

Orienteering Australia selection arrangements for 2023 Australian WMTBOC/JWMTBOC team

1. Background

1.1 Australian Teams for 2023

This document sets out selection arrangements for the following elite Australian MTB orienteering team in 2023:

- World MTB Orienteering Championships
- Junior World MTB Orienteering Championships

They reflect input from Australian and overseas-based elite athletes; coaches, experience from past selection processes and general selection guidelines published by the Sports Australia. They also reflect Orienteering Australia's rules.

1.2 Changes to WMTBOC format

The number of athletes which a country is permitted to enter in the long distance finals is limited, so a rider's entry is not automatic. If entries for the long distance exceed 66, then pre-qualification steps come into play to determine how many riders a country can field.

For full IOF Qualification Rules, refer to the IOF website - <https://orienteering.sport/mtbo/competition-rules/>

1.3 Selection Panel

The selection panel for 2023 is:

- Chair of Selectors - Craig Steffens craig.s@orienteering.asn.au
- Carolyn Jackson carolyna.jackson@yahoo.com.au
- Kay Haarsma kayhaarsma@hotmail.com

In accordance with the OA rules, members of the selection panel will not vote or take part in discussion on selection of the class in which he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family, or a partner, is a contender for selection.

2. 2023 World MTB Orienteering Championships (WMTBOC/JWMTBOC)

2.1 Team size

The WMTBOC and JWMTBOC team will each ideally consist of at least 3 men and 3 women, provided that the available athletes clearly demonstrate their potential to reach the final in the races in which they compete.

Additional team members will only be selected based on their potential to reach the top 60, up to a maximum of 6 men and 6 women, noting that a maximum of 3 athletes can be selected for any discipline. If an individual competition is also a World Cup competition, then additionally, each Federation may enter up to a further 2 women and 2 men, who qualify for the Women U23 and Men U23 classes respectively.

The team will be announced shortly after the selection trials.

- Given Australia's limited resources to support a large team and the possibility of injury or change in form, it is desirable that athletes can perform at the international level in more than one discipline.
- However, specialisation in a single discipline (and particularly in the sprint discipline) will be supported where the athlete is perceived to have outstanding ability in that discipline.
- The selectors will recommend rider for the relay team with final selection by the Team Coach to be made during the carnival, based on individual performances. Teams may be a blend of Senior, Junior, Male and Female riders, where sufficient riders are not available for a class.

Reserves may be announced but there will be no funding for them to travel to or train with the team overseas.

The selectors will name the participants for each discipline of WMTBOC, excluding the relay, when the team is named.

Subject to any IOF rules for Long Distance final start spots, each team member will ride all events, subject to them not suffering from significant illness or injury or substantial loss of form. At the discretion of the Team Coach, fitness tests may be conducted and selected athletes may be withdrawn from the team should sufficient fitness not be demonstrated.

Any decision on changes to the races which athletes ride will be made by the Team Coach in consultation with the OA High Performance Manager, as per OA Operational Manual Section 5.1. Decisions regarding each participant's races will take into account rider's preferences, form, fitness, and injury and illness status at the time. Athletes should understand that they have a responsibility to disclose any significant injury problems to team management upon occurrence.

If the Team Coach suggests an athlete ride a discipline for which they weren't initially selected then the reasoning behind this decision will be conveyed to the Team Manager and Chair of Selectors in a timely fashion, preferably before the event takes place.

The selection and order of the relay team will also be decided by the Team Coach, in consultation with the Team Manager, with athlete input. This may take place during carnival week.

2.3 Selection trials and criteria

Team selection in 2023 will be based on the following criteria:

(i) Primary (i.e. most important) criteria

1. Results in the selection trials listed below;

(ii) Secondary criteria, in order of importance:

1. Past international performance, particularly at WMTBOC or JWMTBOC

2. Recent performance at major Australian events within the last 12 months

3. Previous Australian performance;

(iii) Ability to relate well within a team atmosphere.

Athletes are reminded that in accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, priority will be given to selecting a team which can be expected to behave in a harmonious and responsible manner. Past unacceptable behaviour by an orienteer will be taken into account by the selection panel.

Selection will be largely evidence-based. It will analyse event results to determine who is likely to achieve the best results at the WMTBOC or JWMTBOC. While the selection panel will take all relevant factors into consideration, the strongest cases for selection will be those that meet both the primary and secondary criteria.

Those athletes who do not have past international results which prove that they are capable of making finals will need to rely on results at the trials to demonstrate that they are better prospects at WMTBOC or JWMTBOC 2023 than those who have performed well at WMTBOC or JWMTBOC in previous years.

Within the constraints of team size, outstanding performance in individual selection races will be rewarded with selection, in recognition that athletes who can achieve outstanding trial results are more likely to be able to achieve top 20 performances at WMTBOC or JWMTBOC.

When two athletes have very similar performance, based on the criteria above, selection will have regard to potential for future development, including factors such as age, experience and riding speed.

2.2.1 The Primary WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2023 Criteria - Selection Trials

The Australian selection trials for 2023 will cover:

- all stages of the selection trials.

To give everyone a fair and open chance for selection, all Australian-based athletes shall compete in the Australian selection trials and overseas based athletes are strongly encouraged to do so. Selection trials provide the most recent guide to form. Within practical constraints of timing and venue, the trials provide a situation of pressure to perform on the day, a feature of WMTBOC and JWMTBOC.

Absence at selection trials will be normally be taken as an indication that the athlete is uncompetitive relative to others at the time. Anyone who is unable to compete in one of the sets of selection trials (e.g. through injury, illness or absence overseas) will be required to advise the Chair of Selectors stating the reasons for the absence. If the absence is due to injury or illness a medical certificate shall be provided.

There are no absolute measures of performance (ie times and records) so relative performance compared to other athletes vying for selection will be crucial to the selection process.

In accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, the selection panel will take account of any exceptional circumstances affecting the performance of candidates in the selection trials; however, the onus is on the candidate to advise the Chair of Selectors in writing of these exceptional circumstances.

Given that some selection races will be ride on areas previously used, the selection panel may also take into account competitors' training or competition experience in these areas.

2.2.2 Overseas selection races

It is desirable that all nominees attend the Australian based trials. However, for nominees who may be living overseas, selection trials can be arranged around existing overseas events in negotiation with the chair of selectors. In such a situation the nominee would have to clearly demonstrate results that leave no doubt that they are significantly better than the next ranked Australian nominating for that particular class.

2.3.3 The Secondary WMTBOC/JWMTBOC 2023 Criteria – Past Performance

This includes results in the following events in order of reducing importance:

Past International Performance

- World Championships;
- World Ranking events;
- JWMTBOC
- Other major international MTBO races
- Australia – New Zealand Challenge, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships
- National MTB Orienteering League rounds

Pre-selection

Upon application from the athlete, the Selection Panel may pre-select one or more athletes. This will only be done in circumstances where the athlete has:

- outstanding previous international performances within the past 2 years
- a demonstrated high level of current fitness.

2.3.4 Other Considerations

No outstanding debts to Orienteering Australia, Australian University Sport or the athlete's relevant state association.

2.4 Nominations and team announcements

It is important that all athletes who wish to be considered for selection in national teams and squads inform the Team Coach and Team Manager of their current contact details. All athletes shall ensure they conform with the OA operational manual with regard to anti-doping provisions and the maintenance of up to date contact details with ASADA, if required. Failure to meet such obligations may result in an athlete's nomination for selection being refused.

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection in the Australian 2023 WMTBOC or JWMTBOC team will be required to submit a nomination web form **by midnight 5th March 2023**.

To nominate fill in this web form - <https://forms.gle/j9Z5fK4JGpPeDZNC7>

3.0 Enquiries

Enquiries about the nomination process are to be directed initially to the Chair of MTBO Selectors.

Craig Steffens
Chair of MTBO Selectors
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