

Orienteering Australia

World Orienteering Championships 2023

Selection Criteria and Preliminary Information

Flims & Laax Switzerland, 11–16 July 2023

(To be read in conjunction with Section 5.1 Australian Teams - OA Operational Manual and Section 5.2 World Championships Teams - OA Operational Manual)

It is the responsibility of all prospective team members and their coaches to read and make sure they understand the policy and how it operates. Specific queries in relation to the intended meaning or operation of the policy should be made to [Fredrik Johansson \(OA High Performance Administrator\)](#).

WOC 2023 Program

11 July	Opening ceremony (Rocksresort / Laax Murschetg)
12 July	Middle Qualification (Flims Laax)
13 July	Long (Flims Laax)
15 July	Middle Final (Flims Laax)
16 July	Relay (Flims Laax)

The team will convene in Switzerland in the days leading up to the first race day. A more detailed schedule around the Championships will be finalised closer to the events.

OA Senior Selection Panel 2023

Fredrik Johansson, Chair of Selectors (non-voting)

Bruce Arthur, Selector

Tracy Marsh, Selector

Natasha Key, Head Coach

If a selector declares a conflict of interest that results in them being unable to vote on a decision relating to a particular athlete, the OA High Performance Director, Clare Hawthorne, will vote on that decision.

Team Size

Australia is permitted to enter the following number of athletes in each race:

- Middle Qualification (Flims Laax) 3 women, 3 men + Oceania 2023 winners
- Long (Flims Laax) 2 women, 2 men + Oceania 2023 winners
- Relay (Flims Laax) 3 women, 3 men

Note that this is the maximum number of Australian athletes allowed in each discipline at WOC. The number of selected athletes will depend upon how we choose to structure the team to meet the available positions.

It is expected that team members will have a reasonable chance of achieving a result in the top two thirds of the field in the individual WOC discipline(s) for which they have been selected. The relay team will be selected based on performances in individual and relay selection races. Past performances in relays at international level may also be taken into consideration.

Eligibility

- In order to be eligible for the team, prospective team members must complete an online nomination form.
- All athletes must be members of a state association affiliated to Orienteering Australia.
- The IOF requires athletes to have full passport-holding citizenship rights in the country for which they are competing. Athletes can only represent one nation in a given calendar year.
- All athletes must ensure that they conform current to OA anti-doping guidelines.

Junior athletes

Junior athletes may nominate and be considered for WOC selection. In order to be considered, junior athletes must compete at all WOC selection trials, however they may compete in M/W20E at selection events which are also JWOC trials. In addition, they must compete in M/W21E in the WOC trials which are not also JWOC trials (currently NOL Round 4 in Victoria). Athletes competing in W/M18 will not be considered for selection.

Selection Process

In exercising their discretion, the selectors may consider any factor, or combination of factors that is, in the opinion of the selectors, relevant for consideration when selecting an elite Australian team.

Selection will be based on consideration of the athlete's:

1. **Performances** achieved in these international and national events in relevant foot orienteering formats (middle distance, long distance, relay) as measured by overall result, percentage behind winner, and any other factor deemed relevant. Consistency and reliability in relays will also be considered.
2. **Commitment** to improving physical, technical and mental skills. Road races, track races, time trials and x/c races may be used as a guide of physical condition.
3. **Potential.** The benefit of exposure to international racing to any athlete who, in the opinion of the selectors, has the potential to represent Australia and achieve top 16 results at future WOCs and World Cups.

Specific selection criteria (Category A, B, and C in order of importance)

CATEGORY A

NOL Round 1 - Oceania

- January 9-12, 2023, St Helens, TAS (Long, Middle, Relay)

NOL Round 3 - Easter long weekend

- April 8-10, 2023, Nimmitabel, NSW (Day 1-3 Middle, Long, Relay length)

NOL Round 4 - Victorian weekend

- May 6, 2023, Castlemaine Vic (Saturday Middle distance races)
- May 7, 2023, Victoria, Forest relay

Overseas-based athletes who are unable to participate in any of the Category A events can nominate up to three high-level events as an alternative. These events must be approved by the Senior Selection Panel and take place no later than 30 April 2023.

CATEGORY B

Other international events or national races held in the 18 months leading up to the selection date. Examples of such events are races from NOL 2022, World Cups 2022, Australian Championships 2022, Swedish/Norwegian/British Championships 2022.

CATEGORY C

Other state events. Selectors may take into account state championship and state league/OY events in the selection process. Examples of such events include State Championships which are scheduled to be run prior to Easter 2023.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Physical test

1x 5,000m time trial to be run between 1 February 23 - 30 April 23. (**See Note below**).

Inability to participate in any of the Category A events for reasons such as injury, sickness, personal circumstances, being in isolation due to Covid, work or study commitments must be communicated to the Chair of Selectors, Fredrik Johansson, prior to the event in question. The Chair of Selectors may prescribe alternative selection races in these cases. It is the responsibility of the athlete to keep the Chair of Selectors informed of circumstances that will impact on performances.

OA may decide at its discretion to allocate alternative selection races should there be significant race cancellations for any reason. Any changes will be communicated as soon as practicable to all M/W21E and M/W20E athletes regardless of whether or not they have nominated for WOC.

Selection Procedure

1. Athletes must complete online nomination by 11.59pm on the 19 March 2023.

- The Chair of the Senior Selection Panel will communicate to all athletes how this nomination is to be completed.
- The Senior Selection Panel will then compile a list of all nominating athletes which will be made public at 6.00pm on the 20 March 2023.
- Should there be any errors or omissions in the list then this information should be communicated with a member of the Senior Selection Panel no later than 6.00pm on the 26 March 2023.
- Thereafter the nomination process for WOC23 will be closed, and nominations made public by 12.00pm on the 27 March 2023.
- Athletes who are uncertain about nominating for the WOC23 team are encouraged to do so by the due date, as nominations can always be withdrawn before the final weekend of selection races.

2. The Provisional team will be communicated to athletes no later than the 11 of May 2023 at 8pm AEST time.

- Provisionally selected athletes will have 2 weeks to accept the offer of a place in the team by completing the required payment and documentation.
- Reserves will normally be named in the selection process. Should a selected athlete decline their position on the team, the position will go to the highest placed reserve athlete.
- In the event that all the named reserves decline an offered place, the Senior Selection Panel will convene to decide on whether a new team member should be selected from the nominated athletes.

- In the event that a large number of selected athletes are not able to travel to WOC as planned, the Senior Selection Panel reserves the right to consider further replacement athletes, including by calling for further nominations.
 - Payment and documentation requirements for WOC will be communicated in advance of the final selection trial to give all athletes adequate time to make plans.
3. **Enquiries:** [Fredrik Johansson \(OA High Performance Administrator\)](#).

Notes

These selection criteria take precedence over other documents in the case of inconsistencies. For clarification:

1. These selection criteria take precedence in the event of any inconsistency with **Section 5.2 World Championships Teams - OA Operational Manual**
2. **Special consideration** may be given in exceptional circumstances. Section 5.1.23 of the Operational Manual states: *The respective Selection Panel should take account of any exceptional circumstances affecting the performance of team candidates in a selection event (e.g., illness, or potentially unfair aspects of course setting). Any team candidates who consider they have a case for special considerations are responsible for advising the Chairperson of the respective selection panel in writing.* In addition, in considering the performances of athletes at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under these criteria, the respective national selection committees may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances. In such circumstances (for example, travel delays, bereavement or personal misfortune), it is the athlete's responsibility to submit a written application with evidence for special consideration to the Head Coach or Chair of Selectors in a timely manner.
3. **Pre-selection** options will apply to WOC team selection. OA has the authority to pre-select one or more individuals at any time if, in the Senior Selection Panel's opinion, they have clearly demonstrated that they have a realistic prospect of placing in the top 16 of the individual races in the World Championships. Such a decision will be based on previous international championship performances, the candidate's proposed programme of training and competition overseas, and performances in earlier selection trials (if applicable).

Links to key documents

[Section 5.2 World Orienteering Teams Section](#)

[5.1 Australian teams](#)

This policy can be amended at any time by Orienteering Australia if Orienteering Australia is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change in the IOF guidelines, to give effect to the policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Orienteering Australia by Orienteering Australia. Orienteering

Australia shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

Note on Physical tests. All nominating athletes are to submit results from a physical test undertaken in the period **1 February to 30 April 2023**. The tests can be athletics races, Parkruns, organised group time trials, but preferably where results are published and distances are accurate. Results are to be sent to the Head Coach by April 30th at the latest but preferably within a few days of the test. Aspects of these arrangements can be varied by agreement with the Head Coach if there are exceptional circumstances.

It is relevant to selectors that athletes can demonstrate consistency of performance, and evidence of high physical condition. There are no benchmark times set for these time trials, however results may be used as indicators of an athlete's current fitness and competitiveness.

Funding

OA has a budget for the WOC team. However, as OA no longer receives high performance funding from Sport Australia this money is raised from the Australian orienteering community. Team members will need to pay for their own travel costs to and from WOC and any additional on-ground expenses not covered by OA, which are expected to be of the order of \$500 per person. Team members are encouraged to recoup their costs as much as possible through activities with their local club, state association, or seeking personal sponsorship. The WOC team and individual team members are also able to receive tax deductible donations through the Australian Sports Foundation.

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