

South African Orienteering Federation

Annual Report



Development, Growth, Excellence

President's Report

This year we welcomed two new people to the committee. I joined as a caretaker president for a year, as the position was vacant. Garry stepped down after many years of building a strong foundation to take up a coaching and high performance position. It was my intention to simply keep steering the ship in the direction that it was headed, with a focus on development and expansion.

Ephraim Chuene from POC joined as VP development taking over from Karen Chambers who developed the schools league into our crown jewel. I haven't had the opportunity to work with her, but I know she made a larger contribution to SA Orienteering. Ephraim has had many, many interactions that will keep him very busy as soon as the travel restrictions begin lifting.

The financial uncertainty we experienced last year continued into this year, albeit in a different way. The unexpected SRSA grant was received at R300 000, and the levies from Big50 bolstered our books. We have submitted a grant application for 2020/2021 as well, however with no certainty of receiving it, as COVID has redirected government funding. The prioritisation of sports that was alluded to last year has not yet come to fruition, and we therefore continue with status quo from a funding request perspective. An Administrative section, an expansion plan to support our development work, the emit replacement funding, and strategic maps.

Covid19 has impacted all of our lives, and neither SAOF nor SRSA has been exempt. They focused their efforts on ensuring Federations did not go bankrupt. We are both fortunate and unfortunate, that our grant is the foundation of our sports funding. We received and spent the grant last year and are financially secure for the rest of this year and into next year, even though there have been no events, and therefore no income to SAOF from them. We must break our budget into two sections, the essential expenses into our own funds, that may be reallocated to the SRSA grant if and when we get it, and a conditional portion that will only be executed subject to receiving the grant. This may be more necessary as we move into a post COVID world.

COVID has also postponed our events, championships and Big5 O. A Covid committee was convened to put forward a working plan for holding events with the social distancing restrictions as mandated by Government. This plan was submitted, and we are awaiting Government feedback for permission to resume our sport. Orienteering is ideally positioned to be able to operate, as it is in the outdoor and an individual pursuit. With pre-entry and no prize giving it is possible to do an event without any physical interaction.



Jeremy Green
President SAOF
September 2020

Membership & Participation

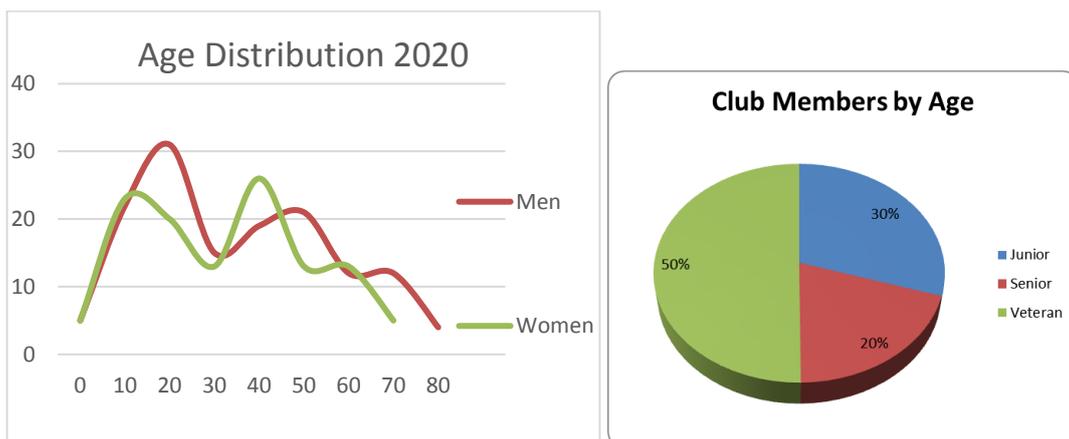
This section contains various tables and graphs indicating membership demographics and participation levels. The trends that we have seen over the past few years have continued.

Club membership has started to drop while participation levels remain high. Participation in schools league events and development activities remain positive.

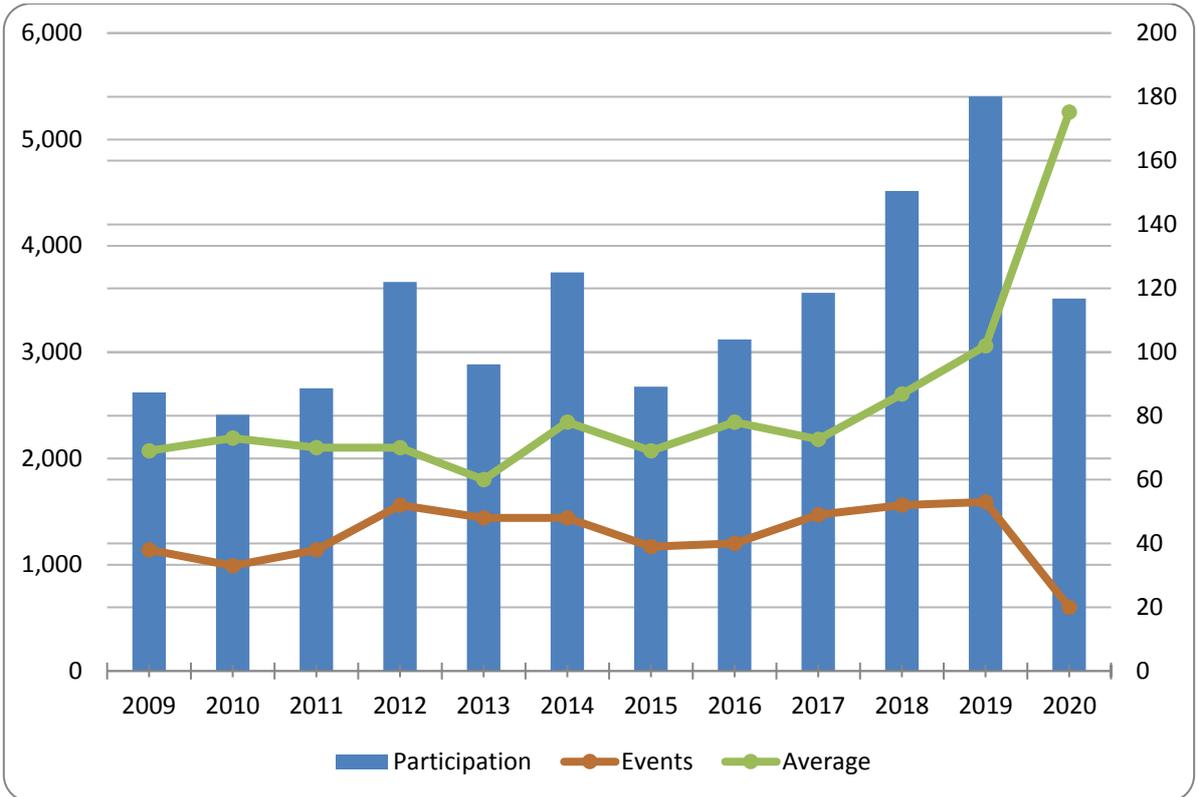
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
SENIOR MEN	154	149	157	149	166	163	128	137	113	113	105
SENIOR WOMEN	114	114	96	103	118	104	102	106	93	93	83
JUNIOR MEN	56	58	44	49	63	59	50	58	41	41	35
JUNIOR WOMEN	50	51	44	50	48	31	44	41	31	31	35
TOTAL	374	372	341	351	395	357	324	342	278	278	258
PDI MEMBERSHIP	10	5	11	18	54	33	40	56	38	38	
	3%	1%	3%	5%	14%	9%	12%	16%	14%	14%	0%
CLUBS	6	6	8	8	8	9	8	6	6	6	6

Female % 44% 44% 41% 44% 42% 38% 45% 43% 45% 45% 46%

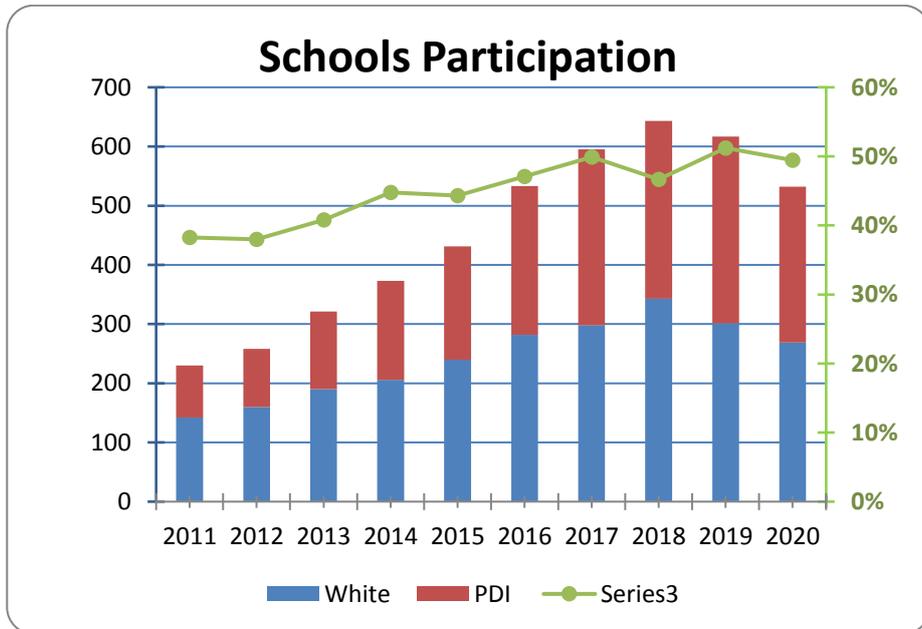
Club membership numbers over the past decade shows a drop in the number of clubs and the number of orienteers. This should be a focus of the next development strategy.



The gender balance and age profile of orienteering members remains one of the strengths of the sport.



The participation level (Total Runs) since 2018 includes schools league events to give a better view of overall participation in the sport. Schools League completed before Covid, and Big 5 also boosted numbers. Covid resulted in no events since lockdown began. 20 events being held compared to 53 the previous year.



The school's participation levels represented here tries to look at the number of unique participants.

Activities & Achievements

As in previous years we assess our activities and achievements against our 2020 goals. This document will need to be edited and updated by the incoming president to use to guide the next 5 years effort. COVID has decimated our orienteering efforts in 2020, and therefore a valid evaluation is difficult for anything more than the first 6 months (September till March). It was looking like a great year until then.

Strategy 2016-2020

The SAOF's current 5-year strategy is summarised below as a means to remind us all of our goals for this period and our approach to achieving them.

Vision: To make Orienteering a vibrant, national sport accessible to all South Africans

Mission: Development Growth Excellence

These statements encapsulate the intent of our strategy. They reflect the belief that in order to grow the sport, development and roll-out of education pathways are required to reduce the inherent *barriers to entry*. Our mission also recognises that excellence, which includes being internationally competitive at the highest level, will not be possible without the foundation of development and growth of the participation base of our sport in all communities within South Africa. Based on our experience over the preceding five years we believe that the correct approach to grow the sport in new areas is comprised of three steps. These steps apply equally to clubs wishing to grow their membership base. The three steps are:

Expose lots of new people to the sport

We need to continue to provide opportunities to make more people aware of our sport. The more people we can introduce to Orienteering, the greater the chance we have of finding those people who will become truly passionate about the sport.

Identify people who show passion

Out of all the people that we expose to the sport we need find ways to identify those people who will become truly passionate about the sport. These are the people that “pull” for more. They are proactive in seeking more help and more information. We have learned that putting effort and resources into people who do not “pull” is invariably wasted.

Provide support

Once we have found these people who are passionate about orienteering, we need to provide support in whatever form it is needed. This could be in the form of education opportunities, provision of materials, participation opportunities, recognition of their efforts, etc.

2020 Goals

• 10000 Runs annually at Orienteering Events	➔
• 750 SAOF members	➔
• Active Member clubs in 6 Provinces	➡
• A single event with more than 500 Participants	➡
• Year-on-year improvement in participants mirroring SA demographics	➡
• JWOC or WOC: First Woman A-final qualification. Men regularly qualifying for A-finals	➔



The indicator to the right of each goal reflects the direction of progress made over the past year. COVID has had a profound impact in our efforts.

Covid 19 document

A committee was formed from members of all Clubs to put together a Covid Plan for the resumption of Orienteering. This plan was submitted to the Minister for approval on the 10th September.

LTPD and the SA Coach Framework

The SAOF's coaching qualification is aligned with the South African Coach Framework (SACF), which is a unified coaching pathway with consistent standards for all sports in South Africa.

No coaching courses were held this year.

Strategic Maps

The SAOF strategic maps project seeks to fund multiple purpose maps. Funded maps should initially be used for a national-level event. Suitable maps can then be used for various other events, including high-performance training camps, provincial champs, development activities and club events.

We supported the maps for Big 5 with the SRSA funding that came through.

It is important for Member clubs to note that we will endeavour to provide partial financial assistance for map making. This is on a per occasion basis and support can be requested subject to funding. It must however be noted that again SRSA funding is uncertain, and therefore funds are tight. Just after we receive funds is the best time to apply. Or as part of the annual SRSA projects proposal where funds for a specific project can be requested.

EMIT System

All Emits that were going to be purchased were. This led to sufficient emit blocks and cards for the 2019/2020 Big 5 O event. It also helped with the School's League event at the beginning of 2020. SAOF is in the process of looking at funding for a new timing system that is being developed by Nic Reuss of WitSOC and have included the funding application in our SRSA grant request.

This system will reduce the requirement to reuse "cards" at School's League events due to the cheap cost of the actual cards

Administration

The role of the Administration portfolio is to ensure that the SAOF is run as an efficient and effective organisation. The SAOF has retained its registration as a non-profit organisation (NPO) with the Department of Social Development. To maintain our NPO status we are required to submit various reports to the department on an annual basis.

In addition, our grant from the Department of Sport and Recreation (SRSA) requires us to complete progress reports on a quarterly basis.



SRSA

In January 2019 all recognised Sports Federations were requested to submit comment and input on the department's "Draft Prioritisation of Sport Codes Policy". This draft policy was guided by the National Sport and Recreation Act, the White Paper on Sport and Recreation and the National Sport and Recreation Plan. Motivated by the provisions in these documents and the global economic downturn, the draft policy appears to be an attempt to narrow the support provided by the department to sports that "maximise the return on investment by prioritizing sport codes best suited to broaden the participation base or achieving international success".

The SAOF sent out the document to clubs and requested comment and input. Based on the input we received the SAOF prepared a response which was submitted to SRSA on 14 January 2019. The SAOF's submission can be viewed on request. Needless to say, our submission was critical of the draft policy. We believe that the policy will be detrimental to small sports such as Orienteering. Furthermore, we believe that the policy is short-sighted and goes against the principle of supporting diversity and access to a wide variety of sports.

Sadly, as of the date of writing this report, we have received no response from SRSA regarding our submission. Nor has there been any further communication on the draft policy. COVID has dominated all their efforts.

SASCOC

During the course of this year the SAOF participated in all the requisite SASCOC activities. SASCOC is currently in leadership and financial turmoil.

Insurance

All Member clubs are reminded that it is legally compulsory to carry *Event Liability Insurance* for all official events. It is thus important for all official events to be on the SAOF calendar. This insurance is also required by various forest landowners specially to cover for the risk of fire. COVID preparedness will form a part of future events. The Covid Committee are awaiting feedback on the proposed guidelines for holding safe orienteering events. It is unlikely that insurance will extend to Covid coverage.

Finance & Funding

Our funding situation has been highly volatile this year. Towards the end of 2018 we were led to believe that there would be no SRSA grant for 2019/20 and that we were only to receive a reduced grant of R240 000 for 2018/19. This uncertainty resulted in the SAOF exploring the crowd-sourcing environment in an attempt to secure funds. With the late receipt of SRSA funds this was not explored seriously.

The SAOF acknowledges, with gratitude, the regular financial support we have received from our Orienteering friends in Switzerland towards development of POC.

SRSA

The SRSA grant period runs from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. After the funding uncertainty of the past financial year we are pleased to announce that we did secure a grant of



sport & recreation

Department:
Sport and Recreation South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

R300 000 from SRSA for the 2019/20 financial year.

The biggest projects funded by the SRSA grants are the Expansion Plan, Map production and Electronic timing equipment. These projects are critical to the sustainability of our sport. As well as benefiting all active participants these projects help us to provide access opportunities to rural communities. We have applied for funds for the 2020/2021 year.

Own Funds

The SAOF generates its own funds through affiliation fees, event levies and Emit hire fees. These funds are used to support the various projects covered by the SRSA grant during the period between the start of the SRSA grant period and receipt of the grant payment. This is done to ensure the continuation of our various projects. It remains important to be mindful of the need to maintain a healthy balance of our own funds so that we do not experience cash flow problems while waiting for the SRSA grant payment. Event levies are currently not contributing to our income.

Development

Based on our past experience our approach to development focuses on supporting groups of people who are enthusiastic about the sport and self-driven to grow participation in their community. We have found that this is the only sustainable model.

Implementation of this approach can be summarised by three words, i.e. Identify, Support and Access. Enthusiastic groups are typically identified after we have presented a course introducing orienteering. We provide *Support* offering further training and educational opportunities as well as providing assistance to make maps of suitable local venues. By *Access* we mean that we try to provide opportunities for keen groups to participate at much bigger events so that their experience of orienteering can be enriched.

During the course of this year we have continued to work with our very enthusiastic group in the Northern Cape and the Polokwane Orienteering Club. We also we note with great appreciation the efforts of O-Ventures to spread orienteering in Gauteng and KZN. Support is growing in KZN with a School's League in the pipeline subject to Covid restrictions. San Hubble at Cordwallis has been having orienteering events annually, external to the SAOF umbrella.

Access to Participation Opportunities

Part of our Development strategy is to provide opportunities for participants from rural areas to attend championship and Big Five events. Athletes were supported in their participation at SAOC and Big50 in 2019/20.

These events are both inspirational and aspirational.

World Orienteering Day

World Orienteering Day was unfortunately cancelled this year due to the Covid19 lockdown.



Limpopo

Ephraim Chuene has made a significant move by making Polokwane Orienteering Club partner with one of their local radio stations (GL FM) in the Lepelle Nkumpi Municipality where over 500 people every Friday hear updates of orienteering around the world. He is sharing the history of orienteering on radio and also slots in orienteers to share their experience with the sport.

Northern Cape

The Springbok team (Warnell Engelbrecht and Elvin Saal) has not stop promoting our sport of orienteering. Their passion of promoting orienteering in-and around the Springbok area did not happen this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, we are still looking forward to supporting their plan to develop interschool challenge and ultimately progressing to school's league.

Schools Leagues

This year the Gauteng OSL (orienteering schools league) was facilitated by Tania Wimberley succeeding Karen Chambers who set a good footprint during her time. Tania was assisted by Richard Lund. The event had approximately 2 350 feet through the events which were finished before COVID 19.



This year we had athletes from 23 schools, 16 high schools and 7 primary schools. We had a record attendance of 451 at the first event at de Vos farm. The interschool competition was the closest we have had with 6 schools vying for the top spot. Brescia House came out top in the end with Northcliff and Helpmekaar second and third. The finals were again held at Walter Sisulu Gardens which presented a touch challenge to the participants. The overall winners were:

	Schools League		Schools Final	
Primary School Girls	Teagan Green	Craighall Primary	Teagan Green	Craighall Primary
Primary School Boys	Oliver Venter-Clelland	St John's Prep	Oliver Venter-Clelland	St John's Prep
Junior Girls	Megan Froneman	Brescia House	Shané Swanepoel	Helpmekaar
Junior Boys	Cameron Morrison	Northcliff	Matthew Venter-Clelland	St John's College
Senior Girls	Sarah Wimberley	Brescia House	Sarah Wimberley	Brescia House
Senior Boys	Ryno Grove	Helpmekaar	Ryno Grove	Helpmekaar

Polokwane Orienteering Club did not run their third OSL in April-May 2020. Their league plan consisted of 3 events and the final event was to be at the University of Limpopo. The league attracted two circuits and over 150 participants. We look forward to the growth of their OSL.

Marketing

With limited events over the past year there was not much to market, however regular information emails continued until the start of lockdown in March. In the latter part of 2019, the marketing campaigns featured the then upcoming Big Five O, sharing updates and news regarding the event. The subscriber numbers have remained largely intact, around 600, however readership has improved to around 40% of recipients.

Website

The website has remained with largely the same design throughout the year, with minor updates to improve functionality and finding of information. Of course, event calendars and results were also updated where applicable.

Facebook

The use of Facebook played a vital role during lockdown, as it saw the marketing of a number of virtual orienteering events. These were largely communicated via the SAOF Facebook page, posted by the SAOF administrator, which was much appreciated by the VP of Marketing.

It is planned to communicate the various measures for the restart of events via all available platforms as soon as possible, in order to aid the numbers of participants at these first events.

Major Events

Big Five O

The fifth instalment of the Big Five O took place in the Graskop, Mpumalanga area. The SAOF supported the event by ensuring that our EMIT system was refreshed by the purchase of sufficient control blocks and runner tags. In addition, we made available funding to partially support the mapping required to put on an event of this standard. We also provided financial support to enable participants from rural areas to experience a world-class orienteering event.



SA Champs

Both SA Sprint Champs and SA Champs 2020 was cancelled, due to COVID19. The proposal is to push out the hosting of the championships by one year. Therefore, proposed schedule for the hosts of coming SA Sprint Orienteering championships and SA Orienteering Championships is below. PenOC will be added to the SA Orienteering Champs schedule when the club feels they are able to host a national event once again. The SAOF would like to see the re-use of maps for future championships

as the making of new maps each year is an expensive exercise. The revised provisional schedule for the coming years is:

Year	Club SA Champs	Club – SA Sprint Champs
2020	Cancelled	
2021	ROC	PENOC
2022	RACO	ROC

The intention for the SA Sprint championships is that the current approach will continue. That is, the hosts of either the Western Cape or Gauteng Provincial championships will incorporate the SA Sprint championships into their event. The SAOF will continue to facilitate the negotiation between the possible candidates on an annual basis.

WREs

The SAOF's position on WRE's remains unchanged. At present the only event for which WRE status is beneficial is the Big Five event.

SAOF Rules for Foot Orienteering 2011

The VP Technical has started a process to update the SAOF Rules for Foot Orienteering. The aim was to have representatives from each club to attend a weekend debate on the actual rules and the required changes. This was cancelled due to COVID19 and will be taken up again in early 2021 by the VP Technical.

SAOF Guidelines to SA Championships and SA Sprint Championships

After exhaustive email discussions a new set of guidelines for the SA Orienteering championships was approved by the SAOF executive in September 2019. These guidelines must be used by the organising clubs for the future SA Championships.

Unfortunately, the VP Technical did not manage to review or compile the new SA Sprint Championships guideline during 2019/2020. He will hopefully get time to do it in the next year.

High Performance:

Garry Morrison was appointed as High Performance manager for 2020. He was also selected as the 2020 High Performance coach. Unfortunately, like many other elements of orienteering, the SAOF's high performance plans were derailed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2020 national squad had completed their first time-trial of the seasons and a number of the athletes were in good shape. The annual high-performance camp was scheduled to take place in the Haenertsburg area with plans already in an advanced state. Unfortunately, the camp had to be cancelled as South Africa entered lockdown a few weeks before the camp was due. The SAOF encourages their high performance athletes to keep physically fit and to seek out the many armchair tools to help improve their technical skills.