

Orienteering Australia High Performance and Coaching Meeting

Saturday 20 April, Perth.

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Ian Prosser, OA High Performance Administrator (chair)
Stephen Craig, OA High Performance Director
Jim Russell, OA Head Coach
Rachel West, WA
Phil Walker, ACT
David Poland, ACT
John McComb, Tas
Claire Hawthorne, Tas
Brodie Nankervis, OA Junior Squad Coach
Simon Uppill, SA and OA Athlete Representative
Bridget Anderson, SA
Ann Scown, ACT
Blair Trewin, OA President

NSW, Vic and Qld were invited but were not represented.

Actions:

1. Stephen Craig to take to OA a proposal to form a High Performance and Coaching Committee including representatives from each state, with the objective to foster and coordinate HP and coaching across all organisations.
2. Ian Prosser to obtain and distribute to all states the list of accredited coaches.

The list of accredited coaches can be found at: <https://orienteering.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Accreditation-Coaches-17-Nov-2018.pdf>

3. Ian Prosser to establish a shared calendar for all organisations to share HP and coaching activities.

Agenda Items:

1. HP activities

Ian Prosser outlined the overall objective the program as a healthy national program of elite events, squads and national teams aimed at attracting and retaining elite orienteers so that they go on to be long term contributors to the sport. The main activities of the HP program are the National Orienteering League, national squads, and national teams sent to international competitions.

OA has just appointed Stephen Craig as HP Director on the Board, filling a position that has been vacant for two years. This will help the HP strategy develop and move forward.

2. Coaching Development activities.

Barbara Hill resigned at the beginning of the year from the OA Coaching Coordinator role. She has recommended several areas for improvement in coaching coordination and the OA Board is reviewing its approach before deciding how to proceed in future.

The meeting discussed further ideas such as improving the coaching accreditation process so that learning could be done online and through active learning under the supervision of a higher level accredited coach. The syllabus for each level of accreditation will need updating to achieve this.

The requirement for higher level coaches to train lower level coaches limits coaching accreditation in states where there are no active higher level coaches.

The annual December junior training camp can be used to help gather coaches together to share experiences and to participate in learning by leading coaching activities.

OA may seek Australian Government funding in future to improve coaching accreditation and coordination.

3. Working with States.

From an OA program perspective it is important that each state appoint a NOL team manager and have a board member with responsibilities for state level HP and coaching. The NOL competition is more successful when athletes feel part of genuine team and because of geographical limits state teams can train and meet together more frequently and effectively than national squads.

States and individual athletes can access sponsorship and other support that is not accessible at a national level and states have stated that they prefer this to increasing financial contributions to OA. We should increase awareness of these opportunities. We should share examples of successful state activities with other states. When states are organising training camps they should inform one of the OA HP officers so that other states can be informed and to coordinate planning between states.

It is intended that the December national junior camp be held each year. Brodie Nankervis has taken the lead on this for the last two years but is unable to do so for 2019 so OA is looking for someone to take the lead with support for access to venues from their state.