



British Orienteering Youth Forum - Terms of Reference

Purpose

The British Orienteering Youth Forum exists to ensure that young people have a meaningful voice in shaping the future of orienteering.

The Forum provides opportunities for young people to share their experiences, ideas and opinions, helping British Orienteering make informed decisions about participation, competitions, coaching, volunteering, leadership opportunities and the overall experience of young people in the sport.

The Forum is not simply a discussion group. Its purpose is to influence decisions, contribute ideas and help ensure the views of young people are heard and considered.

Vision

A sport where young people are listened to, valued and actively involved in shaping the future of orienteering.

Objectives

The Youth Forum will:

- Represent the views and experiences of young people involved in orienteering.
- Provide feedback on policies, programmes, events and initiatives affecting young people.
- Identify opportunities to improve participation, inclusion and retention.
- Support British Orienteering in developing future leaders, volunteers, coaches and officials.
- Promote positive, inclusive and accessible experiences for all young people.
- Act as ambassadors for youth engagement within the sport.
- Provide a youth perspective on key strategic topics and decisions referred to the Forum by the British Orienteering Board or senior leadership.



Membership

It is envisaged that the Forum will consist of up to **15 young people aged 14–25¹** from a range of backgrounds, regions and experiences within orienteering. This may be split across two groups, 14-18 and 18-25).

We welcome applications from young people who are:

- Competitors or recreational participants.
- Volunteers, coaches or officials.
- New to the sport or highly experienced.
- From underrepresented communities or backgrounds.

No previous leadership experience is required.

Members will normally serve a **two-year term**, with recruitment taking place annually to bring in new voices and maintain continuity. Applications will be open to anyone aged between 14-23 to allow for a full two year term as part of the group.

Role of Members

Members are expected to:

- Attend Forum meetings where possible.
- Participate actively and respectfully.
- Share their experiences and ideas.
- Listen to and value the views of others.
- Help gather feedback from other young people where appropriate.
- Act in line with British Orienteering's values and codes of conduct.

Meetings and Support

The Forum will normally meet **three to four times per year**, primarily online, with opportunities for in-person meetings where possible. The aim is to hold an in-person kick-off meeting in Sept/Oct 2026 (date and location to be confirmed).

British Orienteering will provide:

- A named staff lead to support the Forum.
- A Board Champion for youth engagement.

¹ Upper cut off age for new members is 23 to allow for a full two years term as part of the group



- Induction and development opportunities.
- Safeguarding and welfare support.
- Reimbursement of agreed expenses.
- Training opportunities

Influence and Accountability

The Youth Forum will provide advice and recommendations to British Orienteering on matters affecting young people.

To ensure youth voices influence decision-making:

- Key strategic topics identified by the Board may be referred to the Youth Forum for discussion and feedback.
- The Youth Forum will provide its view and recommendations to the Board through an agreed mechanism, which may include written reports and/or presentations by the Youth Forum representatives.
- Key recommendations will be shared with relevant staff, committees and the Board.
- Youth Forum representatives may be invited to present directly to the Board or senior leadership.
- British Orienteering will provide feedback on how recommendations have been considered and acted upon.

Each year, British Orienteering will share examples of **"You Said, We Did"** to demonstrate the impact of youth voice.

Inclusion and Safeguarding

British Orienteering is committed to creating a Youth Forum that reflects the diversity of young people in our sport.

Reasonable adjustments and accessible ways to participate will be provided where needed.

All Youth Forum activity will operate in accordance with British Orienteering's safeguarding policies and procedures.

Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Youth Forum and British Orienteering to ensure they remain effective, relevant and reflective of best practice.



Youth Forum Commitment

As members of the British Orienteering Youth Forum, we will:

- Respect each other and different viewpoints.
- Speak up and contribute positively.
- Listen with openness and curiosity.
- Support inclusion and fairness.
- Help shape a better future for young people in orienteering.

Together, we will help make orienteering more welcoming, inclusive and inspiring for the next generation.