

Appendix N: Neighbouring Club Alliances in UK Relay League competitions

Text in bold below has mandatory status and shall be followed by relevant event officials. Other content refers to material provided for guidance and for information. This Appendix shall be read in conjunction with the British Orienteering Rules and shall have the same authority. They shall be considered as their extension.

1.1 Objectives

- 1.1.1 To increase the number of teams able to compete at the 'sharp end' of the Men's and Women's Premier relay competitions, and therefore provide greater opportunities for current and future international competitors to build experience of high pressure relay competition. Alliances are targeted at those clubs who have one or two elite runners in either the Men's or Women's class, but not enough to make a fully competitive relay team

1.2 Details

- 1.2.1 Geographically adjacent clubs are allowed to form combined teams ("Alliances") for participation in the Men's or Women's Premier classes at the four UK Relay League competitions (JK, British, Scottish, Harvester) and the UK Relay League Final.
- 1.2.2 An alliance applies to Men's and Women's teams separately. Club A may form a Men's Alliance with Club B and a Women's Alliance with Club C.
- 1.2.3 Two clubs that wish to form such an alliance must satisfy the following criteria:
- The two combining clubs must be geographically adjacent.
 - Neither club has fielded a team that finished in the top ten of the overall UK Relay league standings in the previous year in either the Men's or Women's competitions as appropriate.
- 1.2.4 Alliance teams will be treated as competitive, and will be eligible to win trophies.
- 1.2.5 Any clubs who wish to take advantage of this proposal must notify the Elite Competitions Steering Group (ECSG) and be approved before January 31st of the year in which they wish to form the Alliance.

1.3 Notes

- 1.3.1 This Appendix forms an amendment to the BOF Rules and Guidelines relevant to these Relay competitions.
- 1.3.2 There is no impact on a club's ability to field separate teams for CompassSport Cup and other inter-club competitions.
- 1.3.3 The alliance applies only to teams competing in the Men's and Women's Premier classes. At the Harvester it does not apply to the Handicap Class on the A Course, or to the Women's Handicap Class on the B Course. Combined teams will not be eligible for these Handicap Classes.
- 1.3.4 Geographic adjacency will be defined by applying a 'common sense' test at the discretion of ECSG. It will not always require a common geographic boundary, depending on circumstances such as clubs with few neighbouring clubs, or where neighbouring clubs are unable or unwilling to form alliances.