

Orienteering Australia

Bushrangers Australian Team Selection Criteria

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

Purpose

The Bushrangers is the Australian team selected to compete in test matches against New Zealand, typically held twice per year. The Bushrangers Team is selected in four competition classes W21E, M21E, W20E and M20E. This document describes the general policy of holding test matches and selecting the Australian team for each test match. As outlined in this document the details of specific test matches and specific selection criteria will be communicated to all concerned on the Orienteering Australia website and through the Athlete Management Program (AMP) well in advance of team selection.

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, and keep themselves informed of updates for particular team selections. If anyone has a specific query in relation to the intended meaning or operation of the policy, they should contact the Orienteering Australia Head Coach or the Chair of the relevant selection panel (see below).

Test match program

Typically two test matches are held per year, one in New Zealand and one in Australia. The calendar of test matches is agreed at least a year in advance by Orienteering Australia and Orienteering New Zealand. The schedule of test matches is included in the annual high performance calendar published on the OA web site at least three months before each season commences. In Australia it is usually the Australian Championships Carnival or the Australian Three Days at Easter when the test match is held. The Oceania Championships is typically a test match event.

Selection Panel

The M/W21E class members of the team are selected by the OA Senior Selection Panel and the M/W20E classes are selected by the OA Junior Selection Panel. The current membership of selection panels can be found at:

[OA selection panels](#)

Team Size

The Bushrangers team is permitted to have a minimum of three and a maximum of six competitors in each competition class. The travelling team decides the precise number of athletes in each class and informs the other federation of this three months in advance of the competition. Australia decides its team size on the basis of the strength of the nominations for the team. The aim of the Bushrangers team

is to provide suitable athletes with positive exposure to international competition on new top level terrains and to develop athlete's ability to perform in international competitions.

Eligibility

Only athletes of a suitable standard will be considered for selection, up to the maximum number allowed. A suitable standard involves being an established elite competitor at a national level and displaying the capacity to perform physically, technically and mentally toward the top of the class for which they are seeking selection. To be eligible for selection the athlete must be a member of one of Orienteering Australia's Squads (Elite High Performance Squad, High Performance Squad, National Development Squad, and Australian Junior Development Squad, TTA group).

Junior athletes need to have a date of birth that places them in the M/W17-20 age group in the year of competition.

An athlete must also meet the IOF eligibility criteria for selection in a national team (full passport-holding citizenship).

All athletes must ensure that they conform to OA rules in relation to anti-doping provisions and the maintenance of up to date contact details with ASADA.

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. Without in any way limiting the discretion of the selectors as set out in this clause, the selectors may consider the following:

Generally, selection will be based on consideration of the athlete's

1. **Participation** in International, National and State orienteering events (both in Australia and Overseas). Also voluntary attendance at training camps organized as part of the High Performance Program.
2. **Performances** achieved in International, National and State events in the different foot orienteering formats (sprint, middle, long, relay) as measured by overall result, km rate, percentage behind winner etc:
3. **Commitment** to improving their physical, technical and mental skills. These can be demonstrated for example by: training schedules, technical consistency through split analysis, physical test results, active involvement with coaches and other athletes and race evaluations.
4. **Potential**. The benefit of exposure to international racing to any athlete who, in the opinion of the selectors, has the potential to represent Australia at future JWOC and WOC competitions.

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

- A) **Participation and performance** in NOL events over the six months preceding selection. For clarity, the relevant selection events for particular teams will be published on the OA website and communicated through the AMP.

- B) **International events** held in the 12 months leading up to the selection date. For overseas based athletes, details of results in events in the last six months which can substitute for NOL events under criteria A should be provided.
- C) **Other national events** both in the 12 months leading up to the selection date. These might include state championships, earlier NOL events and the Australian Schools Championships
- D) **State and district** events both in Australia and Overseas in the 6 months leading up to the selection date.

It is relevant that athletes can demonstrate consistency of performance, technical superiority in their age class (M/W17-20E) and evidence of a solid training base.

Inability to participate in any of the events in A) above for whatever reason must be communicated in writing to the OA Head Coach or Chair of the relevant selection panel well in advance of the selection date. It is the athletes responsibility to keep the head coach informed of circumstances that will impact on performances. Athletes are strongly urged to do this.

Acceptable reasons for being unable to participate in some of the category A selection events include:

- Significant travel burdens to attend NOL events for other state athletes
- Illness or injury
- Specific work or study commitment, bereavement or personal misfortune

In each case, the athlete will be considered for selection in the team, providing that they have significantly outperformed one or more members of the team that would have been selected in their absence in other recent major events and/or have performed at an appropriately high level in one or more alternative events nominated by the Head Coach.

Selection Procedure

1. **Nominations.** For Bushrangers teams that travel to New Zealand specifically for the test match nominations will be called for about three months before selection on the OA website and communicated to all athletes via AMP. Only athletes that nominate will be considered for selection. For test matches held in Australia or as part of other events where there is widespread Australian participation (eg 2023 Oceania Championships) it will be assumed that all eligible Australian entrants in the test match classes are available for selection. If you are eligible and entered but do not want to be considered for selection please contact the Head Coach or Chair of the relevant selection panel.
2. **Team Announcement.** The date for announcing the team will be published on the OA website well in advance of team selection. The team will be publically announced on the Orienteering Australia website. Travelling teams will typically be announced two months prior to travel and teams for Australian competition will be announced just a few weeks prior to competition and only after entries have closed.

Notes

These selection criteria take precedence over other previously documented inconsistencies in previous documents.

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 test match guidelines with New Zealand, 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.