

Competition Rules I: Area Championships

Text in bold below has mandatory status and shall be followed by event officials. Other content refers to material provided for guidance and for information. These Rules shall be read in conjunction with the BOF Rules and have the same authority. They shall be considered as their extension. Where these Rules vary or supplement BOF Rules, then these Competition Rules shall take precedence.

1. General Information

1.1 Level

1.1.1 The Area Championships are Level A events. The Areas concerned are (in England): South, Midlands, North (see 1.5 Eligibility below for definitions), along with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

1.1.2 The National Associations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales may opt to register their Area Championships as Level B events if they wish to do so, in which case this Competition Rule no longer applies to them and Event Guideline B and other appropriate Rules and Appendices should be followed. The Association may, however, still wish to incorporate some of the provisions and recommendations given in this document.

1.1.3 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'.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 To provide a high standard of domestic competition through a high quality event and to find the area champions in each age class from M/W10 to M/W80. These events may be used as part of competitions such as the UK Cup and Future Champions Cup, or as selection races.

1.3 Nature of Event

1.3.1 Single-day cross-country competition held in daylight. Runners compete as individuals in age classes.

1.4 Who May Compete

1.4.1 Anybody who is either a National or Local Member of British Orienteering, or a member of an IOF affiliated Federation.

1.5 Eligibility

1.5.1 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

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- Northern = NEOA, YHOA, NWOA

1.5.2 Eligibility criteria for the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish Championships are as defined by the relevant National Association.

1.6 Responsibility

1.6.1 Area Championship Events are organised by Constituent Associations, or by clubs on behalf of their Constituent Association and are scheduled by the Major Events Group, advised by the National Fixtures Group. The organising body shall take financial responsibility unless prior agreement has been reached with British Orienteering.

1.6.2 These Rules may only be varied by Rules Group, in consultation with the Major Events Group.

1.6.3 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 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.

1.7 Officials

1.7.1 British Orienteering will establish lists of experienced officials at this level and will assess the competency of any unknown volunteer officials.

1.7.2 Controller: Grade A controller appointed by the Major Events Group.

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

1.7.4 If the event is not a WRE an Elite Adviser for the event will be appointed by Major Events Group.

1.7.5 A Safety Officer shall be appointed.

1.7.6 Map Adviser: appointed by Map Group

1.8 Publicity

1.8.1 Via the British Orienteering fixtures list and a direct link from the British Orienteering website to the dedicated event details page

1.8.2 Via advertising flyers

1.9 Timescale

1.9.1 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.

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- 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 published at the event and on a website by the next day offering
post event route and graphical split time analysis.
Results published on the British Orienteering website within 7 days
- +2 weeks Results booklet posted.

2. Map and Terrain

2.1 Quality of Terrain

2.1.1 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 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.

2.1.2 The Grade A controller appointed by Major Events Group shall be responsible for assessing the suitability of the venue 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.

2.1.3 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).

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- (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.

2.2 Embargo

2.2.1 The competition terrain is embargoed as soon as its location is published. The terrain shall not have been used for orienteering for a minimum period of 24 months before the date of the Championships.

2.3 Map

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

2.3.2 See Appendix H (Mapping)

2.4 Map Printing

2.4.1 All maps shall be offset litho printed unless agreed otherwise with Map Group.

2.4.2 The map shall be printed by an approved printer.

2.5 Map Scales

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

2.5.2 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.

2.5.3 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.

3. Event Organisation

3.1 Organisation

3.1.1 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, publication of previous maps and on-line entry and payment
- Courses pre-marked on maps

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- Pre-entry with 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
- EOD for non-competition/recreation courses
- Pre-allocated start times
- 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)
- electronic punching and timed (rather than punching) starts
- control description issue in the start lanes
- 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
- spectator control
- radio control sites for the major courses
- public address system for commentary

3.2 Start Times

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

3.3 Trophies

3.3.1 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.

3.4 Badge Calculations

3.4.1 Championship Badge times should be calculated as described in Appendix J (The Badge Scheme), and included in both online and printed results.

3.5 Ranking Scheme

3.5.1 All Area Championship Events are Ranking Events. Results should be submitted as soon as possible after (ideally on the day of) the event, and at most within one week of the event. See Appendix K (The Ranking Scheme) for details of how to do this.

3.5.2 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

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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.

4. Course Planning

4.1 Courses

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

4.1.2 Courses are to be provided for the following range of age classes: M/W 10 to M/W 80.

4.1.3 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.

4.1.4 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.

4.1.5 The requirement for Elite classes for M/W18, M/W20 and M/W21 at each individual Area Championship event shall be discussed with Elite Competitions Group and Major Events Group.

4.1.6 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).

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

4.1.8 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.

4.2 Class Combinations

4.2.1 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 overleaf give the minimum number of courses which can be provided.

4.2.2 At Area Championships 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 Competition Rules (A) to determine an appropriate split and associated course lengths.

Course	CLR M21E	TD	EWT/ mins	Men: E, L, A Classes	Men :S, V, B Classes	Women: E, L, A Classes	Women: S, V, B Classes	Colour
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	=1.00							
1	1.00	5	85 - 95	M21E				
2	0.64	5	65 - 75			W21E		
3	0.83	5		M21L				
4	0.71	5	65 - 75	M20E M18E M35L M40L				
5	0.53	5		M20L M18L	M21S	W21L		
6	0.47	5	55 - 65		M35S M40S	W20E W18E W35L W40L		
7	0.36	5			M20S M18S M21V	W20L W18L	W21S	
8	0.60	5	60 - 70	M45L M50L				
9	0.53	5	60 - 70	M55L M60L				
10	0.48	5	45 - 55	M16A				
11	0.43	5	55 - 65	M65L	M45S M50S	W45L W50L		
12	0.38	5	55 - 65 45 - 55	M70L	M55S M60S	W55L W60L W16A	W35S W40S	
13	0.32	5	55 - 65	M75L M80L	M65S	W65L W70L	W20S W18S W21V W45S W50S	
14	0.23	5	55 - 65		M70S M75S M80S	W75 W80	W55S W60S W65S W70S	
15	0.42	3						Long Orange
16	0.36	4	35 - 45	M14A	M16B			
17	0.25	4	30 - 40			W14A	W16B	Light Green
18	0.22	3	25 - 35	M12A	M14B	W12A	W14B	Orange
19	0.19	2	20 - 25	M10A	M12B	W10A	W12B	Yellow
20	0.12	1			M10B		W10B	White

4.3 Notes

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

4.3.2 For the courses of TD1-3 (particularly courses 17 -19) 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 Championship Event”.

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4.3.3 Estimated Winning Times are provided as guidance only in order to give some indication to competitors of the time that the fastest competitor in each premier 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.

4.4 Control Descriptions

4.4.1 See Appendix A.

5. Further information

5.1.1 Appendices B (Course Planning), E (Event Safety) and G (Protests, Juries and Appeals).

5.1.2 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.