maps on demand, minor update, major updates, differences between Associations as to how maps managed, not all Associations have a mapping officer etc. Therefore the statistics form which Adrian Uppill previously sent to states requesting the details of their mapped area is not currently in use; in any case, data return from states was not consistent.

c) ISOM 2017

The IOF's new mapping specifications should be read by all mappers and controllers and course planners, and may be downloaded here:

<http://orienteering.org/resources/mapping/>

It is recommended by the OA Mapping Chair and Committee that new forest maps within Australia be mapped and drawn to ISOM 2017 specifications, but this is only mandatory for major carnivals and IOF World Ranking Events (noting tht IOF is implementing tighter mapping control for international events). Wherever possible/practical, Australian mapping updates should be done to ISOM 2017 specifications in advance of championships at state level, and when any forest maps are in the process of being updated. Adrian Uppill has prepared a colour sheet (attached to the conference papers) which shows the recommended symbols.

An innovation of the new specification is the introduction of a symbol's 'footprint' size on the ground, for example, a Boulder of 6mm diameter on the map has a 'Footprint: 9m x 9m'.

There will no longer be a brown cross for Prominent landform feature, with this shape replaced by a brown triangle outline. This will avoid confusion for some colour blind orienteers who cannot distinguish between brown and green as the cross is only to be used for green features ie Prominent vegetation feature. There is also no blue cross with water features now having two new symbol shapes being a small rectangle and an asterisk. In Australia termite mounds have traditionally been mapped with a brown cross, these will now be mapped as a brown triangle.

d) Practical Implications and Implementation of ISOM 2017 in Australia

Some maps will be more difficult to convert to ISOM 2017, particularly where non-conforming to ISOM2000 symbols are used such as undersize symbols and using a black area symbol to draw an individual boulder field triangle (rather than the point symbol). Also a lot of small area features such as bare rock and open land will need to be removed as undersize.

It is clear that ISOM2017 is strong on minimum sizes, areas, gaps etc. and mandates that if drawn and mapped to specification the map will be legible at 1:15000 - even for CMYK printing (which we all want to use rather than offset printing). This is also intended to improve map readability for the older age classes or technical terrains to print at 1:10000 and 1:7500.

It has been noted by OA that there may be some serious difficulties in converting Australia's gold mining terrain to ISOM 2017 and concerns have been raised by mappers that our favourite gold mining terrains may therefore be unsuitable for international use.

e) Changed Control Circle Sizes

The course setting or overprinting symbols in ISOM 2017 are also a strict enlargement of the 1:15000 map, noting these symbols have been slightly reduced in size: i.e. control circle reduced from 6.0mm diameter to 5.0mm diameter. This means that for 1:15000 scale maps and enlargements thereof the control circle for example, will always have the same 'footprint' size on the ground of 75metres diameter. At 1:10 000 the control circle size will be 7.5mm.

f) ISSOM (International Specifications for Sprint Orienteering Maps)

Urban maps should ideally be drawn to either ISOM 2017 or ISSOM and minimise use of non-standard symbols; Adrian Uppill has prepared a symbol set for school and sprint maps which will be available from the OA website, noting that ISSOM is also under review so some symbols will change in accordance with ISOM2017. Symbols which are forbidden to cross in the terrain will be highlighted in the IOF rules, rather than in the mapping specifications.

g) IOF Control Descriptions Update

The updated IOF control descriptions have been released on Nov 27th; David Rosen has informed OA that the suggested changes to control descriptions proposed by Australian mappers, which would have brought rock features' descriptions into line with their mapped appearance, were not accepted by IOF.

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