

SAOF Development Portfolio Report 2010/2011

SAOF AGM 2011

24 September 2011

The aims of the Development portfolio can best be understood by reading the 2011 Development Plan. This plan was completed at the end of May 2011 and it was built on experience gained in the six months prior to its completion. The plan was guided by the SAOF's Long Term Participant Development (LTPD) model, which is being launched this weekend.

Development has two meanings in the South African context. The first refers to Development of content and structure so that we can equip more people with the skills to make maps, organise events and coach participants. This is the key to growing the sport of Orienteering in South Africa. The second meaning of Development refers to the need to ensure that the active membership of the SAOF is reflective of the South African demographic.

Progress in the Development portfolio is discussed below, under the following headings: Long Term Participant Development (LTPD), Education Pathway; Children; School Curriculum; Professionalisation and Expansion Plan

Long Term Participant Development

In 2009, the SAOF signed a MOU (memorandum of understanding) with SASCOC to develop an Orienteering specific LTPD model. Note that the previous use of "Athlete" has been replaced by "Participant". LTPD provides a general framework for participant development that is referenced to growth, maturation, development and trainability of participants. The LTPD philosophy also influences the general sport system structure, alignment and integration.

The SAOF's eight stage LTPD model is being launched this weekend. This model aligns with the South African Sport for Life model that will be launched by SASCOC in the near future. More detail will be made available on the SAOF website. This model serves to guide the development of orienteering in South Africa.

Education Pathway

A Level 1 course in Mapping (in Jo'burg) and a Level 1 Teachers' training course in Orienteering (in Jo'burg) were presented in December 2010 and January 2011, respectively. These courses demonstrated the great value in being able to provide educational opportunities. Thanks must go to Nicholas Mulder and Paul Wimberley (mapping) as well as Tania Wimberley (training) for developing the content for these courses.

- Twenty six people attended the mapping course and thus far four new mappers have made maps of suitable quality (Tania Wimberley, Sarah Pope, Chantal Helm and Kevin Reeves).
- Sixty two people attended the Level 1 Teachers' Training Course in Orienteering held in Jo'burg.

The material from these courses has subsequently been reworked into a presentation and Resource Pack for use in a more comprehensive introductory training course in orienteering. This is being utilised in the Expansion plan.

An important aspect of these training courses is that successful participation leads to official SAOF accreditation.

In conjunction with the Technical portfolio the full education pathway for mapping and coaching will be developed over time. These will require specification of different qualification levels as well as the accreditation requirements. This will be guided by the SA Coaching Framework that is being driven by SASCOC and supported by the other important stakeholders (e.g. SRSA, DBE).

The missing component of the education pathway is that for event controller. A system needs to be developed that begins at the lowest level targeting introductory events at schools and culminating in the IOF's Event Adviser level.

Children

The SAOF recognises that the future of orienteering lies in attracting children to the sport. We continue to encourage clubs to ensure that events are fun and rewarding for children so that they want to come back.

YOC: The Young Orienteer's Challenge, is aligned with the first three stages of the SAOF's Long Term Participant Development model. Whilst YOC continues to be a great success in Gauteng, we encourage orienteers in the Western Cape to more strongly embrace this initiative. Reports on the success of the YOC programme are available on the SAOF website.

Schools' Leagues: The only schools league currently running is the Gauteng Schools League (GSL). This league has been running for 10 years. The SAOF's

Expansion Plan aims to initiate orienteering in other major cities by establishing schools leagues.

Schools' Relays: The GSL held its first-ever relay championship in 2011. We believe that the relay format promotes healthy competition and rivalry between the participating schools. This format will be encouraged in new schools' leagues that are initiated.

School O Camps: The first-ever school orienteering camp was held in March following the GSL. The camp was highly successful in (i) exposing the children to the greater world of orienteering; (ii) teaching the children a number of techniques that will improve orienteering performance and (iii) having fun doing orienteering.

Another purpose of the camp was for the children to meet and bond with a number of regular young orienteers, i.e. the coaches. The camp also introduced 6 junior orienteers to the world of coaching. We believe that this type of camp is critical if we are to grow the sport and make orienteering a more rewarding experience for the youth. A template for a successful youth orienteering camp now exists and it is available for clubs to copy and implement.

Coaching: It has been pleasing to witness an increase in the number of coaching opportunities being offered at club level. In addition I am aware of a number of other attempts at growing orienteering by members of various clubs. It is important that we continue to encourage these efforts and that numbers are recorded. Reporting of the full extent of orienteering activities to our funders is important to remain in good standing and to ensure continued support.

School Curriculum

We are aware of two teachers who attended the January Level 1 Teacher's Training Course in Orienteering who went on to present multi-week lessons in orienteering to their classes (St. Mary's DSG – Pretoria & Waterstone College – Jo'burg). Valuable feedback has been obtained from these teachers, which has been used to improve the content of the lesson plans that form part of our Expansion Resource Pack.

A second Level 1 Teachers Training Course in Orienteering was held in Polokwane over the weekend of 20-21 August. There was wonderful pull from Limpopo Province's Life Orientation (LO) coordinator.

It is important to leverage the LO opportunity as a route to getting orienteering into schools. The typical experience when trying to introduce orienteering into schools is of rejection as the schools claim to have enough sports already. Central to successful adoption of orienteering into schools is finding the passionate teachers and parents.

Professionalisation

A critical assessment of the ability to grow orienteering outside our traditional centres identified the major impediment as the lack of full-time staff. In particular the successful implementation of our expansion plan requires active project management. The time-demands of successful project management are beyond the typical volunteers who have historically been called upon to implement the SAOF's various Growth and Development projects.

Professionalising the sport requires greater financial resources. We have managed to secure a substantial grant from SRSA. This together with legacy NLDTF funding has enabled us to appoint a contract Expansion Plan project manager. We are fortunate to have been able to appoint someone of the caliber of Lisa de Speville who is no stranger to orienteering and who also has great experience in sports development.

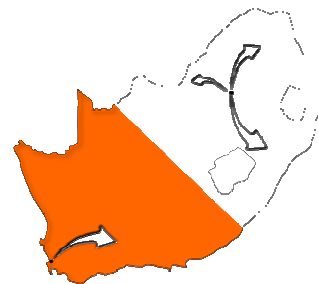
Recruiting the Expansion Plan project manager also led to an agreement between the SAOF and Peter Hemer to develop a schools league in Durban.

Expansion Plan

Details of the SAOF's Expansion Plan can be found in the 2011 Development plan. It is a four stage plan that aims to establish orienteering in new areas. The foundation of the plan is the Level 1 Teachers' Training Course in Orienteering which we aim to present to LO, Geography and Sports facilitators in a new area.

The SAOF has entered into contract agreements with Lisa de Speville and Peter Hemer to assist with the implementation of our Expansion Plan. A Level 1 Teachers' Training course has already been presented at Polokwane (Limpopo) with a follow-up planned in October. The second target city is Durban (KZN) where good progress is being made.

We are also aware of RACO efforts in Rustenburg (Northwest) and Sabie (Mpumalanga). We encourage these efforts and will support them where possible.



SAOF Expansion Plan logo

Aims for 2012

SRSA Agreement

In the agreement that we have with our funders, SRSA, we are targeting the participation in orienteering of 1600 school children.

Short-term objectives 3-5 years

As per the 2011 Development Plan, our short-term objectives are:

- Active Orienteering clubs in 5 provinces (currently we are active in two provinces)
- Improve Participation Levels across all demographics

In order to achieve these goals we will:

- Support initiatives to grow the number of feet at events
 - YOC
- Support initiatives to increase the number of juniors participating at events
 - YOC, club training
- Support initiatives to establish schools leagues
 - More widely in Gauteng and in other Provinces
- Support initiatives to encourage more PDI participation in orienteering.
 - Schools leagues and schools camps
- Support initiatives to establish orienteering in other provinces

Glossary

LTPD	Long Term Participant Development
SASCOC	South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee
NLDTF	National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund
PDI	Previously Disadvantaged Individuals
SRSA	Sport and Recreation South Africa
DBE	Department of Basic Education
SLA	Service Level Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
GSL	Gauteng Schools League
LO	Life Orientation (subject in school syllabus)

VP Development

Garry Morrison

8 September 2011