

South African Orienteering Federation



President's Report

The President of the International Orienteering Federation, Mr. Brian Porteous, is fond of saying that Orienteering is the best kept secret in the sporting world. This is also true in South Africa. It is time to let the secret out.

Smalls sports like Orienteering face many challenges, not only in South Africa, but the world over. In today's busy world, people are faced with a barrage of options to soak up their free time. Even if we ignore the increasingly sedentary populace and focus on those who are physically active, the battle for people's time is intense. With the rising popularity of trail running, obstacle course races and the like, it is clear that there is a substantial community out there that Orienteering is not reaching.

It is worth contemplating what these activities and events are getting right. We can learn from them and emulate their successes. We can protest that the technical nature of Orienteering, which makes it difficult for newcomers to have a positive first experience. However, there are solutions. Take AR club's Summer Series format from early in 2014. Other such innovative formats are adopted by Orienteering clubs the world over. They might not be 'hard-core' Orienteering, but they are forms of the sport that are easy to host, fun for experienced orienteers and more easily accessible to newcomers. We can marvel at the publicity that these other sports manage to generate. That too can be emulated. Take the success of the GOC clubs' Urban Series, which resulted in a 25% increase in participation.

Whilst there is much we can learn and improve upon, we must also remember our strengths. First and foremost is that we are all members of clubs. As such we are a community of volunteers who give of our time and passion for the sport that we love. Second, we are an official sport, recognised and supported by the Department of Sport and Recreation. This comes with funding, which means that we can strive to make our sport accessible and affordable.

Our community has experienced a number of losses this year, and I want to highlight Ruedi Siegenthaler, in particular. He was a great example of what it means to be part of a community such as ours. He always had time to listen to others and to lend a helping hand. He always had time to guide and encourage. A community founded on passion and these principles is sure to be strong and resilient.

There are always challenges that will face us. But there are reasons to be optimistic. Let us build our community, work together and embrace the challenges that await us. With this common cause I am confident that Orienteering in South Africa will successfully navigate to a brighter future.

Garry Morrison

President SAOF

September 2014

Membership & Participation

Clubs

It is a great privilege to welcome the Polokwane Orienteering Club as a full Member of the South African Orienteering Federation. With this addition to our family we now have active clubs in four provinces. We have also seen active participation in orienteering by the Mphachue Orienteering Club. There will be more details on these clubs in the Development section of this report. On the other hand we have seen the UCTMSC become dormant during this period.

Membership

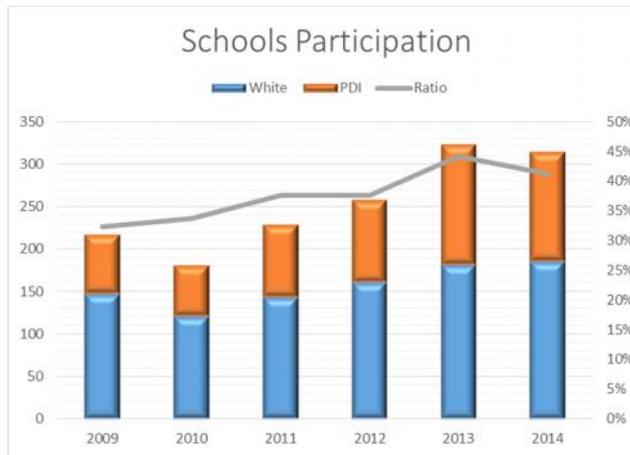
Official individual memberships are up by more than 12% on 2013, as illustrated in the table below. This is mainly due to the admission, as full Members, to the SAOF of the Polokwane Orienteering Club and also includes members of the Mphachue Orienteering Club. Increased membership and participation statistics is one of the metrics that Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) monitor as a means to evaluate the progress of recognised sports, which they fund. In order to continue to secure vital funding from SRSA it is imperative that we seek to grow our membership (individual members as well as active clubs) and participation levels.

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
SENIOR MEN	154	149	157	149	166
SENIOR WOMEN	114	114	96	103	118
JUNIOR MEN	56	58	44	49	63
JUNIOR WOMEN	50	51	44	50	48
TOTAL	374	372	341	351	395
PDI MEMBERSHIP	10	5	11	18	54
	3%	1%	3%	5%	14%
CLUBS	6	6	8	8	8

It is particularly pleasing to note the significant increase of our PDI membership that has been achieved in 2014. This increase is evidence that we are making progress in our aim to make Orienteering accessible to all South Africans.

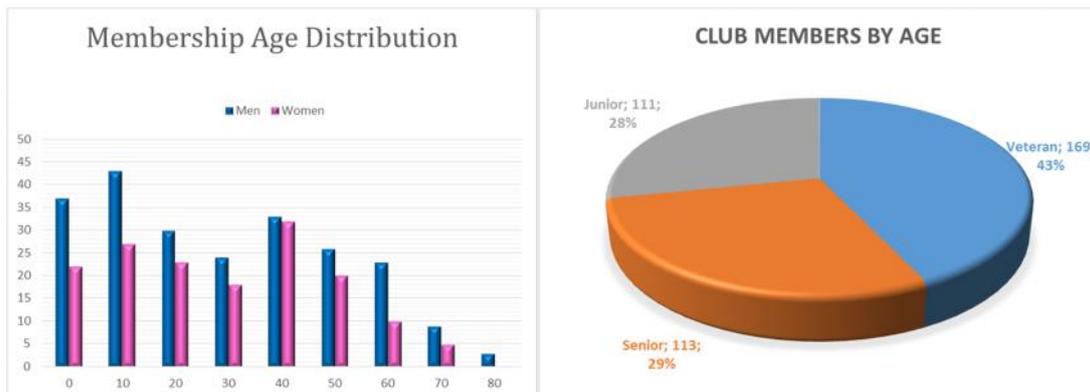
As in previous years, the Orienteering Schools Leagues (OSLs), which were run in Gauteng, the Western Cape and Durban in 2014, provide the greatest access to PDI participants. In order to convert schools participation into club membership remains a challenge that will require innovative approaches by clubs.

In 2014 the total number of “runs” at schools events was just over 850. Whilst this is down on 2013, the main reason is the cancellation due to rain of one the Gauteng events. The graph below illustrates the number of individual learners participating in schools league events as well as the ratio of PDI participation. In schools league events 50% of the participants are female.



The gender profile of our club membership fell from above 50% in 2013 to about 40% in 2014. One of the strengths of orienteering is that it has a high proportion of female participants. This is viewed favourably by SRSAs which seeks to support sport and recreation that attracts both men and women.

The graphs below, which summarise the age distribution of our membership, are clear evidence that Orienteering truly is a *Sport for Life*. The dip in membership for people in the 20-30 age category is well known in many sports. This is the period during which young adults leave school, study further and then seek to establish their careers. It is important, however, that we continue to attract people in this age band, as they will become the leaders of the future.



Participation

The trend in participation levels at official club events over the past 6 years is illustrated in the figure below. It is encouraging to note the return to a higher number of events and higher average levels of participation in 2014 after the dip experienced last year. These increases can be attributed to both the Big Five O event as well as the successful Urban Series held in Gauteng in 2014. With a coordinated publicity campaign this initiative saw an increase in participation from an average of 84 in 2013 to 105 in 2014.

Other innovations like AR Club's Summer Series and the Metrogaine events are not included in these numbers. Including these events, which act as entry-level events for newcomers, would take total participants in 2014 to above 4000.



The big spikes in 2012 and 2014 are due to the Big Five event.

It should be noted that these figures do not include CATIs, Novelty events, School events & training events.

It has been said many times before and it is worth repeating that it is remarkable that our clubs are able to put on the number of high-quality events that they do in a year. The health of our sport depends on finding ways to introduce greater numbers to a compelling version of the sport. In doing so we will find more and more people for whom Orienteering becomes their sport.

Young Orienteers Challenge (YOC)

After five successful years it is sad to note that the YOC scheme in Gauteng has all but disappeared. Such programmes require the time and energy of a group of individuals to make them happen. It is hoped that in the future a new group of individuals will resurrect this, or a similar programme.

Activities & Achievements

LTPD and the SA Coach Framework

The SAOF remains committed to the SASCOC led South African Coach Framework (SACF) project. This project complements the Long Term Participant Development (LTPD) model, which is an athlete-centred approach to sport development. The SA Coach Framework aims to develop a unified coaching pathway with consistent standards for all sports in South Africa.



During the past year the SAOF made some progress in aligning our coach education system, which we have adopted from the British Orienteering Federation, with the SACF. Progress has been slower than anticipated due to the misalignment between the SACF and the sport coaching education standards with the National Qualification Framework (NQF). In time this will see the SAOF being able to train its own coaches who will receive qualifications that are recognised by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

Most of the current focus is on taking the Level 1 course through the necessary process. In parallel we are improving our Introductory course aimed at newcomers to the sport.

We must again give thanks to the British Orienteering Federation who have continued to provide us with information and guidance as we attempt to adapt their system to our purposes.

Mapping

The SAOF funded a number of Sprint and Championship maps in 2013/14. The following maps were funded:

<u>Sprint</u>	<u>Championship</u>
• DOC – x2	DOC – x3
• POC – x3	ARC – x1
• PenOC – x1	PenOC – x3

Following the Haenertsburg maps, we hope that the Hilton maps used for SA Champs 2014 and GOC Champs 2015 will similarly serve as a catalyst for further development of the Durban Orienteering Club.

A strategic map is one that can serve a number of the SAOF's purposes. These include use towards high-quality championship events, training facilities for our high performance athletes and as facilities for development activities. In 2014 a number of the Big Five maps that SAOF funded were used for the High-Performance camp hosted over the Easter weekend.

EMIT System

In 2014, the SAOF supplied the two largest Gauteng clubs (RACO and ROC) with their own starter kits (Start blocks, Finish blocks and MTR-4).

In addition we purchased 25 additional EMIT blocks and 150 additional EMIT cards. These were used to support both the Big Five O event and the Gauteng Schools League.

In 2015 the SAOF is planning to replace the Western Cape's EMIT blocks which have started failing.

The SAOF is also working on a clear set of warranty conditions for EMIT cards that are sold on to orienteers.

Administration

Much of the day-to-day administration function of the SAOF is contracted out. This remains crucial to the SAOF's ability to be more effective in its efforts to develop and grow the sport. We thank our administrator (Val Brentano) for her continued dedication and hard work.

The role of the Administration portfolio is to transform the SAOF into a more efficient and effective organisation. Within the past year, a number of activities have been undertaken to this end. The two major activities undertaken in the past year were the:

- Commencement of a review of the SAOF constitution;
- Development of a management database.

The aim of the first of these tasks is to enable the SAOF to register as a non-profit organisation. Benefits of registration include that individuals and organisations can make tax-deductible donations to the federation.

Our major funding partner, the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA), increasingly demands greater financial control and governance compliance from the recipients of its funding. In addition SRSA needs demonstrable proof that its funding is being used effectively to achieve its goals of promoting an active nation. The management database is intended to be the tool that we can use to track the relevant statistics required by SRSA.

Finance & Funding

The SAOF's audited financial statement forms part of this Annual Report and is attached as an Annexure.

There is good news and bad news on the funding landscape for 2014/15. The good news is that SRSA have managed to bring forward their grant allocation process. This means that the SAOF's 2014/15 grant from SRSA has already been approved and the agreement is in place. This is a substantial improvement on previous years.

The bad news is that our grant has been reduced from R700 000 in 2013/14 to R400 000 in 2014/15. The reasons provided for this reduction include the fact that more sport and recreation bodies are in good standing resulting in a relatively unchanged budget being divided amongst more recipients.

The status of our current grants are recorded below

NLDTF

Although we spent more of our 2011 Lottery grant (Project No. 46720) within the current financial year, there is still a portion that is unspent. The outstanding portion of this grant is earmarked for Capacity Building, Transformation and Development and High Performance.

It remains the position of the SAOF not to apply for further lottery money at this stage. With the decline in the amount of money being made available by SRSA in 2014/15 this position may be revisited in the coming year.

SRSA

The SAOF's SRSA 2014/15 grant has been approved. A two-tier grant is provided. The first is a guaranteed portion to be used for administrative purposes (R100 000) and the second is a conditional portion (R300 000). Access to the conditional tier depends on an approved business plan for projects that address SRSA's priorities, including Transformation and implementation of the National Sports and Recreation Plan. Continued access to this source of funding is dependent on demonstrable progress along these dimensions as well as meeting SRSA's financial reporting and governance requirements. As mentioned earlier, this is a major reason for developing the SAOF's management database.

Own Funds

In last year's Annual Report we cautioned against spending excessively from our own funds. We made the prescient remark that we should put more effort into growing our funding base and securing complementary financial resources to counter the scenario that funding from SRSA is greatly reduced or withdrawn.

Whilst the reduction in our SRSA grant for 2014/15 will necessitate that the SAOF uses more of its own funds than has been the case in recent years, we will continue to do so with prudence. The budget for 2014/15 is presented separately as an annexure to this report.

Development

The SAOF's Expansion Plan is the core element of our Strategic plan to Develop and Grow the sport in South Africa. This on-going project is aimed at exporting orienteering to cities, provinces and districts other than those in which the sport is already well-established. At the same time there is a

focus on continuing to grow and development of our traditional base, which will help build capacity to enable expansion into new areas.

As well as developing material to facilitate achieving our objectives, we have conducted and supported numerous activities in various Primary and High Schools in Gauteng, Kwazulu-Natal, the Western Cape and Limpopo during the course of 2013-2014. These range from visits to individual schools, to supporting local schools leagues, to the provision of equipment and resources, as well as support to attend various high-profile events.



The Gauteng Schools League saw participation by 14 schools and a record attendance of over 210 learners at one of the events. The annual Gauteng Schools camp was held for the 4th year running. A similar camp was hosted in the Hilton area a few weeks prior to the 2014 SA Champs. We believe that such camps are great vehicles to create an interest in the sport.

Our efforts in Limpopo have seen the formation of the Polokwane Orienteering Club and the Mphachue Orienteering Club. A number of teachers and learners were afforded the opportunity to attend the 2013/14 Big Five O event and the 2014 Gauteng Orienteering. This has seen the growth of a vibrant orienteering community in the Lebowakgomo district of Limpopo. A recent introductory training course held in that district with the approval of the Department of Education was attended by 42 Life Orientation teachers. We have provided club kits to Mphachue Secondary School and nearby Ngwana Mohube Secondary School. Our intention is to support these and other nearby schools to host their own inter-schools league in 2015.



The SAOF would like to thank Lisa de Speville, Peter Hemer and Karen Chambers who have managed a number of these project activities.

Major Events

Big Five O

The second Big Five O event took place at the end of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. There were over 180 participants of which half were from 14 overseas countries. The event offers quality orienteering, quality competition across the age classes and the opportunity to engage with the many foreign visitors.

This event remains unique in South Africa and has the potential to become the flagship orienteering event in South Africa. The SAOF will continue to support this event and encourage the organisers in their efforts to realise its full potential.



This year, the SAOF took the opportunity to support a number of participants from Mphachue to attend the event, experience the great atmosphere and receive intensive coaching. The participants were highly energised by the whole experience, which was instrumental in driving further growth activities in Limpopo.

SA Champs

Although still outstanding at the time of writing, progress has been made on the generation of a long-term schedule for both the terrain and sprint national championships. This will enable the clubs to have longer planning horizons.

Another review that is outstanding is to consider the optimum dates for these events with the objective of seeking to maximise the participation levels. One specific issue that requires resolution is the schedule for the SA Sprint championships and the best time for that to be held.

SA Champs 2014 is being held in KZN in the Hilton College area as a collaboration between DOC and RACO. It is hoped that similar to the 2012 SA Champs in Haenertsburg, the 2014 event will serve to boost the growth of orienteering in KZN.

WRE's

World Ranking Events (WREs) are events sanctioned by the IOF that enable elite athletes to score points on the world ranking system. From a local perspective, hosting WREs serves two main purposes. First they enable our elite athletes to maintain their ranking without the need to compete overseas each year. The second aim is to strive to improve the quality of our flagship local events. Since the first local WRE in 2009 certain required elements, such as improved provision of information by way of regular bulletins and online entries have become commonplace.

The IOF tries to ensure event quality by requiring that an accredited WRE advisor is appointed as a consultant to each event. There have been two IOF event advisor courses held in South Africa since 2008, resulting in the accreditation of 5 event advisors. Unfortunately we have lost our two most recently accredited IOF Event Advisers in Ake Fagereng and Ruedi Siegenthaler. This leaves a big gap in the Western Cape that we hope can be filled in the near future.

In 2014 the IOF transitioned to a separate Sprint and Forest world ranking lists. Each member Federation is now allowed to host a maximum of 3 Sprint and 3 Forest WREs. Whilst it is possibly unrealistic to expect our clubs to host this many WREs in a year, we should certainly strive to regularly host 2 Sprint and 2 Forest WREs each year.

In the recent past we have been late with our WRE applications. This has incurred a substantial penalty. The SAOF will only be supporting late applications in exceptional circumstances. We believe that it will be in everybody's best interest to have longer planning horizons.

Below is a list of the WREs held in South Africa in since the first one in 2009:

- 2009 – 2 (SA Champs: Middle & Long)
- 2011 – 2 (SA Champs: Middle & Long)
- 2012 – 3 (Big Five O: Day 3 – Long and Day 5 – Sprint; SA Champs: Middle)
- 2013 – 2 (SA Sprint Champs; Big Five O: Day 2 - Long)
- 2014 – 3 (Big Five O: Day 3 – Middle; GOC Urban Final - Sprint; SA Champs - Middle)

High Performance

An updated HP strategic plan for 2014-17 is in draft form. One of the pleasing requirements for the updated plan is the need to review our performance targets due to the excellent performances of our athletes at JWOC and WOC in recent years.

A successful High Performance training camp was held over the Easter weekend in the Kaapsehoop area. The training camp catered for all of our squads (Senior – 6 athletes, Junior – 6 athletes and Youth – 9 athletes). This camp was nearly fully funded, including support for the HP manager, three coaches and one assistant coach. This ensured that all the squads were able to receive the coaching focus that would be most beneficial.

The SAOF sent its largest team to the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) for some time. The team consisted of three men and two women. Although the WOC format has changed with qualification races only in the Sprint format and restricted entry to the Middle and Long finals based on national ranking, the overlap of WOC with a high-quality 6 Days event means that all the athletes can get good experience outside of their WOC events. The team also enjoyed their participation in the new, exciting mixed Sprint relay format.

Unfortunately we only had one participant at this year's Junior WOC. However, Timothy Chambers acquitted himself superbly with a number of excellent performances. We formally expressed our gratitude to the Canadian team for adopting Timothy for the duration of this year's JWOC.

Conclusion

During the course of this past year Orienteering in South Africa has made steady progress in a number of areas. Some of our development efforts have begun to bear fruit in Limpopo and we hope that the SA championships at Hilton College will provide impetus for further development in Kwazulu-Natal. There are still many exciting opportunities for growth and development in our existing orienteering strongholds as well as areas further afield.

We now have a group of qualified coaches who have been actively helping out at their clubs, in development activities and at the elite level. Steady progress is being made on the SA Coach Framework project, which will ultimately allow us to train more coaches local with a recognised qualification.

We have been able to fund a wide selection of new maps and added to the diversity of terrain available to orienteers in South Africa. These benefit all orienteers and also been utilised for development and high performance activities. We have also celebrated some continued good performances at JWOC and look forward to even better in the next few years.

We have also been reminded of the values of community; that we need to offer one another support, guidance and encouragement. The SAOF looks forward, with the support of all our members, to build a bigger and stronger orienteering community in the year ahead.