



Rules 2012

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Appendices shall be considered as extensions of, and have the same authority as, the Rules. They will be updated and added to at regular intervals. Latest updates can be found at www.britishorienteering.org.uk or by contacting the National Office.

GENERIC EVENT GUIDELINES

Event Guideline A	Overview of Event Structure
Event Guideline B	Long Distance Events
Event Guideline C	Middle Distance Events
Event Guideline D	Sprint Events
Event Guideline E	Urban Events
Event Guideline F	Relay Events
Event Guideline G	Score Events
Event Guideline H	Ultra Long Events
Event Guideline I	String Courses
Event Guideline J	Night Events

Event Guidelines are intended to provide advice to Organisers and Planners based on experience at many other similar events, and are particularly useful for the newer types of event such as Sprint and Urban races. No compulsion is intended from these Guidelines. They will be updated and added to at regular intervals. Latest updates can be found at www.britishorienteering.org.uk or by contacting the National Office.

Contents

The previous Event Guidelines and Event Rules which specified how competitions should be run have now all been combined in this section as Competition Rules, reflecting their status.

COMPETITION RULES

Competition Rule A	British Long Distance Orienteering Championships
Competition Rule B	British Middle Distance Orienteering Championships
Competition Rule C	British Sprint Distance Orienteering Championships
Competition Rule D	British Relay Championships
Competition Rule E	British Night Championships
Competition Rule F	Jan Kjellström Sprint Event
Competition Rule G	Jan Kjellström Individual Cross Country Events
Competition Rule H	Jan Kjellström Relays
Competition Rule I	Area Championships
Competition Rule J	CompassSport Cup & Trophy
Competition Rule K	The Harvester Relays
Competition Rule L	Yvette Baker Trophy
Competition Rule M	Peter Palmer Junior Team Relay
Competition Rule N	Future Champions Cup
Competition Rule O	Junior Inter Regional Championships
Competition Rule P	British Schools Score Championships
Competition Rule Q	British Schools Championships
Competition Rule R	Junior Home International Competition

Competition Rules shall be considered as extensions of, and have the same authority as, the Rules. They will be updated and added to at regular intervals. Latest updates can be found at www.britishorienteering.org.uk or by contacting the National Office.

Rule 1: General

1. GENERAL

1.1 Basic Characteristics of Orienteering

- 1.1.1 Orienteering is a sport in which the competitor, aided only by map and compass, visits a number of features, called controls, marked in the terrain and on the map, and does so against the clock.
- 1.1.2 These rules apply to those events where competitors take part on foot, termed Foot-O by the IOF. Separate events may be organised specifically for people with disabilities, or using modes of transport such as skis, bicycles, canoes or horses.
- 1.1.3 Competitors take part singly and independently, unless entered as pairs or groups in competitions that permit such entry.
- 1.1.4 In orienteering both the speed and navigational skill of the competitor shall be tested, but in such a way that the test of map reading and navigational skills should be decisive.
- 1.1.5 The element of luck involved in solving the set orienteering problems shall be minimised. Problems should not be deliberately set to catch out competitors.

1.2 Definition of Terms

- 1.2.1 'British Orienteering Federation Member', 'Constituent Association' and any other word or term defined in the British Orienteering Federation Articles of Association shall be accorded the same meaning in these Rules.
- 1.2.2 The terms 'British Orienteering Federation' and 'British Orienteering' shall be treated as the same for the purpose of these Rules.
- 1.2.3 'IOF' means the 'International Orienteering Federation'.
- 1.2.4 'Organising body' means the club or Constituent Association which has accepted the responsibility for organising the event.
- 1.2.5 'Juniors' are individuals who will not have reached the age of 21 on 31st December of the year in question.
- 1.2.6 To 'compete' means to take part in an event in which the runner's result is used to determine the final position of other competitors in the results.
- 1.2.7 'Non-competitive' applies to a person who takes part in an event, but whose result is not included when determining the final position of other competitors in the results.
- 1.2.8 A 'closed club' is a club that restricts membership to individuals associated with an institution (for example: school, college, university, firm, army regiment) and that does not accept outside membership.
- 1.2.9 An 'open club' is any club other than a closed club.
- 1.2.10 'Control card' refers both to a card marked by pin punches or other suitable means, and to an electronic device marked in some electronic manner.
- 1.2.11 An "Event" is an orienteering meeting that takes place. The term encompasses all aspects of the event including organisational matters. An event may include one or more competitions.
- 1.2.12 A "Competition" is where runners compete at an Event in races under defined Competition Rules to determine a set of winners, placings or qualifiers. Types of

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orienteering competition may be distinguished by the time of the competition (day or night), the nature of the competition (individual, relay, team), the way of determining the competition result (single, multi-race, qualification/final), the length (or format) of the race (long, middle, sprint, other).

1.3 Applicability

- 1.3.1 These Rules shall apply to all Foot-O events held in Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the British Orienteering Federation (British Orienteering) and all affiliated clubs, organisations and Constituent Associations, unless the event is organised in whole or in part under IOF Rules. In the latter case then these Rules shall apply to all classes to which the IOF Rules do not apply.
- 1.3.2 These Rules shall be binding on all competitors and their guests, team officials and all other persons connected with the organisation or in contact with the competitors. Competitors, whether or not members of British Orienteering, taking part in events to which these Rules apply shall be deemed to have accepted them.
- 1.3.3 A competitor who is demonstrated to have broken any Rule shall be disqualified unless there are sufficient extenuating circumstances.
- 1.3.4 Ignorance of these Rules, or of any other instructions issued by the Organiser whether with pre-race information, prominently displayed at the event or by any other reasonable means, shall not be accepted as a satisfactory explanation for any infringement.
- 1.3.5 The Appendices to the Rules provide further detail where this is required. The Appendices shall be considered as an extension of, and have the same authority as, the Rules.
- 1.3.6 The Competition Rules provide specific information about the staging of a particular event or type of event and shall be considered as an extension of, and have the same authority as, the Rules. Where Competition Rules vary or supplement these Rules, (e.g. more restricted age classes; prescription of map scales to be used) then the Competition Rules shall take precedence.
- 1.3.7 For Level A events, an Organiser who wishes to vary or supplement the existing Rules to meet particular local requirements may only do so with the approval of the Controller and Rules Group, who will consult with Major Events Group before agreeing to any such request.
- 1.3.8 For Level B events the Organiser may vary or supplement the existing Rules to meet particular local requirements only with the approval of the Controller and Rules Group.
- 1.3.9 For Level C events the Organiser may vary or supplement the existing Rules to meet particular local requirements, subject to approval from the Controller and the Constituent Association that registered the event.
- 1.3.10 For Level D events, the Organiser may vary or supplement the existing Rules to meet particular local requirements, subject to approval from the Club that registered the event.
- 1.3.11 Event Guidelines provide advice to Organisers and Planners. No compulsion is implied by these, and it is accepted that the particular circumstances of an event may make it sensible not to take up all of the suggestions made.
- 1.3.12 The Organiser shall ensure that due notification is given to competitors of any agreed Rule variations or additions.

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1.4 Interpretation

- 1.4.1 The word 'shall' is a definite requirement.
- 1.4.2 The word 'should' is something that is desirable, but not essential, and which competitors and officials will endeavour to comply with.
- 1.4.3 Any dispute as to the interpretation of these Rules shall be decided by Rules Group.

1.5 Fairness

- 1.5.1 The spirit of fairness and good fellowship shall be the guiding principle in all aspects of the sport, including the interpretation of these Rules.
- 1.5.2 Competitors shall not seek to obtain any unfair advantage over other competitors.
- 1.5.3 Spectators and team officials shall remain in the areas assigned to them.
- 1.5.4 No person shall enter the competition area unless authorised by the Organiser. Shadowing of competitors is at the discretion of the Organiser, but the competitor who is shadowed shall be non-competitive.
- 1.5.5 Any search for the competition course or inspection of the competition area before the race is forbidden.
- 1.5.6 It is forbidden for a competitor to indulge in any form of drug abuse. British Orienteering Drug Control Rules as set out in Appendix D (Doping Control) shall be regarded as forming part of these Rules.
- 1.5.7 Competitors taking part in any event under these Rules are deemed to accept the testing procedures, disciplinary procedures and penalties set out in Appendix D (Doping Control) with regard to commission of a doping offence.
- 1.5.8 Race officials shall not help, hinder or distract a competitor in any way.

1.6 Respect for Property and the Public

- 1.6.1 Nothing shall be done to prejudice the goodwill of landowners, their tenants or agents. Competitors and officials shall comply with all requests made by such persons or notified to them by the Organiser.
- 1.6.2 Competitors and officials shall make every effort to ensure that no damage is done to the environment, and shall co-operate wherever possible with those statutorily responsible for environmental conservation.
- 1.6.3 The existence of an orienteering map does not in itself give the right of access to any area for orienteering or any other purpose.
- 1.6.4 Prior to the date of the event the Organiser shall obtain full permission for orienteering (preferably in writing) from the landowners for any land likely to be used in the event.
- 1.6.5 Competitors shall not enter 'out of bounds' areas.
- 1.6.6 Competitors shall take care to avoid doing any damage, and shall report to a responsible official any damage done or seen to have been done.
- 1.6.7 Respect and consideration shall be shown to all members of the public in or near the competition area.
- 1.6.8 Event officials and competitors shall comply, so far as is reasonably possible, with the guidance given in Appendix F (Environmental Good Practice).

Rule 1: General

- 1.6.9 There shall be no smoking in the competition area.
- 1.6.10 Dogs shall not be permitted in the competition, assembly or car parking areas except when the Organiser indicates into which areas they may be brought and under what conditions.

1.7 Event Safety

- 1.7.1 All competitors in any event to which these Rules apply take part entirely at their own risk. Competitors shall take into account their own ability to compete safely.
- 1.7.2 All competitors who start the event shall report to the finish and / or download (as appropriate), whether or not they have completed their course.
- 1.7.3 The Organiser shall take responsibility for completing the Risk Assessment Form for the event (available from the British Orienteering web site).
- 1.7.4 The form shall then be reviewed by the Controller who will sign the form to confirm that it has been reviewed. At event level D this review, if not by a Controller, may be by one of the following: a) a person who has British Orienteering Event Safety accreditation or b) a licensed coach. In all cases the person reviewing the form must be different to the person who has completed it.
- 1.7.5 The Organiser shall ensure that appropriate first aid is easily available.
- 1.7.6 The Organiser shall ensure that there are contingency plans in place to deal with a missing competitor.
- 1.7.7 The Organiser shall take responsibility for deciding what action should be taken (e.g. delaying or cancelling the event, shortening the courses) in exceptional circumstances such as adverse weather conditions, total loss of the car park, etc.
- 1.7.8 The Planner shall take responsibility for all safety aspects of the course planning. The course shall be planned so that 'out of bounds' areas and dangerous features can be avoided easily.
- 1.7.9 Dangerous features shall be marked with yellow or yellow and black tape if they are likely to be visited by any competitors and are not already clearly marked as dangerous. Such tape shall not be used for any other purpose.

Rule 2: Event Structure

2. EVENT STRUCTURE

2.1 Event Programme

2.1.1 For the purpose of these Rules, events shall be classified as being at one of four levels:

- Level A – British Orienteering’s Major Events, providing opportunities for competitors to take part in the ultimate orienteering challenges in the UK.
- Level B – Events that provide opportunities for more experienced competitors seeking a wider variety of terrain, challenging courses and competition, and who are prepared to travel longer distances for this.
- Level C – Events that provide opportunities for participants seeking competition at a wider variety of venues and against a varied group of competitors but without wishing to travel great distances.
- Level D – Local Events that provide opportunities for participants to orienteer at a venue near to them and at relatively low cost; events will be aimed at providing local competition and increasing participation.

The characteristics and requirements of each level of event are defined in Event Guideline A.

2.1.2 Classes and courses shall be provided as defined in the relevant Competition Rule and / or Event Guideline for the event.

2.1.3 Where no relevant Event Guideline exists then the Organiser of the event shall be responsible for determining the required format of the event, and for informing competitors about this format.

2.2 Registration Of Events

2.2.1 All orienteering events shall be registered on the British Orienteering Fixtures List.

2.2.2 Level A and B events shall be registered by the National Fixtures Secretary.

2.2.3 Level C events shall be registered by the Association Fixtures secretary of the Region in which the event is to take place.

2.2.4 Level D events shall be registered by the Fixtures Secretary of the organising Club.

2.2.5 All other orienteering activities shall be registered on the British Orienteering Activities List.

2.3 Financial Responsibility

2.3.1 For all events the organising body shall take financial responsibility unless prior agreement has been reached with British Orienteering.

2.3.2 For all events the Organiser or a person appointed by the organising body shall keep accounts of all income and expenditure.

2.3.3 In the situation where a pre-entry event is cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the organising body, the organising body shall have the right to retain all or part of the entry fee to cover any reasonable costs that have already been incurred.

2.4 Age Classes

2.4.1 Competitors are divided into classes according to their age and gender.

Rule 2: Event Structure

- 2.4.2 Competitors' orienteering 'ages' are defined as their age on the 31st December of the year of the event. Competitors therefore change from one age group to the next on the 1st January of the calendar year.
- 2.4.3 Competitors aged 20 or younger belong to each class up to the end of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are eligible to compete in older classes up to and including 21.
- 2.4.4 Competitors aged 21 or older belong to each class from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the given age. They are eligible to compete in younger classes down to and including 21.
- 2.4.5 Women may compete in Men's classes but Men may not compete in Women's classes.
- 2.4.6 Unless specified in the rules of the competition, a competitor may enter and compete in only one class at any one event.
- 2.4.7 At events where British Orienteering age classes are used they shall be as follows, unless defined otherwise within the relevant Competition Rule.

Men	Women	Age as at 31st December
M10	W10	10 and under
M12	W12	12 and under
M14	W14	14 and under
M16	W16	16 and under
M18	W18	18 and under
M20	W20	20 and under
M21	W21	Open
M35	W35	35 and over
M40	W40	40 and over
M45	W45	45 and over
M50	W50	50 and over
M55	W55	55 and over
M60	W60	60 and over
M65	W65	65 and over
M70	W70	70 and over
M75	W75	75 and over
M80	W80	80 and over
M85	W85	85 and over

Rule 3: Eligibility and Entry

3. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

3.1 Eligibility

3.1.1 Any person may compete in an event to which these Rules apply, subject to any eligibility restrictions in the relevant Competition Rule.

3.1.2 At Level A events, competitors shall declare themselves non-competitive if their acquaintance with the terrain would give them substantial advantage over other competitors. Nothing that occurred more than 24 months before the date of the event shall be taken into account.

3.1.3 At Level B events for which an embargo has been imposed, competitors shall declare themselves non-competitive if their acquaintance with the terrain would give them substantial advantage over other competitors. Nothing that occurred before the embargo period for that event shall be taken into account.

3.2 Club Representation

3.2.1 A competitor shall only compete for the open club with which they are registered with British Orienteering, and for a 'closed club' (as defined in Rule 1.2.8) of which they are a member.

3.2.2 Rule 3.2.1 shall only be waived if:

(a) having ceased to compete for the first club, and having obtained written approval from that club, the competitor may then join and compete for a second club, OR

(b) the competitor joins an open club not having previously been a member of a different open club in the current year, OR

(c) the competitor joins a closed club not having previously been a member of a different closed club in the current year.

3.2.3 In the event of a change under Rule 3.2.2, the competitor shall inform British Orienteering National Office in writing of their new club before competing for that club.

3.2.4 A competitor may represent an open club and a closed club in the same event provided this is by prior arrangement with the Organiser.

3.3 Entry

3.3.1 The Organiser shall have discretion to refuse or revoke an entry.

3.3.2 At no event shall a competitor take part under an assumed name.

3.3.3 An entry to an event may only be assigned to another competitor with the agreement of the Organiser.

Rule 4: Officials

4. OFFICIALS

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The Organiser and Planner of an event shall be either National or Local Members of British Orienteering.
- 4.1.2 Grade C Controllers shall be either National or Local Members of British Orienteering.
- 4.1.3 Grade A and Grade B Controllers shall be National Members of British Orienteering.
- 4.1.4 The Organiser, Planner and Controller of an event shall meet the requirements set out in Appendix C (Event Officials).

4.2 Organiser(s)

- 4.2.1 The organising body shall appoint an Organiser who shall take responsibility for the organisation (or cancellation) of the event in accordance with these Rules and any relevant Event Guidelines.
- 4.2.2 The Organiser shall ensure that all the necessary officials are appointed.
- 4.2.3 The Organiser shall take responsibility for completing the Risk Assessment Form for the event. See Rule 1.7 Event Safety.

4.3 Planner(s)

- 4.3.1 The Planner shall plan the courses in accordance with these Rules (noting particularly Rule 1.7 Event Safety), Appendix B (Course Planning) and any relevant Competition Rules.
- 4.3.2 The Planner shall be responsible for:
 - (i) preparing the overprinted maps (or master maps);
 - (ii) preparing the control description lists;
 - (iii) preparing the map corrections, if needed;
 - (iv) the correct placing of the control banners and marking devices in the competition area.

4.4 Controller(s)

- 4.4.1 The Controller shall be responsible for confirming that the event is organised fairly and in accordance with these Rules.
- 4.4.2 A Controller who becomes aware that any breach of these Rules has occurred, or is likely to occur, shall take whatever action considered necessary.
- 4.4.3 The Controller may require the Organiser to cancel the event if necessary.
- 4.4.4 The Controller's decision in all matters shall be final, with the exception of items referred to a Jury as outlined in Rule 9.

Rule 5: MAPS AND COURSE MARKINGS ON THE MAP

5. MAPS AND COURSE MARKINGS ON THE MAP

5.1 Maps

- 5.1.1 Any map used for an event shall be drawn according to the latest IOF standards, currently the 'International Specification for Orienteering Maps 2000' (ISOM 2000), and the 'International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps 2007' (ISSOM 2007), subject to any specific British Orienteering amendments as described in Appendix H (Mapping).
- 5.1.2 Any 'special feature' map symbols, or map symbols that are additional to or different from those defined in Rule 5.1.1, shall be notified and fully described in pre-race information made available to all competitors.
- 5.1.3 Any map used for an event shall be registered under the British Orienteering Map Registration system as described in Appendix H (Mapping).

5.2 Course Markings On The Map

- 5.2.1 All course markings on the map shall be drawn according to the 'International Specification for Orienteering Maps 2000' (ISOM 2000), or the 'International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps 2007' (ISSOM 2007), subject to any specific British Orienteering amendments as described in Appendix B (Course Planning).

5.3 Pre-Marked Maps

- 5.3.1 Competitors at Level A, B and C events shall receive maps with their courses and map corrections pre-marked.

5.4 Master Maps And Map Corrections

- 5.4.1 If pre-marked maps are not used, competitors may copy their course from master maps either before or after they have been timed as having started.
- 5.4.2 Each master map shall show:
- (i) the course;
 - (ii) all relevant map corrections;
 - (iii) the control description list appropriate to the course.

Rule 6: The Course, Control Sites and Control Descriptions

6. THE COURSE, CONTROL SITES AND CONTROL DESCRIPTIONS

6.1 The Course

- 6.1.1 The course shall be planned in accordance with the requirements set out in any relevant Competition Rule and / or Event Guideline, and shall be appropriate to the age, sex and standard of competitors expected to take part.
- 6.1.2 At cross country events the course length shall be given as that of the straight line route from the start via the controls to the finish deviating for, and only for, physically impassable obstructions (high fences, lakes, impassable cliffs etc.), 'out of bounds' areas and marked routes.
- 6.1.3 At urban and sprint events the course length shall be given as that of the route from the start via the controls to the finish as shown by the line on the map.
- 6.1.4 The total climb shall be given as the climb in metres along the shortest sensible route. (See Appendix B for guidance.)

6.2 Control Sites

- 6.2.1 Features used as control sites shall be clearly defined, distinct from the surrounding terrain, and shall be marked on the map.
- 6.2.2 Control sites shall be chosen so that the competitor can locate them with an accuracy consistent with the scale of the map and the amount of detail shown near the control.
- 6.2.3 Controls should not be sited within 30 metres of each other. (15 metres for map scales of 1:5,000 or greater. See Event Guideline D for further guidance for Sprint races.)
- 6.2.4 Controls within 60 metres of each other shall not be positioned on similar features or on features that appear similar in the terrain. (30 metres for map scales of 1:5,000 or greater. See Event Guideline D for further guidance for Sprint races.)

6.3 The Control Banner

- 6.3.1 Each control shall be marked by a control banner consisting of three squares, approximately 30 cm x 30 cm, arranged in a triangular form. Each square shall be divided diagonally, the top half being white and the other orange (preferably PMS165).
- 6.3.2 The control banner shall be hung at the feature indicated on the map in accordance with the control description. The control banner shall be visible to competitors when they can see the described position.

6.4 Control Codes

- 6.4.1 The control code shall be fixed to the control so that a competitor using the marking device can clearly read the code.
- 6.4.2 The numbers or letters shall be black, 5 to 10 cm high, and have a line width of 5 to 10mm.
- 6.4.3 The control code shall be a number greater than 30 or two letters.
- 6.4.4 Control codes that could be easily confused should not be used on control sites which are close to each other.

Rule 6: The Course, Control Sites and Control Descriptions

6.5 Punching Systems

- 6.5.1 Only approved punching systems shall be used. The approved punching systems are:
- the traditional control card system;
 - the Emit system;
 - the SportIdent system;
 - any other system which has received approval from Rules Group.
- 6.5.2 For Level A and B events, backup systems shall be provided at each control. e.g. backup card for EMIT, standard pin punch for SI.
- 6.5.3 The control card, electronic or otherwise, must clearly show that all controls have been visited. A competitor with a control punch missing or unidentifiable shall be disqualified unless it can be established with certainty that the punch missing or unidentifiable is not the competitor's fault and that the competitor visited the control.
- 6.5.4 In the exceptional circumstances of it being established with certainty that the missing or unidentifiable punch was not the competitor's fault, other evidence may be used to prove that the competitor visited the control, such as evidence from control officials or cameras or read-out from the control unit. In all other circumstances, such evidence is not acceptable
- 6.5.5 At events where the controls have to be visited in a prescribed sequence (i.e. most events other than score events), competitors who visit a control site out of the prescribed sequence shall be disqualified unless they also visit the control site within the correct sequence.
- 6.5.6 When using traditional control cards, competitors who are judged by the Organiser to have attempted to gain advantage by inaccurate marking of the control card shall be disqualified.

6.6 Control Descriptions

- 6.6.1 Control descriptions shall comply with the specifications set out in Appendix A (Control descriptions).
- 6.6.2 For Level A events the control descriptions shall be printed on either the front or the back of the map, and also provided as a separate sheet (excluding Relays)
- 6.6.3 For Level B, C and D events the control description list shall be printed on the map and/or provided as a separate sheet to each competitor.

Rule 7: The Competitor

7. THE COMPETITOR

7.1 Dress And Equipment

- 7.1.1 Subject to Rule 7.1.2, clothing shall fully cover the torso and legs. In other respects the choice shall be free. Competitors not complying with this Rule shall not be allowed to start.
- 7.1.2 If the competition area contains little or no undergrowth likely to cause leg abrasions, the Organiser may give notice that competitors are not required to wear clothing which fully covers the legs.
- 7.1.3 The Organiser, having regard to the nature of the terrain or weather conditions, may give notice that a hooded waterproof jacket or similar weatherproof garment shall be carried throughout the race by all competitors. In such circumstances a competitor not carrying such a garment shall not be permitted to start the race, and a competitor finishing the race without such a garment shall be disqualified.
- 7.1.4 A whistle should always be carried, but must only be used in an emergency. The Organiser, having regard to the nature of the terrain or weather conditions, may give notice that a whistle shall be carried by all competitors. In such circumstances a competitor not carrying a whistle shall not be permitted to start the race.
- 7.1.5 Competitors shall wear any numbers provided, in the position and manner specified by the Organiser. The name of any sponsor shown on the number shall not be obliterated.
- 7.1.6 Only the map provided by the Organiser shall be used during the event.
- 7.1.7 The use of any artificial navigational aid other than a compass is prohibited.

7.2 Conduct During The Event

- 7.2.1 It is the duty of competitors to give help to an injured competitor even if this means abandoning their run.
- 7.2.2 Competitors shall not deliberately draw attention to themselves. Shouting and calling are prohibited.
- 7.2.3 Competitors shall not collaborate in any way unless members of a pair or group competing together.
- 7.2.4 Individual competitors shall not intentionally run with, or behind, other competitors in order to profit from their skill.
- 7.2.5 Competitors shall follow any reasonable instructions given by race officials and behave in a courteous manner towards such officials.
- 7.2.6 Competitors shall not enter 'out of bounds' areas and shall be liable to disqualification if they do so. Competitors finding that they have inadvertently entered an 'out of bounds' area shall immediately leave that area.
- 7.2.7 At events using maps produced to the ISSOM specification, impassable features (as defined in ISSOM) shall not be crossed by any part of a competitor's body. Hence it is NOT permitted to reach through or lean over such a feature to punch at a control site.
- 7.2.8 Competitors whose right to be in an area is challenged shall stop, explain their presence, comply with any reasonable request (even if this means abandoning a race) and inform the person making the challenge of the location of a responsible official.

Rule 7: The Competitor

Competitors shall give an account of the occurrence to a responsible race official as soon as possible.

- 7.2.9 It is the responsibility of the competitor to check that they receive the correct map when pre-marked maps are used.
- 7.2.10 Competitors shall not examine, or attempt to examine, their pre-marked map until permitted to do so by a race official.
- 7.2.11 Competitors shall be responsible for the clear marking of their own control card at each control site using the marking device provided in the defined manner, even if at some control sites the marking is made by an official.
- 7.2.12 When a pin punching system is used, a competitor who mis-punches at a control site should re-punch either in a reserve box provided for this purpose, or in the highest numbered box if this is not used on that course. The competitor is responsible for reporting the facts to the finish officials.
- 7.2.13 Competitors shall make use of any crossing points that have been notified to them as mandatory by the Organiser.
- 7.2.14 Competitors shall follow in its entirety any compulsory route, including those leading from the start line or to the finish of the course.
- 7.2.15 Competitors shall not re-enter the competition area unless authorised by the Organiser. Shadowing of competitors is at the discretion of the Organiser, but the competitor who is shadowed shall be non-competitive.

Rule 8: The Event

8. THE EVENT

8.1 Start Times

8.1.1 At Level A, B and C events no competitor shall be timed to start within one minute of another competitor on the same course, with the exception of:

- mass start events such as relays
- chasing start events, where start times are determined by previous results
- circumstances deemed by the Organiser to necessitate a reduction to less than one minute

8.1.2 At Level A events, competitors late for their starts through no fault of the Organiser shall be permitted to start. The start official shall determine at what time they may start, giving due consideration to the possible influence on other competitors (such as any requirement for seeding). The competitors shall be timed as if they had started at the time given on the start list. However, their actual start times shall be noted for use in any possible subsequent complaint.

8.1.3 At Level B and C events, the Organiser may change the start times of competitors late for their starts through no fault of the Organiser. In such cases Rule 8.1.1 shall be observed.

8.1.4 Competitors who are late for their start time through the fault of the Organiser shall be given a new start time.

8.2 The Start

8.2.1 The position of the centre of the start triangle (including the start triangle on second and subsequent maps) shown on the map shall be on a mapped feature and identified on the ground by a control banner.

8.2.2 If pre-marked maps are used, copies of the map showing no information other than any map corrections essential to the event should be displayed and available for study before the start line.

8.2.3 At individual events, competitors should receive their pre-marked maps not more than 10 seconds before their start time.

8.2.4 At Level B, C and D events, courses planned to TD 1 and 2 standard should be available to be seen by competitors in advance of their start time unless stated otherwise in the specific British Orienteering Competition Rule. This may be either by displaying the map and courses in a suitably prominent position, or by issuing competitors with their maps prior to the start.

8.3 Out Of Bounds

8.3.1 Any area for which permission for orienteering has not been obtained, or has been refused, shall be clearly notified as 'out of bounds' to the competitor, or shall be clearly avoided by all courses.

8.4 Crossing Points And Compulsory Routes

8.4.1 Organisers shall notify competitors of any relevant crossing points, and whether their use is compulsory or optional

8.4.2 Compulsory routes shall be clearly marked in colours other than yellow and yellow/black.

Rule 8: The Event

8.5 The Finish

- 8.5.1 The precise location of the finishing line or point shall be clear to all competitors approaching it.
- 8.5.2 The finishing time shall be measured when the competitor punches at the finish point
- 8.5.3 At events with a mass start or chasing start the order in which the competitors cross the finishing line shall determine their position (or their team's position) in the results.
- 8.5.4 A competitor is deemed to have completed their race on completion of download. It is not permitted to resume the race after downloading.
- 8.5.5 Finish times shall be rounded down to the completed second.
- 8.5.6 At Level A events the results must be based on competitors' times for the whole course. No changes may be made to these times on the basis of split times.

8.6 Results

- 8.6.1 If an individual start is used (i.e. not a mass start or chasing start) two or more competitors having the same elapsed time shall be given the same placing in the results.
- 8.6.2 Participation in a 'mini mass start' at relay events shall not disqualify a team unless previous notice has been given that this will be the case. The total aggregate time of the runners shall decide the results of teams involved in 'mini mass starts', rather than the finish position as defined in 8.5.3.

Rule 9: Complaints, Protests and Appeals

9. COMPLAINTS, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

9.1 Complaints

- 9.1.1 Any competitor or official may lodge a 'complaint' with regard to any competitor or any aspect of the organisation or planning thought to have materially contravened these Rules or other instructions issued by the Organiser.
- 9.1.2 A complaint shall be made to the Organiser either orally or in writing.
- 9.1.3 There is no fee for a complaint.
- 9.1.4 The Organiser is the adjudicator of a complaint. The Organiser may need to consult other members of the organising team before reaching a decision.

9.2 The Jury

- 9.2.1 The Jury shall be appointed and act in accordance with Appendix G (Protests, Juries and Appeals).

9.3 Protests

- 9.3.1 A 'protest' can be made against the decision made by the Organiser with regard to a complaint, or if the Organiser fails to address the complaint in a timely manner.
- 9.3.2 A protest shall be made to the Controller, in writing.
- 9.3.3 There is no fee for a protest.
- 9.3.4 Any protest shall be made as soon as possible after the occurrence that forms the subject of the protest. If such protest concerns a matter arising from the publication of the final results, a written protest may be made within twenty one days of the results being published.
- 9.3.5 On receipt of a protest the Controller shall notify the Organiser. If they agree with the protest they shall take the appropriate action.
 - If either the Controller or the Organiser does not agree with the protest they shall convene the Jury or, in the case of a written protest made after the event, notify the Jury members of the protest together with any other relevant information.
- 9.3.6 The Jury shall deal with any protest referred to them in the appropriate manner.
- 9.3.7 The Jury shall meet as soon as possible after receipt of a protest, except in the case of a written protest made after the event when they should consult together as they see fit and notify the Organiser as soon as possible.

9.4 Appeals

- 9.4.1 An 'appeal' can be made against the Jury's decision with regard to a protest.
- 9.4.2 All appeals shall be made within fourteen days of the decision of the Jury being announced or communicated to the persons making the protest.
- 9.4.3 For Level A and B events the appeal shall be made to Rules Group.
- 9.4.4 For Level C events, the appeal shall be made to the executive committee of the Constituent Association in which the event was registered.
- 9.4.5 For Level D events, the appeal shall be made to the executive committee of the club which registered the event.

Rule 9: Complaints, Protests and Appeals

9.4.6 The appeal shall be heard and decided by the appeal body at the earliest opportunity.

9.4.7 The decision of the appeal body shall be final.

9.5 Bye-Laws

9.5.1 If the Organiser, Controller or Jury consider that the sport has been brought into disrepute they shall bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman of British Orienteering for consideration by the Board for possible action under the Bye-Laws.

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To be added later.