Event Guideline A: District Events

1. General Information

1.1 Nature of Event

District events provide domestic competition for orienteers of all abilities. They are Level 4 events.

Courses are designated by colour, where each colour represents a course with a certain level of technical difficulty (generally the darker the colour the longer or harder the course). This ensures a consistency of course standards between events so that someone entering an Orange course one weekend will be able to enter an Orange course the following weekend confident that the physical and technical standards will be similar.

A youngster would be expected to start on either the White or Yellow course, whilst an adult novice would begin with either the Yellow or Orange course depending on his or her confidence. A competitor's progression can then be made either towards longer courses with the navigation remaining relatively simple, or on to technically difficult courses up to the appropriate length for his or her fitness.

For the Colour Coded scheme to be successful, it is essential that such events follow the current British Orienteering Rules and Guidelines.

1.2 Eligibility

Anybody may compete at a District Event.

1.3 Terrain

District Events can be staged on all types of terrain.

1.4 Officials

District Events are an ideal introduction to organising and planning orienteering events.

The officials for the event shall follow Rule 4, and shall meet the requirements set out for a Level 4 event in Appendix C (Event Officials).

2. Organisational Requirements

2.1 Responsibility

The committee of each British Orienteering Constituent Association is responsible for the co-ordination of District Events within its area, working to ensure a sensible geographical spread of events. It will normally delegate responsibility for the organisation of such events to a club.

Clubs should apply to stage District events via whatever method is in use within their Constituent Association.

2.2 Event Organisation

The organisation should be sufficient to cope with the number of competitors expected to attend the event. District Events should normally provide the following facilities:

- entry on the day
- results display
- published results on the internet within two days
- clearly signed First Aid point
- toilets

The Organiser should particularly take account of the guidance provided in:

- Appendix E: Event Safety
- Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice
- Appendix G: Protests, Juries and Appeals

3. Planning Requirements

3.1 Courses

The Planner should decide which courses are to be provided. Whilst the scheme is not intended to restrict a Planner's options, it is essential that a course designated as a particular colour must be of the appropriate length and difficulty. In those areas which only provide orienteering of a lower than ideal technical difficulty for the Green courses and above, courses up to Light Green must be planned to the correct absolute standard, whilst Green and above will by necessity be easier than the correct standard. In such situations it is important that competitors are made aware of this beforehand. The most effective way of doing this is to provide a brief description of the terrain in the event advertising.

A District Event should offer at least White, Yellow, Orange, Green and Blue courses. This will provide a range of courses suitable for most abilities. Other courses (including String) can then be offered depending on the size of the area, terrain, expected number of competitors, etc.

If a large entry is expected it is quite reasonable to plan two courses of the same colour, in which case they should be comparable in length and difficulty.

Planners should note that it may not be possible to provide certain colour courses on some areas. For example, a technically difficult area with few or no paths may not allow a White course. Similarly it is difficult to plan a course of Brown or Black length on a relatively small area without undue repetition.

3.2 Course Details

The definitions of the levels of Technical Difficulty, as used in the following table, are explained in Appendix B. Adhering to them ensures that standards are comparable across all District Events, and between District and Regional / National courses.

Course	TD	Expected Time For Most Competitors (minutes)	Minimum-Maximum Length (km)	Approximate Course Length Ratio (M21L = 1.00)
White	1	15 - 35	1.0 - 1.9	0.14
Yellow	2	25 - 45	2.0 - 2.9	0.22
Orange	3	35 - 60	2.5 - 3.5	0.25
Red	3	45 - 75	5.0 - 7.0	0.50
Light Green	4	35 - 60	3.0 - 4.0	0.30
Green	5	45 - 75	3.5 - 5.0	0.39
Blue	5	55 - 90	5.5 - 7.5	0.56
Brown	5	65 - 105	7.5 - 10.0	0.77
Black	5	75 - 120	>10.0	1.00

The time range shown is that expected for the majority of the competitors to complete the course. It would not be unusual for someone running below their normal colour to complete the course considerably faster. Similarly, someone may choose to run above their normal colour (eg. for training) and take considerably longer than the time shown.

The lengths of the courses needed to achieve the expected finishing times will vary greatly according to the physical and technical difficulty of the terrain. The lengths shown are intended as a guide. For easy areas the course lengths will be towards the top end of the range. For difficult or more physical areas the course lengths will be towards the bottom end of the range.

The Black course, if planned, would equate to the M21L course at a Regional Event, with an expected elite winning time of 67 minutes. This means that a top M21 elite-standard runner competing on the more usually planned Brown course would be expected to complete the course in between 50 and 55 minutes.

Planners should note that course length ratios refer to course lengths which are “corrected” for height climb by adding 0.1 km for every 10m of climb.

3.3 Maps, Course Marking and Control Descriptions

The map should be produced in accordance with Rule 5.1 and Appendix H. It is accepted that District events are often held some time after a larger event, and the map may therefore need map corrections.

Courses should be marked on the map in accordance with Rule 5.2, Rule 5.4 and Appendix B. Current printing technology means that it is often possible to use overprinted maps for District events and this is encouraged where feasible.

If pre-marked maps are not being used, competitors may be allowed to copy their courses from master maps either before or after the timed start (Rule 5.4.1). Organisers should always allow competitors on White and Yellow courses to copy down or see their courses before the start.

Control Descriptions may be written or pictorial. They should be produced in accordance with Rule 6.6 and Appendix A. Course distance and climb should be calculated according to Rules 6.1.2 and 6.1.3.

4. Other Information

4.1 Colour Coded Awards

A competitor qualifies for a Colour Coded Award by achieving the Colour Coded Standard for that colour course on three separate occasions. Pairs can qualify for Colour Coded Awards on the White, Yellow and Orange courses.

A White Colour Coded Standard is achieved by anyone who successfully completes the White course.

The Colour Coded Standard for courses other than White is calculated using whichever of the following two methods gives the larger number of qualifiers:

- The time that is achieved by at least 50% of those who started the course, which includes those who retire or are disqualified. Each pair or group on Yellow and Orange courses (if any) should be treated as a single starter.

- 150% of the winner's time.

The Controller may extend the qualifying time if there are reasonable circumstances to do so, but may not reduce it.

The Colour Coded Standard time for each course should be included in the final results.

4.2 Further Advice

If you cannot find the answer to a question within the published Rules, Appendices and Guidelines then please contact your Association's representative on Rules Group, or failing that the Chairman of Rules Group via the British Orienteering National

Office.