

## Event Rules G : British Relay Championships

### 1 General Information

Level: The British Relay Championships is a Level 1 (National) event.

Purpose: (a) to find the British Club Relay Champions in each relevant age class.

(b) to provide a high standard of domestic relay competition for all National Members of British Orienteering through a high quality event.

Nature of Event: Relay for teams of three in age classes. The event will normally be held the day after the British Orienteering Championships.

Who May Compete: Competitors are eligible to take part in the British Relay Championships provided that on the day of the competition they fulfil both criteria (i) and (ii) below:

(i) They are National Members of British Orienteering

(ii) EITHER (a) they hold a British Passport

OR (b) they have been present in the UK for at least three of the six months preceding the competition

Teams shall only be entered by clubs which are affiliated to British Orienteering.

All members of a team (except for those in an Ad Hoc class) shall be members of the same club, as shown on their current British Orienteering membership card. Non-competitive teams are not allowed to enter these classes. However teams originally intended to be competitive may become non-competitive due to, for example, runners injured during the progress of the weekend being replaced on the day; this has to be accepted.

Responsibility: The British Relay Championships are organised by Constituent Associations, or by clubs on behalf of their Constituent Association.

The organising body shall take financial responsibility unless prior agreement has been reached with British Orienteering.

*[Rule 2.3.1]*

The event Organiser will be required to make regular reports on the progress of the event to their Association and to the Major Events Group. The Major Events Group will report to Events Committee if at any stage it feels the event is at risk.

How to Apply: Allocation of each British Relay Championships will be the responsibility of Fixtures Group. If possible a regional rotation will be implemented, but not at the expense of the standards of competition.

Officials: See Rules 4.1 to 4.4 (roles), Appendix C parts 1.2.1, 1.3.1 (recommended experience for organisers and planners), and 1.4.1

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(level of controller and who is responsible for making the appointment), and Appendix H parts 3.3.1 and 3.4 (map adviser).

Since there are comparatively few relay events, officials may lack previous relay experience of their specific jobs. They should, however, have adequate experience of relays both as competitors and as helpers on the administration side.

Timescale: This is intended to give guidance only and is not an all-embracing list.

27 months	Area selected, officials agreed, timescales agreed. Map adviser appointed.
14 months	Survey underway to ensure correct seasonal representation.
12 months	Survey complete and draft colour map available for planning (new maps).
9 months	Survey complete and draft colour map available for planning (updated maps).
8 weeks	Planning completed.
4 weeks	Controlling of courses completed. Map files and course overprints sent to printer.
3 weeks	Overprinted maps available. N.B. bagging is a long job: allow a fortnight.
EVENT	Results displayed on the day and on the internet with a link from the British Orienteering web site by the evening.
+2 weeks	Results booklet posted.

Rule Variations: See Rules 1.3.5, 1.3.8.

### 2 Map and Terrain

Quality of Terrain: The terrain for the British Relay Championships should be generally runnable and of good technical quality. Much of the excitement of relays comes from head to head racing, but if the competition is to be fair, the terrain must have route-choice and navigation potential so that the better orienteers can benefit from their skill.

Courses are shorter than those for individual competitions, so smaller areas can be used. The terrain needs to be well featured (and accurately mapped!) as the control density in certain key places is likely to be unusually high. Very hilly areas and ones with poor conditions underfoot are unlikely to be suitable – relay areas should be particularly competitor-friendly!

There should be no crossing of roads which carry more than the occasional vehicle.

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A relay is far more of a spectator event than any other form of orienteering and it is vital to identify the most suitable area for the change-over before course-planning starts. A good amphitheatre and atmosphere can make up for the lack of top class terrain.

Map: The terrain should be field worked in order for the map to be legible if presented at a scale of 1:15,000.

See Rule 5.1 (requirements), Appendix H Mapping, and the International Specification for Orienteering Maps 2000.

Map Scale: The map scale for all age classes shall be 1:10,000, drawn with lines, line screens and symbol dimensions 50% greater than those used for 1:15,000 maps.

### 3 Event Organisation

General: The organisation should be sufficient to cope with the number of competitors expected to attend the event. Particular care is needed in finding a suitable car park and assembly area. The British Relay Championships should normally provide the following features:

- entry closing date no more than 28 days before date of competition
- where an area has been used for an earlier event, unmarked maps on display in the assembly area (these may be of the map used for the earlier event)
- same control site format at each control, with sample on display at the pre-start
- public address system for commentary.
- a dignified and prestigious ceremony to present prizes to at least the winners of all classes, and preferably to the first three teams in each class.

On the day of the event, the organisation is likely to experience far greater pressure than for individual events because of significant time compression. The three maxims are:

- off-load responsibility onto club captains or teams wherever possible
- do as much as possible beforehand
- if in doubt, over-staff.

Car parking: Since competitors arrive (and depart) during a relatively short period of time, several parking teams working in different areas are advised. If only one car park is to be used, multiple entrances may be needed.

Toilets: The average length of stay is longer than for an individual event, and there will be a higher proportion of non-competing spectators; consequently, toilet demand is likely to be greater.

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**Registration:** Teams should register names and running order, and, if appropriate, confirm their eligibility for the class entered. For all classes with laps of unequal length or technical difficulty, information about the order in which these are to be run must be given to each team at, or prior to, registration. The order may be different for different teams in the same class.

Most registrations should be done before 'race day', but there will be many teams who wish to change names, running order or declare themselves non-competitive on the day. User-friendly 'Change Forms' should be readily available at Enquiries.

**Competitors' numbers:** Each class should be allocated an easily distinguishable block of team numbers. e.g. 4001 upwards for M40+; 4099 downwards for W40+.

As numbering such as 120/2 is cumbersome, (and ambiguous when called out), the different laps are best indicated by broad, coloured stripes. Red, white, and blue is the usual sequence.

**Map issue:** Maps, in opaque paper bags or folded and taped, are usually collected by competitors as each enters the start or change-over waiting area. Completely separate issue 'desks' for the different laps reduce the chance of competitors receiving the wrong map. Only on being shown a running number should the official hand over the appropriate map.

Competitors will have been reminded in the Event Details that any attempt to 'see' the map before they start renders their team liable to disqualification.

**Starts:** All classes running the same courses (see table in section 4) should start at the same time. This will increase the number of people racing together, even if they are competing in different classes.

**Mini-mass Starts:** Competitors awaiting previous lap runners who are long overdue should be started in a mini-mass start to avoid the competition going on too long. Arrangements for mini-mass Starts must be publicised in the Event Details. The planning and organisation should be such as to minimise the numbers of competitors likely to be involved. Exceptionally a mini-mass start may be delayed.

Those involved in mini-mass starts must have their team numbers recorded by an official. The starter must record the actual time of start manually as well as through their e-card.

Participation in a mini-mass start shall not disqualify a team unless previous notice has been given that this will be the case [*Rule 8.6.3*].

**Finish and Timing:** Since relays are decided by finishing order only [*Rule 8.6.2*], timing is of secondary importance. However at least 'race time' should be displayed along with team positions on the day, with individual times appearing in the printed results.

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**Results display:** Sturdy (triangular?) and weatherproof stands at head height are recommended. Frequent up-date of team positions is essential. Make use of the fact that hundreds of pairs of eyes will check everything displayed.

It is particularly important to allow time and opportunity for appeals against disqualifications to be considered and resolved well before the prize-giving.

**Prize-giving:** There should be an area which gives good visibility for a prize-giving. A separate official should be responsible for producing a prize list, which involves monitoring the leading teams in each class; confirming eligibility; and checking that what is displayed agrees with the prize list!

**Trophies and Medals:** British Relay Championship Trophies shall be presented to the winning team in each class.

British Championship medals shall be awarded to members of the first, second and third placed teams in classes A to Q.

Mementoes shall be awarded to members of the first, second and third placed teams in the Ad -Hoc classes R and S.

**Published results:** As well as team times and positions, the published results should show individual times and details of the course variants run.

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### 4 Course Planning

Classes: Classes for competition shall be provided as follows:

Class	Title	Recommended winning time per lap (mins)	Suggested race numbers	TD
A	Men's Premier	32	1 - 99	5
B	Women's Premier	32	101 - 199	5
C	Men's Short	length approx two thirds of Men's Premier	201 - 299	5
D	Women's Short	length approx two thirds of Women's Premier	301 - 399	5
E	M40	32	4001 - 4060	5
F	W40	32	4099 - 4061	5
G	M50	32	5001 - 5060	5
H	W50	32	5099 - 5061	5
J	M60	32	6001 - 6060	5
K	W60	32	6099 - 6061	5
L	M18	25	1801 - 1860	5
M	W18	25	1899 - 1861	5
N	M14	18	1401 - 1460	3
P	W14	22	1499 - 1461	3
Q	M/W12 (Mini Relay)	12	1201 - 1299	2
R	Mixed Ad Hoc		401 - 499	5/5/3
S	Junior Ad Hoc (M/W 18-)		601 - 699	5/3/2

Notes: 1. To be competitive in classes A to Q all runners must be in the same club, except in classes A and B where the UK Relay League Neighbouring Clubs Alliances guideline applies.

2. Classes R and S, Mixed Ad Hoc and Junior Ad Hoc, are open to teams (M and/or W) made up from members of different clubs.

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3. Laps will be run in the order shown except for classes R and S (Mixed Ad Hoc and Junior Ad Hoc) which will have lap lengths jumbled up. For this class, the running order will be shown on the Team Declaration Form so that team members will be able to select the lap appropriate to them.

Courses to be Planned: It is not necessary to plan separate courses for each class. The classes specified above can be covered more simply from the following table:

Course	a	b	c	d	e	f	g
TD	5	5	5	5	5	3	2
Course length ratio	1.00	0.82	0.74	0.66	0.56	approx 2.5km	approx 2.0km
Class							
A	1, 2, 3						
B		1, 2, 3					
C				1, 2, 3			
D					1, 2, 3		
E		1, 2, 3					
F				1, 2, 3			
G			1, 2, 3				
H					1, 2, 3		
J				1, 2, 3			
K					1, 2, 3		
L				1, 2, 3			
M					1, 2, 3		
N						1, 2, 3	
P						1, 2, 3	
Q							1, 2, 3
R			long		medium	short	
S					long	medium	short

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Planning notes: The course length ratios are based on a 32 minute fastest lap time for an elite competitor running in the Men's Premier class.

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).

The number of variants of a particular course, and how to use gaffling, is a decision to be made by the planner. This should take into account the likely number of teams running.

It is preferable that all courses, including the Mini Relay, are gaffled to some extent to avoid following. However gaffling should be fair, and in particular should not try and 'trick' juniors into mis-punching.

It must be remembered that whatever method of gaffling is employed, in order for the race to be fair it is essential that by the end of the race each team must have run precisely the same legs. It is not sufficient that they have just visited the same controls.

The fair siting of controls is even more important in relays than in individual competitions. Anything which gives an unfair disadvantage to those leading must be avoided at all cost. In particular any hint of a 'bingo control' (pits in bracken for example) will result in a hard earned lead being lost whilst a pack forms for a control hunting exercise. Similarly, dog-legs give an advantage to those behind.

Although groups of controls are often used it is not good planning to have them too close together, or visible from one another. A competitor who arrives at the wrong control should be penalised for it. Grouped controls should also be on unambiguous features and have very different control codes. The planner should not be trying to trick people - the fewer people disqualified for mis-punching the better.

Course on Map: See Rules 5.2 and 5.3 (pre-marked maps), 6.2.4 (proximity of controls), and Appendix B parts 4.1.1-13 (symbols), 4.1.14 (map cases), 4.2 (map corrections), 4.4.1 (start position).

Control Descriptions: See Rule 6.1.2/3 (course length and climb) and Appendix A (layout of description sheet and symbols to be used).

### 5 Further information

Other Information: Appendices B (course planning), E (event safety), and G (protests, juries and appeals).

If you cannot find the answer to a question within the published Rules, Appendices and Guidelines then please contact the Chairman of Rules Group via the British Orienteering National Office.