

Event Rules L : Area Championships

1 General Information

Level: The Area Championships are Level 1 (National) events.

The event may be designated a World Ranking Event (WRE) by the IOF in conjunction with the Elite Competitions Group. If this is the case IOF Rules will apply, but only to the Elite classes involved. The IOF Foot-O Competition Rules are to be found on the IOF website at www.orienteering.org, under 'Document Library'.

Purpose: To provide a high standard of domestic competition through a high quality event. These events will often be used as part of competitions such as the UK Cup and Future Champions Cup, or as selection races.

Nature of Event: Single-day cross-country competition held in daylight. Runners compete as individuals in age classes.

Who May Compete: Anybody who is either a National or Local Member of British Orienteering, or a foreign resident who is a member of their IOF affiliated Federation.

Eligibility for Area Championships: Eligibility for the English Area Championship titles awarded at these events is defined by the Association shown on the competitor's membership card:

- Southern = SWOA, SCOA, SEOA
- Midland = WMOA, EMOA, EAOA
- Northern = NEOA, YHOA, NWOA

In the years when they are Level 1 (National) Events, eligibility criteria for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Championships are as defined by the relevant National Associations.

How to Apply: The allocation of the Area Championship Events will be the responsibility of the Major Events Group. Requests for Area Championship Event status for an event should be made by the Constituent Association to Fixtures Group for scheduling purposes. The status will be approved or not by Major Events Group following assessment.

Applications should be made at least 27 months in advance of the proposed date of the Event. Late applications run the risk of refusal or deferral through missing fixture planning deadlines.

Responsibility: Area Championship Events 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]

Constituent Associations are responsible for monitoring the progress of Area Championship Events held in their region. They will require the Organiser to make regular reports on the progress

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of the event. They should report as soon as possible to the Chairman of Major Events Group if they feel that the integrity of the event is at risk.

Officials: See:

- Rule 4 (general rules, plus notes)
- Appendix C Organisers: 1.2.1 (level 2) (advised experience)
Planners: 1.3.1 (level 2) (advised experience)
Controllers: 1.4.1 (level 2), 2.1.2 (level of controller required; who appoints)
- Appendix H Map Adviser: 3.2.1, 3.3.1, 3.4 (role and appointment).

If the event is a WRE, a separate IOF Licensed Advisor will need to be appointed. This should be a different person to the British Orienteering controller, even if they are qualified for this role.

Timescale: This is intended to give guidance only and is not an all-embracing list. Further details are available from the Major Events Group with regard to the nomination, registering and monitoring of Area Championship Events.

- 27 months Area selected, officials agreed, timescales agreed. Map adviser appointed.
Application for Area Championship status submitted.
- 15 months Survey underway to ensure correct seasonal representation. Draft course planning underway.
- 12 months Survey complete and draft colour map available for planning. Draft course shapes completed.
- 12 months Car park and Assembly area confirmed.
- 8 weeks Planning completed.
- 4 weeks Controlling of courses completed. Map files and course overprints sent to printer.
- 2 weeks Overprinted maps available.
- EVENT Results displayed on the day and on the internet with a link from the British Orienteering web site by the evening. Results submitted to the Ranking Scheme.
- +2 weeks Results booklet posted.

Rule Variations: See Rules 1.3.5, 1.3.8.

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2 Map and Terrain

Quality of Terrain: The terrain for Area Championship Events should be generally runnable and of good technical quality. It is impossible to define precisely the quality required, but all Regional Associations should be able to organise an Area Championship Event on at least one of their areas, i.e. the requirements may be less demanding for the occasional event in a poorly endowed region.

The terrain for an Area Championship Event must be approved by a Grade 1 controller before the event is confirmed in the Fixtures List. The controller's report should confirm that all of the requirements listed below are met, and should be sent to the Chairman of Major Events Group.

As a guide, an area for an Area Championship Event should meet the following requirements:

(a) The area should allow an M21E course with a winning time of 90 minutes without undue repetition (although either criterion might be reduced for an area of exceptional technical merit).

(b) At least 50%, and preferably considerably more, of the area which the longer courses will use should be reasonably runnable, and at least 75% for the shorter courses (i.e. the majority of the competition should avoid the need for long track runs).

(c) The area should not be so steep that the total climb on any course is more than 5% of the course length. (i.e. not more than an average of 50m climb per km of course length).

(d) Where several small areas are linked, the total amount of marked route should not exceed 10% of the total course length.

(e) The area should normally not have been used for an open orienteering competition in the 24 months preceding the event.

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

Litho printing shall be used unless the use of laser printing has been agreed by Map Group.

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

Map Scales: The map scale for age classes M/W18 to M/W40 shall be 1:15,000.

The map scale for age classes M/W45 and above, and for age classes M/W16 and below, shall be 1:10,000, drawn with lines, line screens and symbol dimensions 50% greater than those used for 1:15,000 maps.

Note that it is acceptable for the 1:10,000 map scale to be used for a Short class in the M/W18 to M/W40 age range when this is run on the same course as the Long class of an older age group.

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3 Event Organisation

Organisation: 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. Area Championship Events should normally provide the following facilities:

- an event web site for information, start lists, results, and on-line entry and payment
- entry closing date as close as possible to, and certainly no more than 28 days before, the date of competition
- numbers for elite class competitors if the event is required for testing under the anti-doping testing programme
- start list at assembly area and at pre-start
- 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
- on-course refreshment points if possible
- frequently updated results display

Start Times: Start time allocation, seeding, and selection shall be in accordance with Appendix L.

See Rules 8.1.1, 8.1.2, and 8.1.4

Trophies: The Regional Championship trophies shall be presented to the highest placed eligible competitors in the highest category (Elite, Long or A) in each age class. Competitors are only eligible for the trophy in the age class they have entered.

Badge Calculations: Badge times should be calculated as described in Appendix J (The Badge Scheme), and included in both online and printed results. The future of the Badge scheme is still to be determined, but will be included before the 2010 event takes place.

Ranking Scheme: All Area Championship Events are Ranking Events. Preliminary results should be submitted as soon as possible after (ideally on the day of) the event. Final results should be submitted within two weeks of the event. See Appendix K (The Ranking Scheme) for details of how to do this. The future of the Ranking scheme is still to be determined, but will be included before the 2010 event takes place.

Note: For a World Ranking Event results for the Elite classes must also be submitted separately to the IOF. Full details can be found on the World Ranking page of the IOF web site. As these results must include IOF runner ID information, it is important that elite runners are asked for their IOF IDs beforehand, perhaps via the entry process.

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4 Course Planning

Courses: Area Championship Event courses should be planned to test the orienteering ability of the leading competitors in each class.

Courses are to be provided for the following range of age classes:

M/W 10 to M/W 80.

A and B courses shall be offered for M/W10, M/W12, M/W14, and M/W16 classes. In each class the B course shall be technically easier than the A course.

Long (L) and Short (S) courses shall be offered for all M/W18 to M80 & W70 classes. Only a Long course shall be offered for W75/80. The Short course shall be of the same technical difficulty as the Long course and about 2/3rds the length of the Long course.

Elite classes are to be offered for M/W18, M/W20 and M/W21.

Selection should not take place for any classes other than the Elite classes. If one class is heavily oversubscribed, then two parallel courses should be provided. (See Appendix L).

Note that selection and seeding are different things and that seeding takes place for the Championship courses according to Appendix L.

It is recommended that, in addition to the age class courses, Colour Coded courses should be provided for novices and less competent competitors. Appropriate colours would be White, Yellow, Orange, Long Orange and Light Green. These will normally be the same courses as those used by the badge classes.

Class Combinations: The combining of junior classes must take into account not only the course lengths but more importantly the Technical Difficulty. On this basis the combinations of junior classes below give the minimum number of courses which can be provided.

At National Events with a very large entry it may be necessary to split some of the combinations into two parallel courses. This can be done by using the table in the British Championships Guideline to determine an appropriate split and associated course lengths.

The number of competitors typically running on similar length courses on the different map scales usually makes it impractical to use the same course for both sets of age classes.

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Course Number	Course Length Ratio M21L = 1.0	Technical Difficulty	M:L+A Classes	M:S,V,B Classes	W:L+A Classes	W:S,V,B Classes	Colour Coded Courses
1	1.20	5	M21E				
2	0.75	5			W21E		
3	1.00	5	M21L				
4	0.85	5	M20E M18E M35L M40L				
5	0.69	5	M20L M18L	M21S	W21L		
6	0.56	5		M35S M40S	W20E W18E W35L W40L		
7	0.45	5		M20S M18S M21V	W20L W18L	W21S	
8	0.69	5	M45L M50L				
9	0.56	5	M16A M55L M60L				
10	0.45	5	M65L	M45S M50S	W45L W50L		
11	0.39	5	M70L	M55S M60S	W16A W55L W60L	W35S W40S	
12	0.33	5	M75L M80L	M65S	W65L W70L	W20S W18S W21V W45S W50S	
13	0.28	5		M70S M75S M80S	W75 W80	W55S W60S W65S W70S	
14	0.50	3					Long Orange
15	0.37	4	M14A	M16B			
16	0.30	4			W14A	W16B	Light

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							Green
17	0.25	3	M12A	M14B	W12A	W14B	Orange
18	0.22	2	M10A	M12B	W10A	W12B	Yellow
19	0.14	1		M10B		W10B	White

Notes: (a) M21L should be planned such that a top elite-standard competitor would win it in 75 minutes. The actual winning time will depend on the standard of the competitors who take part. All other course lengths should be scaled to the length required for M21L, which has been allocated a course length ratio of 1.00.

(b) 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).

(c) The M21E and W21E recommended winning times are 90 minutes and 70 minutes respectively. However, the base for all other courses remains M21L, which should still be planned for a winning time of 75 minutes (should an elite-standard competitor be entered) but which will, in practice, usually result in an actual winning time of around 85 to 90 minutes on M21L.

(d) For the courses of TD1-3 (particularly courses 15 -17) it is more important that the course is of the correct TD than of the correct length – it will often be the case that the nature of the terrain forces the course length away from the precise course length ratio given above. Also, these courses must not be made harder than usual “because it’s a National Event”.

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), 6.6.2 (issue to competitors) and Appendix A (layout of description sheet and symbols to be used).

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Estimated Winning Times: These are provided as guidance only in order to give some indication to competitors of the time that the fastest competitor in each age class should be capable of achieving. Where several age classes run on a single course this will inevitably result in some variation from these.

Age Class	Estimated winning time	Age Class	Estimated winning time
M10A	20-25	W10A	20-25
M12A	25-35	W12A	25-35
M14A	35-45	W14A	30-40
M16A	50-60	W16A	40-50
M18E	65-75	W18E	55-65
M20E	65-75	W20E	55-65
M21E	85-95	W21E	65-75
M35L	65-75	W35L	55-65
M40L	65-75	W40L	55-65
M45L	60-70	W45L	55-65
M50L	60-70	W50L	55-65
M55L	60-70	W55L	55-65
M60L	55-65	W60L	55-65
M65L	55-65	W65L	55-65
M70L	55-65	W70L	55-65
M75L	55-65	W75L	55-65
M80L	55-65	W80L	55-65

5 Further information

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

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.