

# South African Orienteering Federation

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## Annual Report



*Development, Growth, Excellence*

## President's Report

In September 2020 I agreed to take over the role as President of the SAOF with the aims to providing some new ideas and strategies to take the SAOF forward after a year of no activity due to COVID, but as with life things changed quite drastically and I made the difficult decision to move my family to the UK, this took a lot of my time and planning and the running of the SAOF was left to the capable committee with input from me from time to time but none of the goals were even remotely achieved or started. I am confident with new leadership in 2022 and more opportunities to get out there and do orienteering, the SAOF committee will again start to innovate and drive transformational change in our sport.

With COVID lockdowns downgrading to level 3 in January and receiving go ahead from government to host events we took the decision to allow clubs to resume hosting orienteering events as long as they stuck to the guidelines we put forward.

The year started with the highest turnout to an Urban Event for a long long time with over 130 results of which 25 were groups so we have nearly 200 people at the event. The ROC team should be commended for taking this 1st step forward to get back to some normality. Online entries with pre-selected starttimes were key to making O events 'contactless' where competitors could just report directly to the start at the event, thanks to the BIG5 Orienteering for continuing to host the OriEnter entry system for the SA Clubs.

Unfortunately during the middle of the year COVID came back again and we again had to pause orienteering events and go back into lockdown, this prompted the BIG5 Orienteering Board members to further postpone the next BIG5 to Dec 2023.

We are finishing the year strong with ROC successfully hosting the SA Champs in Graskop and RACO hosting the upcoming GOC champs in a week's time which will be a great success I am sure.

Financially speaking the SAOF has had some difficulty spending the grant monies we have received toward the projects in the budget but thanks to Val for keeping the lines of communication open with SRSA to ensure we don't lose out on that funding, but we will need to take action soon on some of our development projects.

I would like to end this report by wishing the incumbent SAOF president and his/her committee all the best for 2022 and may you take the SAOF from strength to strength.



Craig Ogilvie  
President SAOF  
October 2021

## 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 increased quite significantly in 2021 with the highest membership counts since 2015 participation levels remain high and RACO do seem to have the most active membership base with nearly triple the attendance figures at events, even though their membership numbers are almost the same as ROC and PenOC. Participation in schools league events and development activities remain positive event after the late start in 2021

### 2021 Club Stats

	ROC	RACO	POC	Penoc	Wits
JW	5	11	20	4	4
JM	8	16	25	7	5
SW	28	27	9	27	12
SM	39	35	6	40	19
	80	89	60	78	40
PDI	3		60		10

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
SENIOR MEN	154	149	157	149	166	163	128	137	113	113	105	139
SENIOR WOMEN	114	114	96	103	118	104	102	106	93	93	83	103
JUNIOR MEN	56	58	44	49	63	59	50	58	41	41	35	61
JUNIOR WOMEN	50	51	44	50	48	31	44	41	31	31	35	44
TOTAL	374	372	341	351	395	357	324	342	278	278	258	347
PDI MEMBERSHIP	10	5	11	18	54	33	40	56	38	38		73
	3%	1%	3%	5%	14%	9%	12%	16%	14%	14%	0%	21%
CLUBS	6	6	8	8	8	9	8	6	6	6	6	5

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

## Gauteng and Cape Orienteering Participation and Event Statistics

Updated 19 Oct 2021

Thanks to the Gauteng Clubs for sending all results to OriEnter and PenOC for supplying their results

### Orienteering Statistics 2021

#### Number of Participants

Event	HostClub	Rec...
1. De Vos Farm Urban 1	ROC	131
2. Urban Series 7 Southdowns College	ROC	105
3. Urban Series 2 Woodlands Office Park	WITSOC	102
4. Urban Series 4 The Campus	ROC	90
5. Bushveld 7 and Long O Modderfontein Reserve	RACO	83
6. Urban Series 6 Jackal Creek Golf Course Night Event	RACO	82
7. Urban Series 8 CCJ Woodmead	ROC	82
8. Bushveld 2 B Sorah Mountain Marathon	ROC	79
9. Majik Forest	PenOC	78
10. Bushveld Series 1 Magalies	RACO	78
11. SA Orienteering Champs 2021 - Long Distance	ROC	77
12. Urban Series 9 Houghton GC	RACO	77
13. SA Orienteering Champs 2021 - Middle Distance	ROC	76
14. Urban Series 3 Randpark GC Night Event	RACO	75
15. Urban Series 5 Kyalami Golf Course Night Event	RACO	68
16. Bushveld 4 Hennops Hiking Trails	RACO	68
17. Bushveld Series 3 Cradle Moon	RACO	66
18. !Khwa ttu	PenOC	62
19. Bushveld 6 Mogales Gate	RACO	61
20. SA Sprint Champs	PenOC	61
21. Bushveld 5 Protea Ridge	ROC	60
22. Constantia Street Event & AGM	PenOC	59
23. ScatterRun 1 Rosemary Hill	ROC	57
24. WC Champs Long Distance	PenOC	55
25. WC Champs Warm Up (Night Event)	PenOC	50
26. Rondebosch Street Event	PenOC	47
27. Meadowridge Street Event	PenOC	46
28. ScatterRun 2 B Sorah	ROC	42

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#### Most events by an Orienter

FirstName	Events
1. Richard Lund	21
2. Chris OConnell	21
3. Sarah Wimberley	19
4. Ken Robinson	18
5. Tania Wimberley	18
6. Matthew Venter-Clelland	18
7. Trevor Pope	18
8. Pat Howell	18
9. Kiara OConnell	18
10. Bailie de Klerk	17
11. Joan De Klerk	17
12. Sarah Roffe	17
13. Piper de Klerk	17
14. Stephanie Mulder	17
15. Pat De Klerk	16
16. Margaret Archibald	16
17. Brian Courtnage	16
18. Delphine Comins	16
19. Ian Bratt	16
20. Willemien van Hoepen	16
21. Glynn de Klerk	16
22. Richard Venter	16
23. Luke Schipholt	16
24. Glen Comins	15
25. Uys Male	15
26. Gary Morrison	15
27. Ernest Tembo	15
28. Paul Wimberley	15

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#### Unique Orienteers by Club

Club	FirstName
1. No Club	293
2. RACO	123
3. PenOC	107
4. ROC	78
5. N/A	55
6. WITSOC	25
7. Jackal	10
8. POC	8

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#### Time spent Orienteering

FirstName	SecondsDu...
1. Pat Howell	97525
2. Trevor Pope	81731
3. Chris OConnell	78704
4. Richard Lund	70017
5. Glynn de Klerk	69074
6. Sheila Terry	68795
7. Uys Male	65559
8. Luke Schipholt	64755
9. Joan De Klerk	63746
10. Liam Venter	63607
11. Glen Comins	63426
12. Kiara OConnell	61247
13. Sandra Clelland	60241
14. Charles Dos Santos	60140
15. Tania Wimberley	58910
16. Sarah Wimberley	58183

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#### Club Participation

Club	Record Count
1. RACO	865
2. ROC	379
3. No Club	373
4. PenOC	332
5. N/A	63
6. WITSOC	39
7. POC	17
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2,090</b>

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#### Events Hosted by Clubs

HostClub	Event
1. ROC	11
2. PenOC	9
3. RACO	9
4. WITSOC	1

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Polokwane Orienteering Club did not host any events in 2021

## Activities & Achievements

As in previous years we assess our activities and achievements against our 2021 goals. This document will need to be edited and updated by the incoming president to guide the next 5 years

effort. COVID has decimated our orienteering efforts in 2020 and 2021, and therefore a valid evaluation is difficult. Strategy 2021-2025

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.

The 5 Year Strategy was updated this year but it was done on a date replacement basis only as it was required by SRSA in June and there was no time to go through it in depth

**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 to 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 - these became 2021 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.*

### **EMIT System / Sundial System**

The Emit system is a constant concern. The lack of use of the system for the whole of 2020 appears to have accelerated the battery deterioration in the older elements of the system. This means that the emit cards and blocks currently being used for the schools league will need to be replaced before next year. The emit cards and blocks being used by PenOC have also started showing signs of failure. The SAOF has applied for funding to buy 100 new cards and 50 new blocks. This will however not be sufficient to replace the failing systems.

During the last year, Sundial Timing (a new company started by Nic Reuss from WitSOC) has developed a new system. Sufficient blocks and cards have been paid for by SAOF to run the Gauteng Schools League events in January 2022. The system includes a full new online program for clubs and while the blocks are close to the same price as the emit blocks, they are powered by 4 AA batteries which can easily be replaced. The software indicates which batteries are failing as well. The cards will be in the range of R17 to R25 each. It is envisaged to start the larger clubs off with a basic system in 2023 / 2024 and then they would be able to upgrade their systems in the future. Emits may only be used for championship events.

### **SASCOC**

During the course of this year the SAOF participated in all the requisite SASCOC activities. In November 2020 a new SASCOC President & Board was elected.

### **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 land-owners especially 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**

#### **SRSA**

We received our 2020/21 SRSA Grant of R 310 000.00 on the 11<sup>th</sup> February this year, this had to be spent by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This was impossible due to the time constraints.

We applied for an extension and were granted a 6 month extension to spend the money. With the extension we managed to spend all but R 2 845.00 of the grant.



**sport & recreation**

Department:  
Sport and Recreation South Africa  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 we were called on by SRSA to submit our Business Plan for the 2021/22 Grant Application, this was submitted early in October

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.

Our Grant Application was made up as follows :

Administration : R 140 000.00 – this covers Insurance, Auditing, IOF Affiliation, the Office etc

Expansion Plan : R 130 000.00 – this covers a complete system of the newly developed local timing system, coaching fees, travel & accommodation

Electronic Timing : R 150 000 – for new emit cards & blocks to replace fading ones

Strategic Mapping : R 105 000.00 – for new Big 5 and Penoc maps

### **Own Funds**

The SAOF generates its own funds through affiliation fees, event levies and Emit hire fees.

With the decision last year to drop the Affiliation Fee to R 15.00 this impacted our own funds

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.

### **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 note with great appreciation the efforts of O-Ventures to spread orienteering in Gauteng and KZN. Support is growing in KZN with a schools 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 the championships. This year Athletes were supported in their participation at the SA Champs in Graskop.

### **World Orienteering Day**

World Orienteering Day was again staged successfully world wide although with limited participation from South African Clubs, RACO incorporated their urban event at Houghton GC as an official WOD event with 75 participants and Lisa organised an event in George with 15 participants. SA had 90 participants out of 135917 world wide



### **Limpopo**

The Polokwane Orienteering Club have not been able to host any events since the COVID pandemic started, we are hopeful that they will soon be able to start planning events.

### **Schools Leagues**

It was with great excitement that, after covid prevented us from holding our Q1 schools league we held the OSL in Sep/Oct. Covid restricted and a failing emit system restricted the number of participants we could invite and we took the tough decision not to invite the primary schools. Numbers were also negatively impacted by the change in timing in the season, and we had almost no matrics as they were writing exams. Nevertheless our reduced season (of 4 events plus a final) attracted 199 learners from 11 schools. The season was a great success.



Being one of the first sports to run inter school competitions post the covid lockdown, there was a buzz and excitement from learners and helpers alike at all events. Our events ran in line with strict covid protocols and events went off without incident. Huge thanks to the team of 16 helpers without whom the season would not have been possible.

## Marketing 2021

During the 2021 year the marketing portfolio has largely relied upon the systems implemented over the previous years. These include the website, event calendar, and facebook page. Assistance in managing these tools was provided by a number of parties, and not simply managed by the VP.

A number of minor updates and improvements were made to the website to aid functionality. Although a goal for the year was to implement a new events calendar add-on, this was not realised. Instead the existing events calendar was updated accordingly, and it continues to provide decent functionality.

The facebook page was continuously updated by a number of contributors, which continues to assist with increased turn-out at events. In particular it was noted that the PENOC events have seen a dramatic increase in numbers. This can be attributed both to additional facebook marketing by PENOC, as well as their recently implemented events whatsapp group. The latter is something to be explored for the SAOF, perhaps in a modified form.

As mentioned, we have relied on a number of regular contributors to assist with facebook posts and keeping the website up to date. These contributions are well received and appreciated.

## Major Events

### World Champs and Junior World Champs

Due to the COVID pandemic and various travel restrictions imposed by many countries it was not possible for SA to send teams to WOC or JWOC in 2021.

### Championship events

The SA Sprint Champs , Western Cape Champs and SA Champs 2021 were successfully hosted by PenOC and ROC respectively in 2021 at their usual time of year. The GOC champs were re-scheduled for October 2021

<b>Year</b>	<b>Club SA Champs</b>	<b>Club – SA Sprint Champs</b>
2021	ROC	PENOC
2022	RACO	ROC
2023	PENOC*	RACO*
2024	ROC*	PENOC*

\* provisional

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 5 Orienteering Week (Dec 2023).

### **SAOF Rules for Foot Orienteering 2021**

VP Technical was unable to convene a session of the sub committee on this issue. The rules were therefore not updated. This will have to be done in 2022. .

### **SAOF Guidelines to SA Championships and SA Sprint Championships**

Sprint Champs Guidelines status pending.

### **High Performance:**

Garry Morrison was tasked to update the High Performance strategy. This is still in the process of being finalised. With Covid this year and last year, no high performance plans were implemented. No training camp was available either.