

Selection to British Foot Orienteering Teams during 2015

Overview

British Orienteering selects teams to compete at all IOF Competitions and a number of other international competitions.

The overall aim of selection is to maximise opportunity to gain medals and top 10 places at World and Junior World Orienteering Championships, and to create sustainability by using other IOF recognised competitions (and JEC) to develop and prepare athletes for future international success.

Each competition serves a different purpose *to British Orienteering* and the selection process and criteria for each is tailored to deliver this purpose.

Competitions

Disciplines are sprint (S), mixed sprint relay (SR), middle (M), long (L) and forest relay (FR).

WOC World Orienteering Championships (Annual)	Purpose: Measures the level of performance of our athletes and programme Target: Medals and top 10 places Age Class: Open Disciplines: S, SR, M, L, FR Team: no limit Per discipline: S, M, L 3 men & 3 women; SR 1 team of 2 men & 2 women; FR Men 3 in team & women 3 in team
EOC European Orienteering Championships (Every 2 years in even years)	Purpose: Competition experience, development & assessment of athletes Target: None Age Class: Open Disciplines: S, M, L, FR Team: max 6 men & 6 women per discipline
WCs World Cups (Annual)	Purpose: Establish World Ranking places & development; competition experience, development & assessment of athletes Target: None Age Class: Open Disciplines: S, SR, M, L, FR Team: max 8 men & 8 women per discipline
Euromeeeting (Annual)	Purpose: Competition experience, development & assessment of athletes in the terrain of the next WOC Target: None Age Class: Open Disciplines: S, M, L Team: max 12 men & 12 women

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WUOC World Universities Orienteering Championships (Every 2 years in even years)	Purpose: Competition experience, development & assessment of athletes Target: None Age Class: In higher education & other criteria Disciplines: S, Mixed Relay, M, L, FR Team: max 3 men & 3 women
JWOC Junior World Orienteering Championships (Annual)	Purpose: Measures the level of performance of our athletes and the talent segment of the programme; competition, development & assessment experience Target: 0-1 top 10 & 4-5 top 20 Age Class: 20 Disciplines: S, M, L, FR Team: max 6 men & 6 women
EYOC European Youth Orienteering Championships (Annual)	Purpose: Competition experience, development & assessment of athletes Target: None Age Class: 18 (decision not to enter 16 age class*) Disciplines: S, L, FR Team: max 4 men & 4 women per class
JEC Junior European Cup (Annual)	Purpose: Competition experience, development & assessment of athletes Target: None Age Class: 18 & 20 Disciplines: S, L, FR Team: max 6 men & 6 women per age class; relay is max of 4 teams of 3

* EYOC 16 age class: The decision not to enter a GBR 16 age class team has not been taken lightly and more appropriate alternative training/competition will be established. Resources are limited and entering the 16 age class is not considered to be resource and cost effective. Staff and athletes do not have sufficient time to become acquainted prior to the EYOC and this places undue pressure on both athletes and staff. It is also considered that putting athletes at this early stage in GBR kit before they have been a part of the talent programme sets expectations and aspirations that are inappropriate and misleading to athletes and their families. Exceptional athletes in age class 16 may be selected for age class 18 and may be advised to enter the 18 age class at the JK.

Selection process

British Orienteering run four squads:

Performance Squad: Preparing athletes to deliver medals and top 10 performances over the next one to five World Orienteering Championships.

Development Squad: Developing athletes to deliver top 20 performances at the World Orienteering Championships in two to five years' time.

Talent Squad: Develop athlete's understanding of the training and lifestyle requisites of an international orienteer with the outcome to achieve medals or top 10 places at JWOC.

Watch Squad: For orienteers **not** currently in one of the other squads who believe they can demonstrate performance at an appropriate level for them to be considered for selection for IOF competitions in 2015. Orienteers wishing to be considered should present a rationale for their inclusion in the Watch Squad to Jackie Newton, Performance Manager. The Watch Squad provides access to the Programme's Assistant Coach and will keep orienteers in the squad up to date and informed of any competition and selection opportunities as well as self-help coaching/training camps.

Selections for all competitions will be made from athletes in the four squads. It should be recognised however that selection is an inclusive process and athletes are able to move into and out of squads and particularly the Watch Squad at short notice. For example an athlete that has retired from international competition due to family or career pressures is welcome to notify the Performance Manager of their intention to join the Watch Squad and be considered for selection with immediate effect. The reality of course is that the athlete must have a track record which can be considered.

Athletes will be selected to compete in a discipline in most competitions. The disciplines are sprint (S), sprint relay (SR), middle (M), long (L) and forest relay (FR). Athletes will only be selected to compete in disciplines they have demonstrated proficiency in or are being selected to gain experience; athletes should not be expected to compete in all disciplines. The Lead Coach at the competition has a duty of care to the athletes and may, in the best interests of the athletes and squad, withdraw athletes from disciplines or races prior to or during the event.

All selections will be discretionary and based on the judgement of the British Orienteering Performance Manager and Selector, Jackie Newton or the delegated Selector. The Selector will be advised by Selection Advisors. Additional expert guidance may be sought from specific coaches, technical experts or programme medics if the Programme Manager or Selector thinks it is appropriate. Any person involved in providing advice or guidance during the selection process must declare any conflict of interest.

The Selector will take full account of the criteria that is defined for each competition and published in the competition selection criteria. In general the criteria will not be listed in any order of priority and the Selector will exercise discretion fairly and without bias in making selection decisions.

Testing & Substitution

Athletes will be required to agree their preparation programme with the Performance Manager or a person nominated by the Performance Manager. This stipulation is not to 'interfere' with athletes' preparation but to ensure athletes are supported and challenged in optimising their preparation.

Selected athletes may be required to undergo physiological and/or medical assessment whilst in a squad. This will be to monitor development and confirm fitness following injury, illness, any other period where the athlete has been prevented from training and/or competing normally or a period of marked under-performance.

British Orienteering reserves the right to require a medical examination by British Orienteering's medical officer.

British Orienteering reserves the right to de-select any athlete who does not fulfil the necessary fitness, medical, or performance standards following assessment; or who does not agree and then follow their agreed preparation programme or meet the standards of behaviour expected.

Eligibility

To be eligible to be selected into the team to participate in a competition, each athlete will need to meet the eligibility requirements specified which will include:

- Hold a valid British passport and be eligible to represent Great Britain in accordance with the rules of the International Orienteering Federation; and
- Hold a valid and current membership of British Orienteering.
- Age class requirements of the competition on 31st December of the year of competition.

Anti-Doping

All athletes selected for the Team must comply with the UK Anti-Doping Rules as published by UK Anti-Doping Limited (or its successor).

www.ukad.org.uk/documents/uk-anti-doping-rules/

Clarification and Appeals Procedure

If clarification of any specific selection issue is required, please contact Jackie Newton, the British Orienteering Performance Manager at jnewton@britishorienteering.org.uk.

British Orienteering operates a formal appeals procedure for challenging selection decisions which can be found at http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/images/uploaded/downloads/governance_policies.pdf, or is available on request from the British Orienteering National Office. The Appeals Procedure must be instigated within 72 hours of any selection announcement being published on the British Orienteering web site.