



South African Orienteering Championships

Guidelines for Organisers

The South African Orienteering Championships is currently the premier orienteering event in South Africa. In order to maintain standards it has been necessary to lay down the following guidelines for organisers (these are in addition to the Rules of Orienteering which is also issued by the SAOF and should be consulted in conjunction with these guidelines). Any deviations from these guidelines MUST be approved by the SAOF executive committee.

1. Date:

The SA Championships has been held at the end of September for a number of years now and the SAOF executive would like to see this continue. The events have previously coincided with the long weekend created by the Heritage Day holiday (24th September). Unfortunately, for the next two years this holiday falls in midweek and is therefore will not form part of the event.

The proposed dates for 2012 are : Sat 22nd , Sun 23rd; Mon 24th; (holiday is Mon 24th)

The proposed dates for 2013 are: (Fri 20th), Sat 21st, Sun 22nd , (Mon 23rd, Tues 24th)

Note: potential organisers can motivate a change of date if required but the SAOF committee would prefer to maintain the tradition of holding the championships at the end of September.

2. Format:

The Championships currently consists of three events namely:

- i) a middle distance event ii) a long distance event iii) a relay

Normally event (i) would be the middle/afternoon of day 1; event (ii) on day 2 and event (iii) on the morning of day 3. The prize giving for all three events should take place immediately after the relay event.

NB: The afternoon of day 2 is usually kept clear for the SAOF AGM which needs to be held over the weekend.

3. Officials:

The organising club(s) should appoint (at least) the following officials:

Event Controller Event Organiser Event Planner

The controller must have extensive experience of planning/controlling organising events and his appointment is subject to approval by the SAOF who reserve the right to recommend/appoint an alternative controller. The planner should also preferably have had previous planning/controlling experience.

One or more assistant planners may also be appointed.

Where separate officials are appointed for the different events, the Controllers must all be suitable qualified

and their appointments are subject to SAOF approval.

4. Finances

The event finances are the responsibility of the organising club. The SAOF may, however, make a contribution (subject to budget approval – see below) to assist with the cost of medals, mapping and general event expenses.

The organising club should prepare a budget for the events which the SAOF committee will then approve and confirm the SAOF contribution.

The entry fee will be decided by the organising club but should be in line with 'normal' event entry fees taking into account any land access fees payable. Championship events usually have an entry premium of 50-100%.

5. Terrain/area

The events shall be held on terrain which, in the opinion of the organising club (and confirmed by the controller), will present sufficient technical and physical challenge to the competitor in keeping with an SA Championship event.

The area(s) shall be new for orienteering or at least not have been used for an orienteering event or training during the five years prior to the event. Where one area is used for all three events, care must be taken to ensure that competitors on day 1 do not gain too much knowledge of the area to be used on days 2 and 3.

6. Map

The map for the long/classic event shall be printed (by a printer) in five colours.

The scale shall be 1:10000 or 1:15000 and the contour interval 5m unless prior approval is given by the SAOF committee.

Maps must be drawn using OCAD and according to ISOM2000.

The maps for the short distance event and relay may be printed on a laser or inkjet printer and may also be photocopied, provided the quality is approved by the Controller.

Maps for competitors who have pre-entered should be pre-marked. Organisers may, at their discretion, take late entries in which case those competitors must use a master map system. Maps for the relay should be pre-marked.

Maps are only issued to competitors as they start.

7. Courses

Courses should be provided for all the age groups for which there are Championship categories (currently M/W12, M/W16, M/W20, M/WOpen, W35, M40, W45, M50, W55, M60, W65, M70) and also for non-championship courses (M/W21B, long novice, short novice). However, one course may be used for more than one category as per common course combinations.

Course guidelines (winning times/course combinations) are available from the SAOF committee.

Description sheets for the Championship courses will use IOF symbols only and description sheets should be issued at registration except for the relay in which case they can be on the map only.

8. Timing

EMIT controls and timing must be used for all three events. Back-up timing must be available in case of a failure of the EMIT timing system.

9. Event sheet

An event sheet shall be issued at least three months prior to the event. This shall clearly state the following information:

- Date of events and approximate start times
- Venue of events
- Entry fees (including late entries if allowed) Closing date
- Courses/classes
- Details of nearby/recommended accommodation (if applicable)

Updated event information should be available to competitors prior to the event. The start lists should be available to the competitors one week before the first event.

10. Eligibility

To be eligible for the Championship trophies/medals a competitor must be a member of a club which is a paid up Member of the SAOF. Member clubs will supply the organisers with a list of their members one month prior to the date of the event. If such a list is not supplied or the club has not paid their fees to the SAOF (vice-president, Admin to confirm) the members of that club will **not** be eligible to compete.

Non-eligible orienteers must not be allowed to compete on the Championship courses but may enter the non-championship courses. The exception is visiting (overseas) orienteers or recent arrivals in South Africa (less than three months) who may compete on Championship courses but who are not eligible for trophies/medals.

11. Prizes

Floating trophies are available for all the Championship courses for the classic distance event. There is also a floating relay trophy. Medals (using the SAOF logo/die provided) should be awarded to the first three (gold, silver, bronze) in each category of the middle and long distance events. Medals should also be awarded to each member of the first three club teams in the relay (gold, silver, bronze).

It is usual to award spot prizes but this is at the organisers' discretion.

12. Relay

The club relay is currently competed for over three legs. Teams must include **at least one non M21**. (Any changes to this format will be communicated to the organising club in good time prior to the event). The three legs should be of approximately equal length in order to increase spectator value. The addition of one or more spectator controls on the courses is also encouraged. Total winning time should be of the order of 75 minutes.

The ad hoc relay is for teams of three competitors from any club/non-attached. It should consist of one long, one medium and one short leg. Total winning time should be of the order of 60 minutes.

Any of the usual relay planning methods can be used including course forking and common controls. However, competitors must be deterred from following and courses should be planned accordingly.

However, all teams must eventually complete exactly the same courses/legs in total.

13. Results

The final results will be made available within one week of the conclusion of the event. These will be posted to those competitors who requested them and sent to the SAOF executive committee and the SAOF webmaster for publication on the web page.

14. WRE Status

In line with the SAOF's ambition to host international-standard events, clubs wishing to host the South African Orienteering Championships are encouraged to apply for the event to have World Ranking Event status. The application for an event to be granted WRE status must be submitted by the National Federation at least one year before the event. Hence clubs bidding to host the National Championships are requested to inform the SAOF of their intentions well in advance of this.

It should be noted that WRE guidelines will supersede those stated in this document where applicable.

Revised December 2011

Garry Morrison (President)

