

NOL 2022 Division Change

In response to feedback provided in the NOL 2021 feedback survey and following extensive consultation with athletes, NOL managers/coaches and event organisers, the OA High Performance Management Group (HPMG) is making the following changes to the NOL in 2022. The changes to the current divisions aim to be more inclusive, make NOL races achievable for the competitive (but not “elite”) junior and open category athletes, increase participation and improve the team competition.

Updated changes following stakeholder engagement:

The HPMG are making the following changes for the 2022 Season:

1. The M/W18A category is changed back to M/W20A and not included in majority of the NOL season. This change is suggested to ease organisational burden and pave the way for the “Sport class” in the future.
2. **For Round 2 in the ACT**, the proposed addition of a “Sport” class in M/W20 and M/W21 to NOL scoring will be **trialled** (see detail below). The Sport class will replace the A class at this event and feedback will be used to determine if its inclusion in 2023 is appropriate.

The Sport class will be trialled at only one round due to the following reasons:

- *The effect of improving the social side of NOL on participation is yet to be fully realised.*
- *Two NOL rounds are comprised of majority sprints (which the proposed divisions would run the same course).*
- *Significant organisation has already been completed for Easter 2022, and the HPMG does not want to increase organisational burden.*

New Sports Class Divisions (for NOL Round 2 trial):

The proposal is that for both men and women, open (21 and over) and juniors, there will be an “elite class” (which exists at the moment) and a “sport class”. The sport class is designed for competitive orienteers who may have other priorities than just the goal of elite racing on the international level, and will be approximately 80% of the distance of the elite class.

All divisions will complete hard navigation. Approximate winning times and distances can be found in Appendix 1.

Rationale:

The current model of NOL divisions is biased towards those who want to “perform” at national competitions to become an international representative. The winning times/length of courses are biased towards these competitors, those who participate at an international level.

For those who want to “compete” at a national level, the length of the courses can sometimes be too demanding. By creating a sport class, this gives these competitors an opportunity to enjoy national level competition, while not sacrificing the “performance” participants who are training and preparing for international competitions.

This model also accounts for the those who are youngest in both senior and junior categories, particularly the junior class (i.e. M/W18's). These competitors may be building up towards a goal of international representation in their later junior or senior years, or they may have the goal of participating in and enjoying national level competition.

Scoring new divisions:

Whilst there will be 8 divisions, for the purposes of scoring there will be only 4 individual categories (the same as for teams): Open Women, Open Men, Junior Women and Junior Men.

Points from the Elite and Sport categories will be combined for each category. Due to the nature of Elite class being a higher-level competition, the Sport class will be awarded approximately 1/3 of the points on offer in the Elite class.

With this structure, competitors do not need to run the same class for the whole season (i.e. coming back from injury, illness, time out of the sport). Where the Sport and Elite class run the same course, there will be only one point score.

Point Scores for Elite and Sport Class in each category are shown Appendix 2.

Teams with new divisions:

There would remain just an Open and Junior Team Competition for Men and Women. Sport and Elite Classes will be combined for team competition.

For individual events, teams in each of the four divisions are ranked according to the sum of the points of their best three competitors in each division, with the following provisos:

- Teams who have 3 runners are ranked 1st, followed by teams with 2 runners and then 1 runner.
- Teams which have no finishers receive no points;
- Teams with an equal points are placed according to the results of the highest placed competitors in each team;
- Teams still equal shall be considered to have tied.
- Where there is a qualifying race and a final, the first finisher in the B final is ranked after the last finisher in the A final, with team results are then based on the sum of points awarded.

No change to relay point scoring as elite and sport classes will run together.

Appendix 1: Approximate winning times and distances:

Division	Age	Sprint	Middle	Long	Relay
Men Open Elite	>21 Years	12-15' 3-4km Could share with all Male classes	30-35' 4-7km	75-90' 10-15km	Compete with Sport class: 30-40' per leg
Men Open Sport	>21 Years	12-15' 3-4km	30-35' 3.5-6km Could share with Junior elite men/Open elite women	75' 8-12km Could share with Junior Elite men/Open elite women	Compete with Elite Class: 45' max per leg
Men Junior Elite	<21 Years	12-15' 3-4km	30-35' 3.5-6km	70' 8-12km	Compete with Sport class: 30-40' per leg
Men Junior Sport	<21 Years	12-15' 2.5-3.5km May be separate to other men's classes	30-35' 3.0-5.5km May be women junior elite course	60' 6-8km	Compete with Elite Class: 45' max per leg
Women Open Elite	>21 Years	12-15' 2.5-3.5km Could share with all women classes	30-35' 3.5-6km	60-70' 7-11km	Compete with Sport class: 30-40' per leg
Women Open Sport	>21 Years	12-15' 2.5-3.5km	30-35' 3.0-5.5km Could share with Junior Elite women	60' 6-8km Could share with Junior Elite women/junior sport men	Compete with Elite Class: 45' max per leg
Women Junior Elite	<21 Years	12-15' 2.5-3.5km	30-35' 3.0-5.5km	55' 6-10km	Compete with Sport class: 30-40' per leg
Women Junior Sport	<21 Years	12-15' 2.0-3.0km	30-35' 3.0-4.5km	50' 4.5-6km	Compete with Elite Class: 45' max per leg

Appendix 2: Point Score

Place in class	Elite Class	Sport Class
1	30	10
2	27	8
3	24	6
4	21	5
5	20	4
6	19	3
7	18	2
8	17	1
9	16	1
10	15	1
11	14	0
12	13	0
13	12	0
14	11	0
15	10	0
16	9	0
17	8	0
18	7	0
19	6	0
20	5	0
21	4	0
22	3	0
23	2	0
>24	1	0