

## COMPETITION RULES FOR MTBO CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS January 2013

Note that events conducted in Australia under the auspices of the International Orienteering Federation (eg World Ranking Events) are covered by the *Competition Rules for IOF MTBO Events*.

The Australian rules are binding on event organisers of and competitors in MTBO National and State Championship events held in Australia and be used as a model for MTBO events of lower status.

### LIST OF APPENDICES:

- 1 The MTBO Competitors' Code
- 2 Competition Formats
- 3 Health and Safety Guidelines
- 4 Environmental Code of Practice
- 5 The Leibnitz Convention
- 6 Guidelines regarding complaints, protests and cancelling courses.
- 7 Australia-New Zealand Challenge Rules.

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## 1. Definitions

- 1.1. Mountain Bike Orienteering (MTBO) is a sport in which the competitors, using cycles, navigate independently through the terrain. Competitors must visit a number of control points marked on the ground in the shortest possible time aided only by map and compass. The course, defined by the location of the controls, is not revealed to competitors until they start. Mountain biking and navigational skills shall be tested in such a way that navigational skill is the decisive element. The course shall be completed by the cyclist riding, carrying or pushing his/ her mountain bike. Riding off the track or designated open ground or deviating from a designated marked route will be disallowed unless specifically agreed by the event organiser and national controller
- 1.2. Types of MTBO may be distinguished by
  - 1.2.1. the nature of the competition:
    - individual: the competitors navigate and cycle through the terrain independently. In mass start and chasing start races, competitors may often be cycling in close proximity to each other, but the formats still demand independent navigation.
    - Relay: Two or more team members complete consecutive individual races
    - Team: Two or more individuals collaborate.
  - 1.2.2. The way of determining the competition result:
    - Single race competition. The result of one single race is the final result.
    - Multi-race competition. The combined results of two or more races, held during one day or several days, form the final result.
    - Qualification race competition: The competitors qualify for a final race through one or more qualification races in which they may be allocated to different heats. The competition's result is that of the final only. There may be A and B finals and so on, with the placed competitors of the B final placed after the placed competitors of the A final and so on.
  - 1.2.3. The order in which the controls are to be visited:
    - In a specific order. The sequence is prescribed (traditionally 1 then 2 then 3, etc).
    - In no specific order. The competitors are free to choose the order (score or scatter event).

1.2.4. The length of the race – long distance, middle distance, sprint distance, endurance distance, and other distances.

1.3. The term *State Association* means a full member *Association* of Orienteering Australia. The term *State* refers to both a 'State' and a 'Territory' of the Commonwealth of Australia

1.4. The term *event* embraces all aspects of an orienteering meeting including organisational matters such as start draws, meetings and ceremonies. An event, e.g. the Australian Championships, may include more than one competition.

## **2. General Provisions**

2.1. These rules, together with the Appendices, shall be binding at all Australian National and State Championship events, subject to the provisions of rule 2.10.

2.2. These rules are recommended as a basis for State Association rules.

2.3. Additional regulations which do not conflict with these rules may be determined by the event organiser. They need the approval of the event controller.

2.4. These rules shall be binding for all competitors, team officials and other persons connected with the organisation or in contact with the competitors.

2.5. Sporting fairness will be the guiding principle in the interpretation of these rules by competitors, event organisers and the jury.

2.6. The conduct of IOF events – the Senior and Junior World Championships in MTBO, the World Cup in MTBO, or the World Masters Orienteering Championships (WMOC) and IOF World Ranking Events (WRE) in MTBO– will be in accordance with the *Competition Rules for IOF Mountain Bike Orienteering Events*. Where WRE races are held in conjunction with, or as part of, another Australian event, the *IOF Competition Rules* shall take precedence where any contradiction with these rules occurs.

2.7. In relays the rules for individual competitions are valid, unless otherwise stated.

2.8. The Orienteering Australia Council may decide special rules or norms which shall be followed eg anti-doping rules, *International Specification for Orienteering Maps* and Australian mapping protocols.

2.9. Deviations from these rules and norms may be allowed. Requests for permission to deviate from them shall be made in writing at least 6 months prior to the event to the Orienteering Australia MTBO Development Officer for Australian Championship events, and to the relevant State or OA person for other events. Any variation to the regulations must be advertised in advance of the event.

2.10. Orienteering Australia may alter these rules from time to time in accordance with its constitutional procedures. Such amendment will normally be made on the recommendation of the OA Technical Committee in conjunction with the MTBO Committee.

## **3. Event Program**

3.1. The event dates and program for the Australian Championships are proposed by the event organiser and approved by the Orienteering Australia Council. Dates for State Championships should be agreed in conjunction with the OA MTBO Development Officer to avoid clashes and maximise the possibility of interstate attendance.

3.2. Australian Championships will be conducted annually with Long Distance, Middle Distance and Sprint Distance competitions.

3.3. A National MTBO Series comprising a set of 3 or 4 events (including sprint, middle, long and/or relay competitions) will be held annually in conjunction with designated events (including an Australian Championships event). Four Elite divisions (M.W-20E and M/W21E) and ten Masters divisions (M/W40, M/W50, M/W60, M/W70 and M/W80) score points in an individual national competition. State teams of two riders in each division score points in a team national competition.

#### **4. Event Applications**

- 4.1. The Orienteering Australia Council may impose a levy on any Orienteering Australia event in accordance with its constitution.
- 4.2. The Orienteering Australia Council can void the sanctioning of an event if the organiser fails to comply with the rules, the norms or the Orienteering Australia Controller's directions. The organiser cannot claim damages in this case.
- 4.3. Responsibility for the conduct of each of the Australian Championships will be allocated to State Associations by Orienteering Australia.

#### **5. Classes**

- 5.1. Competitors are divided into classes according to sex, age, course length and degree of difficulty. Women may compete in men's classes.
- 5.2. Competitors aged 20 or younger belong to each class up to the end of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are entitled to compete in older classes up to and including 21.
- 5.3. Competitors aged 21 or older belong to each class from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are entitled to compete in younger classes down to and including 21.
- 5.4. The main competition classes are called W21 and M21, for women and men respectively.
- 5.5. The following classes must be offered for the Australian Championships: M21, W21, M17-20, W17-20, M14, M16, M40, M50, M60, M70, W14, W16, W40, W50, W60, W70.
- 5.6. Age will be taken as at 31 December in the year of the event.
- 5.7. Other classes may be offered: eg M80, W80, and non-championship classes as defined by the organiser.
- 5.8. All 'official' classes must be conducted provided there is at least one entrant. Other classes that have been offered must be conducted if there are at least 4 entries.

#### **6. Participation**

- 6.1. Competitors participate at their own risk. Insurance against accidents shall be their responsibility.
- 6.2. The event organisers are entitled to refuse entries from persons whom they consider to be competing beyond their capabilities. A person whose entry has been refused shall be notified immediately and offered an alternative course or refunded the entry fee.

#### **7. Costs**

- 7.1. To cover the costs of the competition, the event organiser may charge an entry fee. This fee shall be kept as low as possible and shall be approved by the event controller. Competitors in junior classes should be charged a reduced entry fee. Each individual competitor is responsible for paying the entry fee as specified in the invitation
- 7.2. Late entries can be charged an additional fee. The amount of the additional fee shall be approved by the event controller.
- 7.3. The event organiser may exclude competitors from starting if their entry fee is not paid and no agreement has been reached about payment.
- 7.4. All reasonable costs of the event controller shall be paid by the event organiser.

## **8. Information about the event**

8.1. Event information shall be sent to all State Associations and be available via the Orienteering Australia website three months prior to the event. The invitation shall include:

- The name of the Event organiser and the names of the event director and event controller: address, telephone/ fax number, website and email address for information
- Sponsors
- Approximate venue
- Dates
- Classes offered
- Entry procedure and fees
- Entry form
- Latest date and address for entries
- Suggestions for accommodation
- Approximate course lengths and winning times
- Embargoed areas
- Information about how to obtain copies of any previous orienteering maps of the embargoed area(s)
- Opportunities for training
- Other information of interest

8.2. Event organisers shall provide a program to all entrants at least two weeks prior to the event. The program shall include

- All information included in the invitation
- Full details of venues and travel directions
- Description of terrain, climate and any hazards
- Scale, contour interval of maps and any other relevant mapping information
- Method of marking out of bounds areas and forbidden or marked routes
- Start and finish procedures
- Distances from parking to finish and start
- Registration times, venue and procedure
- Facilities available (toilets, refreshments etc)
- full start list for all classes
- any permitted deviations from the usual rules
- the length, total climb, number of controls on each individual course and, for relays, on each leg
- punching system to be used; advice for attaching control 'card' to the cycle
- jury members' names
- information of interest

## **9. Entries**

9.1. Entries shall be submitted according to the instructions given in the invitation. At least the following details shall be supplied for each competitor: family name and first given name, SI-card number if applicable, sex, year of birth, club, State Association, Federation (for international entrants only). Late entries can be refused.

9.2. A competitor may only enter one class in any one competition.

9.3. The organiser may exclude competitors or teams from starting if their entry fee is not paid and no agreement has been reached about payment.

## **10. Travel and Transport**

10.1. Each competitor is responsible for organising their own travel except where mandatory transport arrangements apply.

- 10.2. The use of official transport to a competition site may be declared mandatory by the organiser.

## **11. Training and model event**

- 11.1. On the day prior to the first competition of an event, the organiser may arrange a model event to demonstrate the terrain type, map quality, control features and the set-up of the controls, refreshment points and marked routes.
- 11.2. If deemed appropriate by the Controller, the model event may be organised on the day of the competition prior to the first start.

## **12. Starting order**

- 12.1. In an interval start, the competitors in the same class start singly at equal start intervals except for spaces that may be left to accommodate late entries. In a mass start competition, all competitors in a class start simultaneously; in relays this applies only to the team members cycling the first leg. In a chasing start, the competitors start singly at start times and intervals determined by their previous results.
- 12.2. The start draw shall be approved by the event controller. The start list shall be published before the day of the competition. If a qualification race is organised on the same day as the finals, the start list of the finals shall be published at least one hour before the first start.
- 12.3. For an interval start other than finals of qualification race competitions, the starting order shall be drawn at random, except that :
- Competitors may be seeded on the basis of prior performance.
  - Consideration may be given to requests from competitors for late or early start for child-minding purposes.
  - Unseeded competitors from the organising group may be allotted early start times outside the sequence, provided that the start time is within 90 minutes of the first normal start at the event. Such competitors must be timed with the same equipment as for the normal time starters.
- 12.4. For an interval start, the normal start interval is 2 minutes. 3 minutes may be used for long distance races and 1 minute may be used for sprint races.

## **13. Terrain**

- 13.1. The terrain shall be suitable for setting competitive MTBO courses. The area should contain a comprehensive network of roads and tracks of differing qualities. The objectives of the Leibnitz Convention (Appendix 5) shall be considered when choosing the terrain and event arena and in designing the courses.
- 13.2. The competition terrain shall not have been used for either foot orienteering or MTBO for as long as possible (with a 2 year minimum desirable for an Australian Championships) prior to the competition, so that no competitor has an unfair advantage.
- 13.3. The competition area for an Australian Championships (or higher level event) shall be embargoed as soon as it is decided. If that is not possible, then arrangements for access to the terrain must be published as soon as possible. For State Championship or equivalent events, the embargo should be in place at least three months prior to the event.
- 13.4. Permission for access into embargoed terrain shall be obtained from the event organiser if needed.

## **14. Maps**

- 14.1. Maps, course markings and additional overprinting shall be drawn and printed according to the IOF *International Specification for MTB Orienteering Maps*, with any deviations as approved by Orienteering Australia.

- 14.2. Maps should be drawn for MTBO at an appropriate scale which would normally be: Long: 1:15,000 or 1:20,000; Middle and Relay: 1:10,000 or 1:15,000; Sprint: 1:5,000, 1:7,500 or 1:10,000.
- 14.3. Errors on the map and changes which have occurred in the terrain since the map was printed shall be overprinted on the map or otherwise corrected if they have a bearing on the event.
- 14.4. Maps should be printed on water-resistant paper, OR, at the Start, event organisers should offer plastic bags to competitors to enable them to protect their maps against moisture and damage.
- 14.5. If previous foot or MTBO orienteering maps of the competition area exists, colour copies of the most recent editions must be displayed for all competitors at the assembly area prior to the competition and on the website 2 months before the event.
- 14.6. On the day of the competition, the use of any map of the competition area by competitors or team officials is prohibited until permitted by the event organiser.
- 14.7. The competition map should ideally be of A4 size, but in any case should be no larger than required by a competitor to complete the course.
- 14.8. On smaller event areas, second or third maps may be used to complete the course.

## 15. Courses

- 15.1. At least four courses will be set to cater for competitors in the Open Men (M21-) and Open Women's (W21-) classes, and for the range of age groups for junior and veteran competitors.
- 15.2. Courses should be planned for winning times (minutes) in the following ranges for the various age groups. Note, according to IOF practice, the times are the same for all age groups within 'Junior' and 'Veteran':

	<b>Long</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>Sprint</b>	<b>Relay (per leg)</b>
Junior Women	68-76	36-40	16-20	32-36
Junior Men	84-92	44-48	16-20	36-40
W21- Open	85-95	45-50	20-25	40-45
M21-Open	105-115	55-60	20-25	45-50
Veteran Women	85-95	45-50	20-25	40-45
Veteran Men	105-115	55-60	20-25	45-50

- 15.3. The navigational skill, concentration and cycling ability of the competitors should be tested. Courses should call upon a range of different MTBO techniques. Courses should require a high level of concentration throughout the competition, involving detailed map reading and frequent decision making. All legs should be designed to provide a variety of route choices and attempt to maximise competitor safety. Refer to Appendix 2 for advice on course setting.
- 15.4. Length of courses will be given as following the shortest sensible route choice from the start via the controls to the finish following permissible tracks/roads or open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land'.
- 15.5. The total climb will be given as the climb in metres along the shortest sensible route choice.
- 15.6. In relay competitions, the controls shall be combined differently for the teams, but all teams shall complete the same overall course. If the terrain and the concept of the courses permit it, the length of the legs may be significantly different, but the sum of the winning times of the legs shall be kept as prescribed.
- 15.7. In individual competitions, the controls may be combined differently for the competitors, but all competitors shall cycle the same overall course.
- 15.8. Courses shall be pre-marked on the competitor's map.

- 15.9. For events in very hot or very cold conditions, anticipated winning times may be reduced with the approval of the Controller.

## **16. Restricted areas and routes**

- 16.1. Rules set by Orienteering Australia to protect the environment (Appendix 1 and 4) and any related instructions from the event organisers shall be strictly observed by all persons connected with the event..
- 16.2. Out of bounds or dangerous areas, forbidden routes etc shall be described in the pre-event information and marked on the map. If necessary, they shall also be marked in the terrain. Competitors shall not enter, follow or cross such areas, routes or features.
- 16.3. Riding off the track or trail (except across open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land') is disallowed except as specifically advised by the event organiser and as agreed with the event controller. Planners should design courses so as to minimise any benefit gained from infringement of this rule. The penalty for breaking this rule is disqualification from the event.
- 16.4. Compulsory routes, crossing points and passages shall be marked clearly on the map and on the ground. Competitors shall follow the entire length of any marked section of their course.
- 16.5. Any crossing point over major vehicular roads must be clearly signed to warn motorists and competitors. Courses should be set to maximise competitor safety at such crossings eg by placing a control at the crossing and providing a marshal if appropriate, or setting the leg so that competitors have the option of following the road for some distance before crossing.
- 16.6. Where tracks occur on both sides of a fence, it is forbidden to cross fences except where legal crossings may be made. Unless the map clearly shows the track crosses a fence, riders should not cross it unless explicit permission is given by the event organiser.

## **17. Control Descriptions**

- 17.1. Control descriptions are not normally used in MTBO except where off-track control locations are used, but may be used to assist site identification if deemed desirable eg indicating which track if there are two parallel tracks in the control circle, or which intersection if there is more than one intersection in the circle.
- 17.2. Any events using off-track controls must issue control descriptions.

## **18. Control set-up and equipment**

- 18.1. The control point given on the map shall be clearly marked in the terrain and be equipped to enable the competitors to prove their passage.
- 18.2. Each control shall be marked by a control flag consisting of three squares 30cm x 30 cm arranged in a triangular form. Each square shall be divided diagonally, one half being white and the other orange (PMS 165).
- 18.3. All controls must be situated on tracks shown on the competition map or open areas, unless specified otherwise in the event instructions. They must be in such a position that they can be easily reached by competitors to record their passage.
- 18.4. Each control shall be identified with a code number, which shall be fixed to the control so that a competitor using the marking device can clearly read the code. Numbers less than 31 should not be used. The figures shall be black on white, 3-10 cm in height and have a line thickness of 5-10 mm. Horizontally-displayed codes shall be underlined if they could be misinterpreted by being read upside down (eg 161).
- 18.5. The code number for each control shall be available to competitors, either by providing details before the start of the event, or as an overprint on the map adjacent to the control number eg 1-49.

- 18.6. To prove the passage of the competitors, there shall be sufficient number of marking devices in the immediate vicinity of each control marker.
- 18.7. All controls for which there are security concerns should be guarded.

## **19. Punching Systems**

- 19.1. Only Orienteering Australia approved (electronic or other) punching systems may be used.
- 19.2. Control cards or electronic e-sticks must be connected to the cycle by a zip tie or other secure device. It is not permitted to remove the control card or electronic e-stick from the cycle during the event.
- 19.3. Competitors shall be responsible for marking their own control card at each control using the marking device provided. Competitors are responsible for correct marking, even if at some controls the marking is facilitated by the event organiser.
- 19.4. The control card must clearly show that all controls have been visited in the correct order.
- 19.5. A competitor with a control mark missing or unidentifiable shall not be placed, unless it can be established with certainty that the punch missing or unidentifiable is not the competitor's fault, and that the competitor visited the control. In this exceptional circumstance, other evidence may be used to prove that the competitor visited the control, such as evidence from control officials or cameras or read-out from the control unit. In all other circumstances, such evidence is not acceptable and the competitor must be disqualified. In the case of SportIdent, this rule means that:
  - If one unit is not working, a competitor must use the back up provided (eg slips of waterproof paper must be attached to the bicycle to punch in case of failure of the SI unit) and will be disqualified if no punch is recorded.
  - If a competitor punches too fast and fails to receive the feedback signals, the card will not contain the punch and the competitor must be disqualified (even though the control unit may have recorded the competitor's card number)
- 19.6. When systems with visible punch marks are used, at least a part of the marking must be in the appropriate box for this control or in an empty reserve box. One mistake per competitor is acceptable (eg marking outside the correct box or jumping one box) provided all markings can be identified clearly. A competitor who attempts to gain advantage by inaccurate marking may be disqualified.
- 19.7. The organiser has the right to have the control card checked by officials at appointed controls and/or to mark the card.
- 19.8. Competitors who lose their control card, omit a control or visit controls in the wrong order shall be disqualified.

## **20. Equipment**

- 20.1. Protective headgear conforming to the recognised Australian standard shall be worn at all times when competing and training.
- 20.2. The bicycle shall be designed to be propelled solely through a chain set, by the legs moving in a circular movement, without electric or other assistance.
- 20.3. Each competitor shall ensure that their equipment (bicycle with accessories and other devices fitted, headgear, clothing etc) does not, by virtue of its quality, materials or design, constitute any danger to themselves or to others. It is the responsibility of the competitors and team managers to ensure that cycles are roadworthy.
- 20.4. If start numbers or bibs are prescribed by the event organiser they shall be fixed to the cycle or worn as prescribed.
- 20.5. During the competition the only navigational equipment that competitors may use are the map and control descriptions provided by the event organiser, and a



compass. A cycle computer may be used provided that it does not incorporate any satellite-based navigation aid.

- 20.6. Competitors may not use or carry telecommunication equipment between entering the pre-start area and reaching the finish in a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organiser. GPS devices with no map function or signal to aid the user in finding direction may be carried. The organiser may require competitors to wear a silent GPS recorder to avoid the need to marshal the course.
- 20.7. Competitors must stay with their cycles throughout the race from start to finish, whether they ride, push or carry their cycles.
- 20.8. Competitors may carry tools and spare parts during the competition, but shall not use spares or tools other than those carried by themselves or another competitor.
- 20.9. Competitors must finish the competition with the same cycle frame with which they started.

## **21. Start**

- 21.1. In individual competitions, the start is normally an interval start. In relay competitions, the start is normally a mass start.
- 21.2. In qualification race competitions, the first start in the finals shall be at least 2.5 hours after the last start in the qualification races.
- 21.3. The start may be organised with a pre-start before the time start, situated at one edge of the warm-up area. If there is a pre-start, a clock showing the competition time to team officials and competitors shall be displayed there, and the competitors' names shall be called or displayed. Beyond the pre-start, only starting competitors and media representatives guided by the organiser are allowed.
- 21.4. At the start, a clock showing the competition time to the competitors shall be displayed. If there is no pre-start, competitors' names shall be called or displayed.
- 21.5. The start shall be organised so that later competitors and other persons cannot see the map, courses, route choices or the direction to the first control. If necessary, there shall be a marked route from the time start to the point where the orienteering begins.
- 21.6. The competitor is responsible for taking the correct map. The competitor's start number or name or course shall be indicated on the map so as to be visible to the competitors before they start.
- 21.7. In an individual race, competitors will have one minute to arrange to carry their map before they start. In a mass start race, competitors will get their map at the start time.
- 21.8. The point where orienteering begins shall be shown on the map with the start triangle and, marked in the terrain with a control marker, but no marking device.
- 21.9. Competitors who are late for their start time through their own fault shall be permitted to start. The event organiser will determine at which time they may start, considering the possible influence on other competitors. They shall be timed as if they had started at their original start time.
- 21.10. Competitors who are late for their start time through the fault of the event organiser shall be given a new start time.
- 21.11. The changeover between the members of each relay team normally takes place by touch.
- 21.12. Correct and timely relay changeover is the responsibility of the competitors, even when the event organiser arranges an advanced warning of incoming teams.
- 21.13. With the approval of the event controller the event organiser may arrange mass starts for the later legs for relay teams that have not changed over.
- 21.14. In a mass start race, the start area must be sufficiently wide to provide a fair and safe start for riders. Competitors at the mass start will line up some 50m behind

their cycles, with the maps on the ground in front of them. At the start signal, they will pick up the map and run to the cycle. No spectators shall be allowed between the cycles and the competitors during a mass start.

## **22. Finish and time-keeping**

- 22.1. The competition ends for a competitor when crossing the finishing line.
- 22.2. The route from the last control to the finish shall be bounded by tape or rope. The last 100 m of the course before the finish, and before the exchange zones in relays, should be as straight as possible and at least 5m wide.
- 22.3. The finish line shall be at right angles to the direction of the finish lanes. The exact position of the finish lines shall be obvious to approaching competitors.
- 22.4. When a competitor has crossed the finish line, the competitor shall punch the finish control, hand in the control card including any card covering and, if so required by the event organiser, the competition map.
- 22.5. When using hand-timing, the time is taken when the competitor's front tyre crosses the finish line. When using a punching finish, the finish time is when the competitor uses an electronic punch at the finish line. When a light beam is used for finish timing, the time is taken when the contact is broken; the measuring point of the light or photo barrier should be at height of 15 cm above the ground.
- 22.6. Times are rounded down to whole seconds. So 89 minutes 13.98 seconds becomes 89 minutes 13 seconds. Times shall be given in hours, minutes and seconds or in minutes and seconds only.
- 22.7. Two independent time keeping systems, a primary and a secondary, shall be used continuously throughout the competition. The timekeeping systems shall measure times of competitors in the same class, relative to each other, with an accuracy of 0.5 seconds or better.
- 22.8. In competitions with mass or chasing starts, a finish judge shall rule on the final placing.
- 22.9. The event organiser, with controller approval, may set maximum times for each class.
- 22.10. There shall be medical facilities and personnel at the finish, who are also equipped to work in the competition terrain. (See Appendix 3)
- 22.11. The organisers shall ensure that at the end of the competitions all competitors have been accounted for using the start list that has been compiled. A search party shall be available at the end of the competitions should a competitor be missing. (See Appendix 3)

## **23. Results**

- 23.1. Provisional results shall be announced and displayed in the finish or assembly area during the competition.
- 23.2. The official results shall be confirmed no more than 4 hours after the latest allowable finishing time.
- 23.3. If the finals of a qualification race competition take place on the same day as the qualification races, the results of the qualification races shall be published no more than 30 minute after the latest allowable finishing time of the last starter.
- 23.4. The official results shall include the following information:
  - Class and course
  - Length of course
  - Number of controls
  - The names of all participating competitors
  - Each competitor's club, team or Association as appropriate
  - Each competitor's time

- Details of all protests (minus the names of the protestor) and their eventual resolution.

In relays, the results shall include the competitors' names in running order and times for their legs as well as the course combinations that each competitor rode.

- 23.5. If an interval start is used, two or more competitors having the same time shall be given the same placing in the results list. The position(s) following the tie shall remain vacant.
- 23.6. If a mass start or chasing start is used, the placing is determined by the order in which the competitors finish. In relays this will be the team member cycling the last relay leg.
- 23.7. In relays where there are mass starts for later legs, the sum of the individual times of the team members shall determine the placing of the teams that have taken part in such mass starts. Teams taking part in mass starts for later legs are placed after all teams which have changed over and finished in the ordinary way.
- 23.8. Competitors or teams who exceed the maximum time (closure of the course) shall not be placed.
- 23.9. The results must be based on competitors' times for the whole course. No changes may be made to these times on the basis of split times.
- 23.10. The results of unofficial competitors or teams are not considered in determining placings and shall be listed as 'unofficial' in the results after all official competitors or teams.
- 23.11. The organiser has the discretion to disqualify any competitor who contravenes the rules laid out in this text.
- 23.12. The organiser shall arrange for publication of all event results on the Orienteering Australia web site on the day of the event. Digital copies shall also be sent to the Orienteering Australia Executive Officer and the Orienteering Australia Statistician (MTBO) within 3 weeks of the event.

## **24. Awards and Prizes**

- 24.1. Awards (or prizes) for men and women shall be equivalent.
- 24.2. If two or more competitors have the same placing, they shall each receive the appropriate award and/or its equivalent.
- 24.3. The organisers shall arrange for suitable awards to be presented to the first three placegetters or the members of the first three teams in a relay. It is desirable that such awards clearly indicate the event, the year, the age class and the placing.

## **25. Fair Play**

- 25.1. All persons taking part in an MTBO event shall behave with fairness and honesty. They shall have a sporting attitude and a spirit of friendship. Competitors shall show respect for each other, for officials, journalists, spectators and inhabitants of the competition area. The competitors shall be as quiet as possible in the terrain.
- 25.2. It is the duty of all competitors to help injured competitors.
- 25.3. The provision of mechanical (spares or repairs) assistance between competitors during a competition is permitted but is not compulsory. No outside mechanical assistance is permitted.
- 25.4. Doping is forbidden. The Orienteering Australia Anti-Doping Rules apply to all Orienteering Australia events and the Orienteering Australia council may require doping control procedures to be conducted.
- 25.5. The event organiser, with the consent of the event controller, may decide to publish the venue of the competition in advance. If the venue is not made public, all officials shall maintain strict secrecy about the competition area and the terrain. In any case strict secrecy about the courses must be kept.

- 25.6. Any attempt to survey or train in the competition terrain is forbidden. Attempts to gain any information related to the courses, beyond that provided by the event organiser, is forbidden before and during the competition.
- 25.7. The event organiser shall bar from the competition any competitor who is so well acquainted with the terrain or the map, that the competitor would have a substantial advantage over other competitors. In case of doubt, the matter shall be decided by the event controller.
- 25.8. Team officials, competitors, media representatives and spectators shall remain in the areas assigned to them.
- 25.9. Control officials shall neither disturb nor detain any competitor, nor supply any information whatsoever. They shall remain quiet, wear inconspicuous clothing and shall not help competitors approaching controls. This also applies to all other persons in the terrain, e.g. media representatives.
- 25.10. Having crossed the finish line, a competitor may not re-enter the competition terrain without the permission of the event organiser. A competitor who retires shall announce this at the finish immediately and hand in the map and control card. That competitor shall in no way influence the competition nor help other competitors.
- 25.11. A competitor who breaks any rule, or who benefits from the breaking of any rule, may be disqualified.
- 25.12. Non-competitors who break any rule are liable to disciplinary action.
- 25.13. The organiser must stop, and postpone or cancel a race if at any point it becomes clear that circumstances have arisen which make the race dangerous for the competitor, officials or spectators.
- 25.14. The organiser must void a race if circumstances have arisen which make the race significantly unfair. (Refer Appendix 6)

## **26. Complaints**

- 26.1. A complaint can be made about infringements of these rules or the event organiser's directions.
- 26.2. Complaints can be made by event or team officials, competitors or anybody else connected with the event.
- 26.3. Any complaint shall be made orally or in writing to the event organiser as soon as possible. A complaint is adjudicated by the event organiser. The complainant shall be informed about the decision immediately.
- 26.4. The organiser may set a time limit for complaints. Complaints received after this time limit will only be considered if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the complaint.
- 26.5. There is no fee for a complaint.

## **27. Protests**

- 27.1. A protest can be made against the event organiser's decision about a complaint.
- 27.2. Protests can be made by team officials, competitors or event officials.
- 27.3. Any protest shall be made in writing to a member of the jury no later than one hour after the event organiser has announced the decision about the complaint.
- 27.4. There is no fee for a protest.

## **28. Jury**

(Refer to Appendix 6)

- 28.1. A jury shall be appointed to rule on protests.
- 28.2. Jury members are appointed by the event organiser and approved by the event controller.
- 28.3. The jury shall consist of 3 members plus the event controller who shall lead the jury but has no vote. For Australian Championships, only one member shall come from

the State Association of the event organiser. For other events, it is desirable that at least one member shall be from another State Association.

- 28.4. A representative of the event organiser has the right to participate in the jury meetings but has no vote.
- 28.5. The event organiser shall act according to the jury's decision, e.g. to reinstate a competitor disqualified by the event organiser, to disqualify a competitor approved by the event organiser, to void the results in a class approved by the event organiser, or to approve results declared invalid by the event organiser.
- 28.6. The jury is competent to rule only if all members are present. In urgent cases preliminary decisions may be taken if a majority of the jury members agree on the decision.
- 28.7. If a jury member declares him or herself prejudiced or if a jury member is unable to fulfil his or her task, the event controller shall nominate a substitute.
- 28.8. Arising from its ruling on a protest, the jury - in addition to instructing the event organiser - may recommend that the Orienteering Australia Council takes further disciplinary action against a person in accordance with its Constitution, in the case of a major violation of the rules.
- 28.9. Decisions of the jury are final.

## **29. Appeals**

- 29.1. An appeal may be made against infringements of these rules, if the infringement is not related to a specific event or if a jury is not yet set up.
- 29.2. An appeal may be made by team officials, competitors, event officials or Associations.
- 29.3. Any appeal shall be made in writing to Orienteering Australia as soon as possible. It's outcome will then be determined by the Orienteering Australia Board.
- 29.4. There is no fee for an appeal.
- 29.5. Decisions about an appeal are final.

## **30. Event Control**

- 30.1. An event controller must be appointed to oversee the organisation of the event. The event controller shall ensure that rules are followed, mistakes are avoided and that fairness is paramount. The event controller has the authority to require adjustments to be made if he or she deems them necessary to satisfy the requirements of the event.
- 30.2. All events for which these rules are binding, shall be controlled by an Orienteering Australia Controller.
- 30.3. A controller should be appointed as soon as practicable after the event is allocated.
- 30.4. The event controller shall work in close collaboration with the event organiser, and shall be given all relevant information. All official information such as entry forms and programs, shall be approved by the event controller.
- 30.5. As a minimum, the following tasks shall be carried out under the authority of the event controller:
  - to approve the venue and the terrain for the event
  - to look into the event organisation and assess the suitability of the proposed accommodation, food, transport, programme, budget, and training possibilities
  - to check that land access has been provided
  - to check that the map conforms with the Orienteering Australia standards
  - to approve the courses after assessing their quality, including degree of difficulty, control sites and equipment, chance factors and map correctness
  - to check any course splitting method and course combinations
  - to approve the organisation and layout of start, finish and changeover areas

- to assess the reliability and accuracy of the time-keeping and results producing systems
- to ensure that control markers, equipment and officials are suitably positioned
- to assess any planned ceremonies
- to be present during the event
- ensure that results and reports are distributed promptly.

30.6. The controller shall make as many controlling visits as deemed necessary. The visits shall be planned in agreement with the organiser. The Orienteering Australia Controller shall where necessary, or as required, make written reports to the appointing body with copies sent to the organiser.

30.7. One or more assistants may be appointed to assist the event controller, particularly in the fields of mapping, courses, financing, sponsoring and media.

### **31. Event Report**

31.1. The event organiser and event controller shall submit a report to the Orienteering Australia Board within 6 weeks of the event, including details of complaints and protests; details of issues that impacted the event; deviations from the rules that applied to the event. (Refer to 23.12 regarding reporting of results.)

### **32. Advertising and sponsorship**

32.1. Advertising of tobacco and hard liquor is not permitted.

32.2. The Orienteering Australia Council may issue specific rules for advertising and sponsorship.

### **33. Media**

33.1. The event organiser shall make every effort to maximise media coverage as long as this does not jeopardise the fairness of the event.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**The MTBO Competitors' Code**

1. Slow right down when passing members of the public who are on foot or on horseback.
2. Avoid damaging the track through aggressive riding such as skidding.
3. When two riders converge:
  - i) riders should normally pass with their right shoulders
  - ii) any rider travelling uphill must be given priority
  - iii) at an intersection, the rider on the smaller track should give way to any rider on the larger track/road.
4. Riders should overtake on the right.
5. Slower riders should give way to overtaking riders.
6. When riding on public roads the traffic rules must be observed.
7. Competitors must stay on permissible tracks marked on the competition map or on open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land'. This applies even if the terrain or road conditions force riders to dismount and push or carry their bikes. No off-track short cuts through the bush are permitted. If competitors inadvertently take an indistinct track which is not marked on the competition map, they should retrace their route to the previously known point, and not continue cross county to the nearest marked track.
8. Competitors must not become separated from their bike during the competition.
9. The Event Controller may approve additions or changes to the above code to improve safety.

## APPENDIX 2: COMPETITION FORMATS

**Summary Table.** (Refer to following pages for more detail.)

	<b>SPRINT</b>	<b>MIDDLE</b>	<b>LONG</b>	<b>RELAY</b>
Legs. All legs should have 2 or more options on the tracks.	1-2 long legs (eg 0.8-2 km for open class). Majority of legs short.	2-4 long legs (1-3 km for open class). Majority of legs short.	Majority of long legs (1-4 km for open class). 3-5 short legs.	All legs between sprint and middle.
Profile	High speed, requires athletes' full concentration	Technically demanding	Physical endurance. Tests athletes' ability to make and plan efficient route choices.	Team competition. Format more similar to middle than long distance. Spectator friendly.
Terrain	Very dense track network. Forested area and/or urban area/parks.	Dense track network. Non-urban (mostly forested) area.	Non-urban (mostly forested) area. Rough, demanding. Preferably hilly.	Dense track network with different track categories.
Route choice difficulty	Low-medium	Medium-high	High	High and medium
Navigation difficulty (map reading)	High (constant contact with map is required)	Medium-high. Technically demanding orienteering.	Low-medium.	Medium-high.
Map scale/size	1:5000, 1:7500 or 1:10000 Max 25x30 cm size.	1:10000 or 1:15000 Max 30x42 cm size	1:15000 or 1:20000 Max 35x42 cm size	1:10000 or 1:15000 Max 30x30 size.
Start intervals	2 minutes. (could be reduced to 1 min with controller approval)	2 minutes	3 minutes (or mass start for one-man relay)	Mass start
Winning times	See para 15.2	See para 15.2	See para 15.2	See para 15.2

These Guidelines will inform the selection of areas for various competitions but the **actual course setting and parts of the overall map to be used for non-elite age classes will be guided by the physical abilities and experience of the competitors.** So for older competitors, excessively steep or particularly technical terrain should be avoided or avoidable in route choice, and the number/length of long legs will be influenced by course length to meet desirable winning times. For young/inexperienced competitors, route choice options should be simplified. It is *not* desirable to combine older and inexperienced competitors on courses with simplified route choice options for championship events. Use evidence from previous events in similar terrain to calculate likely winning times (and hence course distances) for junior and various veteran age groups.



## **1. SPRINT**

### **1.1 The profile**

The Sprint profile is high speed. It tests the athletes' ability to read and translate the map in complex environments, and to plan and carry out route choices riding at high speed. At best it takes place in a mixed urban and forested area. The course must be planned so that the element of speed is maintained throughout the race. Finding the controls should not be the challenge; rather the ability to choose and complete the best route to them. For example, the most obvious way out from a control should not necessarily be the most favourable one. The course should be set to require the athletes' full concentration throughout the race. The course should avoid steep areas that would require competitors to walk.

### **1.2 Course planning considerations**

In Sprint, spectators are allowed along the course. The course planning shall consider this, and all controls must be easy to find (not hidden). It may also be necessary to have guards at critical passages alerting spectators of approaching competitors and making sure that competitors are not hindered. The start should be at the Arena and spectator sites may be arranged along the course. The spectator value could be enhanced by having an on-course announcer. Both spectator sites and sites for media/photographers shall be announced at the Arena.

Special elements of the sprint distance are short legs between control points. But the course should also include some long legs between control points to give some route choice legs. These longer legs (on elite courses) may be from 0.8 km to 2.0 km depending on the terrain type. A maximum of two long legs should form part of the course. If courses are planned across urban areas, the local population and local government need to be informed of the dates and times when the competitions will be organised.

### **1.3 The map**

The ISSOM specifications shall be followed. The map scale must be 1:5000, 1:7500 or 1:10000. The map size should not exceed 25 x 30 cm. It is crucial that the map is correct and possible to interpret at high speed, and that the mapping of features that affect route choice and speed are accurate. In non-urban areas, the correct mapping of conditions reducing riding speed, both to degree and extent, is important. In urban areas, stairs hindering the passage must be correctly represented and drawn to size.

### **1.4 Winning time, start interval and timing**

Refer to the Rules para 15.2 for recommended winning times. The preferred start interval is 2 minutes; however the interval can be 1 minute subject to the approval of the Event Controller. Timing is normally to an accuracy of 1 second, preferably using electronic timing with a beam finish line. The competitors are given the map one minute before their start time.

## **2 MIDDLE DISTANCE**

### **2.1 The profile**

The Middle distance profile is technical with an emphasis on navigation. It takes place in a non-urban (mostly forested) environment with a dense track network and tracks of different categories. It requires constant concentration on map reading with occasional changes in riding direction out from controls. The element of route choice is essential but should not be at the expense of technically demanding orienteering. The route in itself shall involve demanding navigation. The course shall require speed-shifts e.g. with legs through different types of tracks.

## **2.2 Course planning considerations**

The course should be set to allow competitors to be seen by spectators during the course of the race as well as when finishing. The start should be at the Arena and the course should preferably make riders pass the Arena during the competition. The demand on the selection of the Arena is consequently high, providing both suitable terrain and good possibilities to make riders visible to spectators. Spectators are not allowed along the course except for parts passing the Arena (including controls at the Arena).

Special elements of the middle distance are short legs between control points. But the course should also include some long legs between control points to give some route choice legs. These longer legs (for elite classes) may be from 1 km to 3 km depending on the terrain type. Two, or a maximum of four, long legs should form part of the course. Another important element of the middle distance is to use course planning techniques which break up the grouping of riders (e.g. butterflies).

## **2.3 The map**

The standard ISOM specification shall be followed. The map scale must be 1:10000 or 1:15000. The map size should not exceed 30 x 42 cm.

## **2.4 Winning time, start interval and timing**

Refer to the Rules para 15.2 for recommended winning times. The preferred start interval is 2 minutes. Timing is normally to an accuracy of 1 second. The competitors are given the map one minute before their start time.

# **3 LONG DISTANCE**

## **3.1 The profile**

The Long distance profile is physical endurance. It takes place in a non-urban (mostly forested) environment, and aims at testing the athletes' ability to make efficient route choices, to read and interpret the map and plan the race for endurance during a long and physically demanding exercise. The format emphasises route choices and navigation in rough, demanding terrain, preferably hilly. The control is the end-point of a long leg with demanding route choices and is not necessarily in itself difficult to find. The Long distance may in parts include elements characteristic of the middle distance with the course suddenly breaking the pattern of route choice orienteering to introduce a section with more technically demanding legs.

## **3.2 Course planning considerations**

The course should be set to allow competitors to be seen by spectators during the course of the race as well as when finishing. Special elements of the long distance are long legs, considerably longer than the average leg length. These longer legs (for elite classes) may be from 3.5 to 6.5 km depending on the terrain type. Two or more such long legs should form part of the course (still requiring full concentration on map reading along the route chosen). Another important element of the Long distance is to use course setting techniques, which break up the grouping of riders, (e.g. 'one man relay' for mass starts, butterflies). Spectators are not allowed along the course except for parts passing the Arena (including controls at the Arena).

## **3.3 The map**

The standard ISOM specification shall be followed. The map scale must be 1:15000 or 1:20000. The map size should not exceed 35 x 42 cm.

## **3.4 Winning time, start interval and timing**

Refer to the Rules para 15.2 for recommended winning times. The preferred start interval is 3 minutes. Timing is normally to an accuracy of 1 second. The competitors are given the map one minute before their start time.

## **4 RELAY**

### **4.1 The profile**

The Relay profile is a team competition. It takes place in a non-urban (mostly forested) environment. The format is built on a technically demanding concept, more similar to that of the Middle than the Long distance. Some elements characteristic of the Long distance, such as longer route-choice legs, should occur allowing competitors to pass each other without having visual contact. Good Relay terrain has the characteristics that make riders lose eye contact with each other, (e.g. a dense track network with tracks of different categories).

### **4.2 Course planning considerations**

The Relay is a spectator-friendly event in offering a competition between teams, head-to-head, and with the first to finish being the winner. The Arena layout and the course setting must consider this (e.g. when forking is used, the time difference between alternatives should be small). The competitors should, on each leg, pass the Arena, and if possible riders should be visible from the Arena while approaching the last control. The mass start format requires a course planning technique separating riders from each other (e.g. forking). The best teams should be carefully allocated to different forking combinations. For fairness reasons the very last part of the last leg shall be the same for all riders. Spectators are not allowed along the course except for parts passing the Arena (including controls at the Arena).

### **4.3 The map**

The standard ISOM specification shall be followed. The map scale must be 1:10 000 or 1:15000. The map size should not exceed 30 x 30 cm.

### **4.4 Winning time, start interval and timing**

Refer to the Rules para 15.2 for recommended winning times. The Relay is a mass start format and consists of three legs. Judges will be at the finish line to judge the correct placings. It is desirable to have photo-finish equipment on the finish line to assist in judging the correct placings.

## **APPENDIX 3: HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES**

### **1. General hygiene**

- 1.1. It is the responsibility of all orienteers and event officials to maintain strict personal hygiene, as this is the best method of controlling the spread of infectious diseases.
- 1.2. All orienteers with prior evidence of infectious diseases are strongly advised to obtain confidential advice and clearance from a doctor prior to participation.
- 1.3. It is the responsibility of the organisers of an event to ensure that toilets and hand washing facilities, if supplied at events, should be kept clean and tidy and that adequate supplies of toilet paper, fresh water for washing, soap, paper hand towels, refuse disposal bins and disinfectants should be available at all times.
- 1.4. All clothing, equipment and surfaces contaminated by blood may be treated as potentially infectious. Disposable surgical rubber or plastic gloves shall be provided by the event organiser for use by anyone required to handle equipment which has also become contaminated with blood (e.g. control cards or maps)

### **2. Drinking Water**

- 2.1. Competitors are expected to carry their own water.
- 2.2. For long events where the expected temperature is expected to exceed 25°C, organisers may provide refreshments at appropriate locations.

### **3. First Aid**

- 3.1. Competition Rule 22.10 states that: 'There shall be medical facilities and personnel at the finish, who are also equipped to work in the forest'.
- 3.2. Organisers must ensure that adequate first-aid equipment is available at events and that any person who, on behalf of the organisers, treats an orienteer with open cuts and abrasions should wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves.
- 3.3. Qualified personnel should be available for the duration of the competition and until all competitors have finished
- 3.4. Suitable transport (e.g. 4WD vehicle) should be available in case of an emergency in the terrain
- 3.5. The organisers should have the telephone number of an available local doctor or hospital.

### **4. Search and rescue**

- 4.1. Competition Rule 22.11 states that: 'The organisers shall ensure that at the end of the competition all competitors have been accounted for using the start list that has been compiled. A search party shall be available at the end of the competition should a competitor be missing.'
- 4.2. Where possible the search party should include people with local knowledge (e.g. course setter, controller).
- 4.3. Suitable transport (e.g. 4WD vehicle) should be available for use by the search party.
- 4.4. The organisers should ensure that local authorities responsible for search and rescue have been notified about the event and have an emergency telephone contact number.

## **APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF PRACTICE**

### **IOF resolution on good environmental practice**

At its meeting on 12/14 April 1996, the Council of the International Orienteering Federation, acknowledging the importance of maintaining the environmentally friendly nature of orienteering, and in accordance with the GAISF Resolution on the Environment of 26 October 1995, adopted the following principles:

- to continue to be aware of the need to preserve a healthy environment and to integrate this principle into the fundamental conduct of orienteering
- to ensure that the rules of competition and best practice in the organisation of events are consistent with the principle of respect for the environment and the protection of flora and fauna
- to cooperate with landowners, government authorities and environmental organisations so that best practice may be defined
- to take particular care to observe local regulations for environmental protection, to maintain the litter-free nature of orienteering and to take proper measures to avoid pollution
- to include environmental good practice in the education and training of orienteers and officials
- to heighten the national federations' awareness of worldwide environmental problems so that they may adopt, apply and popularise principles to safeguard orienteering's sensitive use of the countryside
- to recommend that the national federations prepare environmental good practice guidelines specific to their own countries

## **ORIENTEERING AUSTRALIA ENVIRONMENTAL CODE OF PRACTICE**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1. Orienteering is an outdoor sporting and recreational activity involving navigating cross country with the aid of a map and compass. As the sport is based primarily on the use of natural landscapes, those who participate generally have a high level of environmental awareness and a desire to cooperate with land owners in meeting their particular requirements.

1.2. The sport is highly dependent on access to both private and public land to conduct events and the full cooperation of land owners and managers is vital for its ongoing growth. This Environmental Code of Practice has been developed to clearly demonstrate what is expected of both organisers and competitors.

### **2. Purpose**

2.1. This Code of Practice is primarily intended to serve as a guide to organisers and competitors to ensure that our activities have minimal impact on both natural and constructed features of our competition areas.

2.2. Secondly, it will provide a means by which both private and public land owners and managers can be informed of the steps that we take to avoid adverse impacts resulting from our sport.

### **3. Statement of intent**

3.1. Orienteering Australia and its member associations are committed to ensuring that the sport of orienteering is conducted in a manner that is environmentally sound and in accordance with landowner requirements. Furthermore Orienteering Australia will ensure that organisers and competitors are made aware of this policy and the means by which it will be implemented.

### **4. Orienteering Australia responsibilities**

4.1. Orienteering Australia will include this code of practice in the Technical Regulations governing the conduct of the sport of Orienteering within Australia.

- 4.2. Orienteering Australia will ensure the regular review and updating of the code. From time to time and in conjunction with the State Associations specific impacts will be monitored to ensure best practice is followed. The Federation and its State Associations will work with landowners to ensure the sport is conducted in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- 4.3. Orienteering Australia will encourage research, collate and disseminate information on the environmental impacts of orienteering.
- 4.4. The Orienteering Australia Director, Technical will be responsible for coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the code.

## **5. State Association responsibilities**

- 5.1. State associations and clubs must be conscious of the need to collect data on the impact of orienteering and to pass on any substantial or significant reports to Orienteering Australia. Studies may be commissioned by the State Associations or clubs using the skills of professional consultants.
- 5.2. Requests by land owners for studies to be undertaken should be welcomed and, providing funding is made available, every cooperation should be given to researchers to help them carry out valid independent studies.
- 5.3. Map files should be maintained and updated with copies of courses to assist with monitoring impacts over a period of time and to provide a reference for course setters to avoid overuse of control sites.

## **6. Event organisers' and controllers' responsibilities**

### **6.1. Area selection**

In selecting areas for orienteering the following points should be considered

- 6.1.1. Whether an area is capable of sustaining the scale of the proposed event without excessive impacts on the physical environment or conflicts with other users.
- 6.1.2. Where seasonal sensitivities exist, for example, due to wildlife breeding, lambing or other rural operations or climatic extremes, schedule events in those areas to avoid sensitive periods.
- 6.1.3. Once an area has been selected, regular liaison must occur with the relevant owner or manager to ensure their requirements are incorporated into planning for the event at an early stage. When necessary, relevant permits must be obtained and organisers must ensure that everyone associated with the event is aware of the conditions that may apply.

### **6.2. Access and parking**

- 6.2.1. Consult with owners and managers on selection of parking and assembly areas.
- 6.2.2. Check that roads and tracks are adequately formed for the number of vehicles expected. Adverse weather conditions must be considered.
- 6.2.3. Clearly define prescribed routes across open areas and provide attendants to direct and control parking.
- 6.2.4. Vehicles should not be parked in areas of long dry grass if there is a risk of fire caused by hot exhausts.
- 6.2.5. Manage gate closure by signs or attendants.
- 6.2.6. Ensure that stock are not adversely affected by the movement of vehicles or people.
- 6.2.7. Car pooling should be encouraged.

### **6.3. Area management**

- 6.3.1. Signs must never be nailed to trees because of the danger to felling and milling operations and also the risk of introducing disease into the tree.
- 6.3.2. Secure permission to use pit toilets and agree siting. Portable toilets may be required in water catchment areas, areas of high public use, environmentally sensitive areas and on land where the management authority or owner does not permit pit toilets.
- 6.3.3. Check whether fire restrictions apply and inform competitors of such restriction and of any precautions that are necessary. As a general principle, the lighting of fires at events should not be allowed and smoking should be discouraged.
- 6.3.4. Assembly areas must be planned to ensure minimum impact on vegetation. Areas of concentrated activity such as adjacent to start, finish, results and food sales must be carefully located.
- 6.3.5. Particular care should be taken when selecting the route to remote start points to avoid creating tracks through sensitive areas or areas which would take some time to recover.
- 6.3.6. The finish chute area should be located away from steep, erodible slopes or areas of sensitive vegetation.
- 6.3.7. All rubbish must be removed from the area. Competitors should always be encouraged to take out their own waste but adequate rubbish collection facilities must be provided. A thorough inspection of the area must be undertaken after the last competitors have left the area. All tapes to mark control sites or specific routes must be removed. The area surrounding water points on courses must also be carefully checked and cleaned if disposable cups or bottles are provided.
- 6.3.8. Respect the rights of other users of an area when an orienteering event is in progress by sharing or, if practical, avoiding public areas and other facilities.
- 6.3.9. If public announcement systems are used, design and locate these to minimise the spread of noise outside the assembly area.

### **6.4. Course setting**

- 6.4.1. When setting courses in sensitive areas thought must be given to numbers of competitors passing or visiting a specific point. Control sites are an obvious example where care must be taken to minimise impacts but other areas to be considered may include obvious crossing points at fences or creeks, open marshes, mossy surface rock and soft earth embankments.
- 6.4.2. In some cases, after consultation with land managers, it may be necessary to declare areas as 'out of bounds' because of management, security or privacy factors. An area may be undergoing regeneration or seasonal factors may dictate that the area should be avoided to prevent any risk of damage. Such restrictions need to be clearly communicated to competitors.
- 6.4.3. On property containing stock or crops, owners must be consulted to determine what, if any, measures must be taken to avoid disturbance. Appropriate measures must be clearly communicated to competitors if courses pass close to such areas. Out of bounds areas must be clearly shown on each competitor's map.
- 6.4.4. If the area contains known sites of natural or cultural significance which may be disturbed by the movement of orienteers, avoid placing controls on or near these sites or setting legs which would concentrate the movement of orienteers through them. (It may be counter-productive to mark such areas as out of bounds as this can attract undue attention to the sites).
- 6.4.5. The property owner's requirements in regard to fence crossing must be communicated to competitors. In some cases it may be necessary to create and identify specific crossing points.
- 6.4.6. If the area contains animals which flee rather than hide when disturbed (kangaroos, wallabies, sheep, wild pigs), endeavour to plan courses with a view to reducing continual disturbance to these animals. This may be done

by having all courses follow the same general direction or by leaving parts of the area free of controls or obvious route choices.

### **6.5. Competitors' responsibilities**

- 6.5.1. Read and adhere to organisers instructions.
- 6.5.2. Pets and firearms must not be taken to events because of the restrictions that generally apply.
- 6.5.3. Fire restrictions must be observed.
- 6.5.4. Gates must always be closed unless there is a specific instruction otherwise.
- 6.5.5. Report any damage to property to the organisers.
- 6.5.6. Avoid spreading seeds and mud when cleaning your bike, shoes and clothing. This can be done by cleaning them at the event site, provided that this does not spread material from an infested area on the course to a 'clean' assembly area. If cleaning at home, dispose of the material so that it is not spread elsewhere. Do not leave the cleaning until you arrive at the next event site.
- 6.5.7. Avoid fauna and stock as much as possible. Cattle trapped at fence corners or in a confined area can stampede and should always be given a wide berth.
- 6.5.8. Try to avoid disturbing wildlife. Keep a distance whenever possible to avoid stressing any animal.
- 6.5.9. Remove your own rubbish. Do not leave it for the organisers to collect and take away. Drive and park as directed by the organiser. The organiser is responsible to ensure you do not cause damage by becoming bogged or by trampling sensitive vegetation or pasture.
- 6.5.10. Wherever possible avoid damage to sensitive areas such as wetlands, marshes and soft earth embankments. Mossy rock surfaces should be avoided to prevent damage and also because they could be slippery and dangerous.
- 6.5.11. Respect the rights of other users of the area such as walkers, picnickers, and of course resident land owners. Do not approach farm residences.



## **APPENDIX 5: THE LEIBNITZ CONVENTION**

We, the Members of the IOF, attending the 20th IOF General Assembly in Leibnitz, Austria, on the 4 August 2000, hereby declare that

"It is of decisive importance to raise the profile of the sport to further the spread of orienteering to more people and new areas, and to get orienteering into the Olympic Games. The main vehicles to achieve this are:

- to organise attractive and exciting orienteering events which are of high quality for competitors, officials, media, spectators, sponsors, and external partners
- to make IOF events attractive for TV and Internet

We shall aim to:

- increase the visibility of our sport by organising our events closer to where people are
- make our event centres more attractive by giving increased attention to the design and quality of installations
- improve the event centre atmosphere, and the excitement, by having both start and finish at the centre
- increase television and other media coverage by ensuring that our events provide more and better opportunities for producing thrilling sports programmes
- improve media service by better catering for the needs of media representatives (in terms of communication facilities, access to runners at start/finish and in the forest, continuous intermediate time information, food and beverages, etc)
- pay more attention to promoting our sponsors and external partners in connection with our IOF events

We, the Members of the IOF, expect that these measures shall be considered by all future organisers of IOF events."

## **APPENDIX 6: GUIDELINES REGARDING COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS, AND CANCELLING COURSES**

These guidelines are intended for competitors (and team officials), organisers and juries.

### **Competitors and team officials**

Rules 26.1 and 26.2 allow complaints to be made about infringements of the competition rules or the organiser's directions. Although rule 26.3 allows for a complaint to be made orally, competitors should consider making a complaint in writing. The reason for this is that it encourages the complainant to explicitly identify the rule or rules that they consider to have been infringed.

### **Organisers**

Organisers should be conversant with the competition rules and have a copy of the rules readily available, and be ready and willing to discuss any relevant rules with a complainant. In fairness to complainants who may not be familiar with the rules, organisers should advise them of their right to protest the ruling of the organiser, and offer advice concerning the formalities for lodging protests. It is important that organisers should not intimidate a complainant by overemphasising the formal requirements of a protest; however, in fairness to the complainant, they should be made aware that the protest jury can only assess the protest within the framework of the rules.

### **Protest juries**

Protest juries should not be overly legalistic in their consideration of the protest. Rule 27.3 requires that a protest be in writing, but as the rules are not prescriptive as to the format a written protest should take, juries should not dismiss a protest on the basis of a poorly written protest without giving the protestor the courtesy of addressing their protest.

If a potentially general problem is represented by a single protest, then the jury should consider that all the affected competitors had protested. If the protest pertains to a problem which may have affected more than one competitor, then the jury have three options:

- The jury may dismiss the protest if there are no grounds for a protest;
- The jury may agree that a problem exists, but find that it is not sufficient to warrant voiding courses, and therefore that no action be taken;
- The jury may elect to void the course.

If there has been a problem that has affected an individual, then the only options available are to reinstate or disqualify.

Protest decisions should be based on the merits of the evidence before the jury and the competition rules. Previous decisions made by any jury should not be considered as precedents for the protest being considered.

### Voiding and Cancelling Courses

The following guidelines are based on the IOF document "Cancelling a Competition" (available on the IOF web site at [www.orienteering.org](http://www.orienteering.org))

#### *Competitor Safety*

The safety of competitors, organisers and spectators is paramount. The image of the sport would suffer irreparable damage if organisers gambled with people's safety, even if the threat did not eventually materialise. Hence the organiser has the responsibility under Rule 25.13 to Cancel a Course where they consider

it is dangerous for competitors, officials or spectators.

Voiding a course is required where the organiser considers the course is significantly unfair. The following additional guidance is provided.

#### *Reason to void a competition*

1. There can be no hard and fast rule determining when a course should be voided and when the results should be left to stand with those adversely affected by a problem regarded as unfortunate. However the key considerations should be:
  - Has the problem affected the results so badly that the race is no longer perceived by the competitors, the public and the media as reasonably fair with credible results?
  - Is it probable that the results will be challenged and the challenge upheld?
  - Does the perceived unfairness outweigh the requirement to declare a result and celebrate the winners?

#### *Who can void a race?*

2. The organiser should declare a course void if circumstances have arisen which make the course significantly unfair. If the organiser does not void the course but a competitor feels it should be voided then a complaint can be made to that effect. If the complaint is rejected but the competitor still feels that the course should be voided, then a protest can be made. The jury considers the protest and (if the protest is upheld) may instruct the organiser to void the course.

#### *Factors when considering whether to void a competition*

3. There are a number of factors which the organiser (and if necessary the jury) must consider.
  - How many and what proportion of competitors were affected? A problem that adversely affected 10% or more of the field could be taken as an indication that the course may no longer be fair.
  - Were the affected competitors potential medallists?
  - Is it likely that the problem has seriously affected the placings of the leading competitors?
  - How large and serious was the effect of the problem? A few seconds are more significant in a sprint than in a long distance race.
  - What is the status of the competition (e.g. a WRE, Australian Championship)?
  - What type of course is it (qualification, final, interval start, mass start, sprint, relay etc)?
  - Is it fair to competitors not affected by the problem to void the course?
  - Which outcome would do least harm to the image of the sport? How do the negative consequences of voiding the course compare to the negative consequences of not doing so?
  - Could the competition be rescheduled at a time fair to the competitors, organizers?
  - Was the problem an organiser error or was it something outside of the organiser's control? There may be a greater willingness to allow the results to stand if the problem could not easily have been prevented.
4. The above factors must be considered together. Often more than one is relevant and a balanced judgment has to be made.
5. Sometimes the relevant factors will be very finely balanced and there is likely to be criticism whatever decision is made.

#### *Anticipating the worst*

6. Competitions can be structured in manners that provide safeguards in cases where serious disruptions to competitions might arise. For example, with multi-race competitions, if one of the courses is cancelled the rules should allow for the competition to be decided on the basis of the other courses.

### *Unacceptable alternatives to voiding*

7. It is important that measures (tempting though they may be) are not taken which may simply aggravate the unfairness.
8. Many, probably the majority, of hypothetical situations involve problems with a single control or course leg. Rule 23.9 ("The results must be based on competitors' times for the whole course. No changes may be made to these times on the basis of split times.") prohibits a result being declared on the basis of part of a course only. This rule has been introduced because analysis of what happens when you remove one or more legs from the times shows that it usually introduces as much unfairness as it solves.

### *Implementing the decision*

9. It is important that decisions made by the organiser or jury are clearly explained to the competitors and the public. If it is recognised that there was a problem, even though it may have been deemed not to have affected the outcome of a course significantly enough to warrant any action, the problem should still be acknowledged.
10. In some cases, the course may be part of a league or ranking scheme. The organiser or jury should consider this and may make appropriate recommendations. For example, if a World Ranking course has to be voided, but the times of those runners who completed the course are valid, then it may be that it is still reasonable to calculate and issue World Ranking points.

### *Conclusions*

11. Voiding a course is an option that should be avoided if at all possible. Organisers should be very careful to avoid mistakes. They must try to prevent problems arising, check everything thoroughly (for example using pre-runners) and anticipate and plan contingencies for unusual circumstances.
12. However an organiser must be aware if the course is obviously unfair or unsafe and the results are not credible, then it must be voided or postponed

## **APPENDIX 7**

### **AUS-NZL CHALLENGE Rules**

Agreed June 2012

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. As agreed between the two nations, Australia and New Zealand will compete in a two-nation mountain bike orienteering competition, known as The Australia/New Zealand MTBO Challenge (AUS/NZL MTBO Challenge).
- 1.2. The Challenge will consist, as a minimum, of an Individual Long Distance Challenge, and other disciplines (Middle, Sprint, and Relay) as presented by the host.
- 1.3. For matters not explicitly covered here, the Australia-New Zealand Challenge Rules for foot-orienteering will apply. These include team size, eligibility, and notifications between the two countries.

#### **2. Challenge Teams**

- 2.1. The Challenge shall be conducted in M21 and W21 and any of the following classes:  
Junior Men (-20) Junior Women (-20)  
Masters Men (40-) Masters Women (40-)  
Veteran Men (50-) Veteran Women (50-)  
Super Veteran Men (60-) Super Veteran Women (60-)  
Legend Men (70-), Legend Women (70-)

The visiting country shall nominate the actual classes to be contested in the Challenge, with the minimum being M21 and W21.

- 2.2. An open invitation should be extended to those not selected for the "official teams" to be able to ride on the day.
- 2.3. A named reserve can take the place of a team member where the team member is controller, planner or co-ordinator of that particular Challenge event.

#### **3. Individual Challenges**

- 3.1. In each Challenge class, for each nation the times of the two fastest team members are added to give the team time. The nation with the lower team time is the winner of the class.

#### **4. Relay Challenges**

- 4.1. All teams, both Challenge and non-challenge, will start together as is normal for relays.
- 4.2. For each Challenge class, the winning nation is the nation whose Challenge team is faster.

#### **5. Results and Trophy**

- 5.1. The Challenge result will be determined by the number of class wins across the disciplines contested. The nation with the most class wins is the winner and holds the ANZ MTBO Challenge banner.
- 5.2. In the event of a draw the previous challenge winner retains the banner.

#### **6. Amendments**

- 6.1. These conditions may be varied or waived from time to time by agreement between Orienteering Australia and the New Zealand Orienteering Federation.