

Competition Rule D: British Relay Orienteering Championships

These Rules are to be used in conjunction with the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering. Where these Rules vary or supplement British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering, then this Competition Rule will take precedence.

1. General Information

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 To find the British Relay Champions in each relevant age class.

a) To provide a high standard of domestic relay competition for all members of British Orienteering through a high quality event.

1.2 Format

1.2.1 Single day, relay race for teams of three, run in age classes.

1.3 Administration

1.3.1 The British Relay Orienteering Championships are organised by constituent Associations or by clubs (known as The Organising Body) on behalf of British Orienteering.

1.3.2 The British Relay Orienteering Championships must be registered as a Level A event.

1.3.3 Applications to request variation to the Competition Rules must be made to Events and Competitions Committee.

a) Full details of all the requirements of a level A event are contained in the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and supplemented by these rules.

b) The Relay Championships are usually held the day after the British Long Distance Orienteering Championships.

c) The exact details of responsibility are set out in the Partnership Agreement.

d) The Co-ordinator/Organiser may be required to make regular reports on the progress of the event to their Association and to Events and Competitions Committee.

2. Competition and Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility

2.1.1 The Championships are open to members of the British Orienteering Federation and to members of overseas IOF affiliated Federations.

2.1.2 To be eligible to be British Relay Champions, (all classes except for mixed ad hoc and junior ad hoc) all members of a team must meet the club representation eligibility requirements in the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and the individual eligibility requirements.

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2.1.3 To be eligible to be a British Champion, an individual competitor must on the day immediately preceding the day of competition in question be a member of British Orienteering and:

either

- be a British citizen;

or

- have been a member of British Orienteering in each of the three membership years preceding the year of the competition.

2.1.4 For Juniors who are not British citizens, the membership criteria will be as specified below:

| Age on 31st December in year of competition | British Orienteering membership criterion |
|--|---|
| 10 or under | Member on day before the day of competition and in previous 6 months. |
| 11 | Member on day before the day of competition and in previous year |
| 12 | Member on day before the day of competition and in previous two years |
| 13 and over | As in rule 2.1.8 |

2.1.5 To be eligible for British Relay Championship trophies and medals, all the members of a relay team must be eligible under the criteria specified above and the team must be representing a club which, on the day immediately before the day of competition in question, is affiliated to British Orienteering.

2.1.6 To be competitive, runners in the Mini relay must be M/W12 or under.

2.1.7 Teams in the M/W70 Class must contain at least one W70+.

2.1.8 In the Men's and Women's Premier classes the UK Relay League Neighbouring Clubs Alliance may apply.

2.1.9 Geographically adjacent clubs are permitted to form combined teams ("Alliances") for participation in the Men's or Women's Premier classes. This applies to Men's and Women's teams separately.

2.1.10 Two clubs that wish to form such an alliance must satisfy the following criteria:

- The two combining clubs must be geographically adjacent.

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- 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.

2.1.11 Alliance teams must be treated as competitive, and will be eligible to win trophies.

2.1.12 Any clubs who wish to take advantage of this proposal must notify Events and Competitions Committee and be approved before January 31st of the year in which they wish to form the Alliance.

2.2 Shadowing

2.2.1 The shadowing of any competitor on a Championship course is not permitted.

2.3 Trophies and/or Medals

2.3.1 British Championship Trophies will be presented to the winners of each age class relay team. British Championship medals if applicable will be awarded to the first, second and third placed competitors in these classes.

2.3.2 Competitors are only eligible for British Championship medals and trophies in the age class they have entered and if they satisfy the Eligibility requirements above.

2.4 Badge Scheme

2.4.1 Does not apply.

2.5 Ranking Scheme

2.5.1 Does not apply.

2.6 Embargo

2.6.1 For level A championship classes, competitors must 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 will be taken into account.

3. Safety

3.1.1 Event Officials must refer to British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and Appendix E: Event safety for detailed information on the required and recommended safety and risk management procedures.

4. Officials

4.1.1 Co-ordinator: to be appointed by the Organising Body, confirmed by the relevant Association and approved by Events and Competitions Committee.

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4.1.2 Organiser and Planner: to be appointed by the Organising Body, confirmed by the relevant Association and approved by Events and Competitions Committee.

4.1.3 Controller: Grade A controller to be appointed by Events and Competitions Committee

- a) *See British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and Appendix C: Event officials for full details on the requirements for Event Officials at level A events.*
- b) *Other Advisers are to be appointed as appropriate. This may include Mapping, Elite, Environment; appointment is to be made by Events and Competitions Committee.*

5. Organisation

5.1 General

5.1.1 Full details of the requirements for a level A event are covered in the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and the Partnership Agreement.

5.2 Additional requirements

5.2.1 Competitors must be reminded in the Event Details that any attempt to 'see' the map before they start renders their team liable to disqualification.

5.3 Seeding

5.3.1 Organisers must attempt to seed teams in order to prevent potential winners having identical gaffles.

- a) *Teams to be seeded include those which finished in the top 10 in the class in question in the previous year. Also, any other teams which are considered to be competitive may be included.*
- b) *The number of seeds should be a minimum of three and a maximum of ten. Once a list of seeded teams is identified, they should be ranked 1, 2, 3 etc.*
- c) *The actual number of seeds depends on the chosen system of gaffling. For example, with three legs, the gaffling is likely to be a multiple of three. In this case six teams should be seeded. Ranks 1 and 4 on gaffle A for the first lap, ranks 2 and 5 on gaffle B and ranks 3 and 6 on gaffle C. Subsequent laps should be arranged such that teams on the same gaffle on lap 1 are on different gaffles for laps 2, 3 etc.*

5.4 Starts

5.4.1 All classes running the same course must start at the same time.

- a) *In order to increase the number of people racing together, even if they are competing in different classes, the table below shows the class to course allocation. With suggested start times.*

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| Class | Call up | Mass Start |
|---|---------|------------|
| Mini relay | 09.45 | 10.00 |
| Men's Premier | 09.55 | 10.10 |
| Women's Premier, M40 | 10.05 | 10.20 |
| M14, W14 | 10.15 | 10.30 |
| Mixed Ad hoc, Junior ad hoc | 10.25 | 10.40 |
| Women's short, W50, W60, W18, M/W70. | 10.35 | 10.50 |
| Men's short, W40, M60, M18 | 10.45 | 11.00 |
| M50 | 10.55 | 11.10 |

5.5 Mini-mass Starts

- 5.5.1 Arrangements for mini-mass starts must be publicised in the Event Details.
- 5.5.2 Competitors in mini-mass starts must have their team numbers recorded by an official. The Start official must record the actual time of start manually as well as through their e-card.
- 5.5.3 Participation in a mini-mass start does not disqualify a team unless previous notice has been given that this will be the case.

a) The planning and organisation should be such as to minimise the numbers of competitors likely to be involved in a mini mass start, however Competitors awaiting previous lap runners who are long overdue should be started in a mini-mass start to avoid the competition going on too long.

5.6 Finish, timing and results

- 5.6.1 The results of each relay class are decided by the order in which the last lap runner passes the Finishing line. (Subject to any disqualifications & mispunches).
- 5.6.2 Time must be allowed and the opportunity for appeals against disqualifications to be considered and resolved well before the prize-giving.

a) However at least 'race time' should be displayed along with team positions on the day, with individual times appearing in the printed results.

b) As well as team times and positions, the published results should show individual times and details of the course variants.

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6. Map and Terrain

6.1 Quality of Terrain

- 6.1.1 The terrain for the British Relay Championships must be generally runnable and of good technical quality.
- 6.1.2 A Grade A controller appointed by Event and Competitions Committee must assess the suitability of the venue before the event is confirmed.

- a) Courses are shorter than those for individual competitions, so smaller areas can be used. The terrain needs to be well featured (and accurately mapped!) as the control density in certain key places is likely to be unusually high.*
- b) The Controllers report should confirm that all of the requirements for a level A event can be met.*

6.2 Map

- 6.2.1 The map must comply with all the relevant requirements in the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering and Appendix D: Mapping.

6.3 Map Scale

- 6.3.1 The required map scales stated below are subject to the provisions in Schedule 1, Appendix D Mapping.
- 6.3.2 The map scale for all age classes must be 1:10,000, drawn with lines, line screens and symbol dimensions 50% greater than those used for 1:15,000 maps.

6.4 Map Printing

- 6.4.1 The map must be printed by an accredited printer.
- 6.4.2 The British Orienteering map template must be used.
- 6.4.3 All maps must be offset litho. printed unless agreed otherwise.

7. Course Planning

7.1 Classes

- 7.1.1 Classes for competition must be provided as follows:

| Class Label | Age Class | Recommended winning time per lap (mins) | Technical Difficulty | Suggested race number range |
|-------------|-----------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | |

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| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| A | Men's Premier | 32 | 5 | 1 - 99 |
| B | Women's Premier | 32 | 5 | 101 - 100 |
| C | Men's Short | ≈ Length 2/3 A | 5 | 201 - 299 |
| D | Women's Short | ≈ Length 2/3 B | 5 | 301 - 299 |
| E | M40 | 32 | 5 | 4001 – 4060 |
| F | W40 | 32 | 5 | 4099 – 4061 |
| G | M50 | 32 | 5 | 5001 – 5060 |
| H | W50 | 32 | 5 | 5099 – 5061 |
| J | M60 | 32 | 5 | 6001 – 6060 |
| K | W60 | 32 | 5 | 6099 – 6061 |
| L | M/W70 | 32 | 5 | 7001 - 7060 |
| M | M18 | 25 | 5 | 1801 – 1860 |
| N | W18 | 25 | 5 | 1899 - 1861 |
| P | M14 | 18 | 3 | 1400 - 1460 |
| Q | W14 | 22 | 3 | 1499 - 1461 |
| R | Mini Relay | 12 | 2 | 1201 - 1299 |
| S | Mixed Ad Hoc | | 5/5/3 | 401 - 499 |
| T | Junior Ad Hoc (M/W18-) | | 5/3/2 | 501 - 599 |

7.1.2 Laps must be run in the order shown except for classes R and S (Mixed Ad Hoc and Junior Ad Hoc) which will have lap lengths jumbled up. For this class, the running order must be shown on the Team Declaration Form so that team members will be able to select the lap appropriate to them.

It is not necessary to plan separate courses for each class as the table shows how the different classes can be combined onto nine courses:

| Course | | a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h |
|--------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|--------|
| TD | | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| CLR | | 1.00 | 0.82 | 0.74 | 0.66 | 0.56 | 0.40 | ≈2.5km | ≈2.0km |

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| | Class Label | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1 | A | 1,2,3 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | B, E | | 1,2,3 | | | | | | |
| 3 | C, F, J, M | | | | 1,2,3 | | | | |
| 4 | D, H, N | | | | | 1,2,3 | | | |
| 5 | G | | | 1,2,3 | | | | | |
| 6a | K | | | | | | 1,2,3 | | |
| 6b | L | | | | | 1,3 | 2 | | |
| 7 | P, Q | | | | | | | 1,2,3 | |
| 8 | R | | | | | | | | 1,2,3 |
| 9 | S | | | Long | | Medium | | Short | |
| 10 | T | | | | | Long | | Medium | Short |

- a) *The course length ratios are based on a 32 minute fastest lap time for an elite competitor running in the Men's Premier class.*
- b) *Planners should note that course length ratios refer to course lengths which are "corrected" for height climb (by adding 0.1 km for every 10m of climb).*
- c) *The number of variants of a particular course, and how to use gaffling, is a decision to be made by the planner. This should take into account the likely number of teams running.*
- d) *It is preferable that all courses, including the Mini Relay, are gaffled to some extent to avoid following. However gaffling should be fair, and in particular should not try and 'trick' juniors into mis-punching.*
- e) *It should be remembered that whatever method of gaffling is employed, in order for the race to be fair it is essential that by the end of the race each team will have run precisely the same legs. It is not sufficient that they have just visited the same controls.*
- f) *The fair siting of controls is even more important in relays than in individual competitions. Anything which gives an unfair disadvantage to those leading is to be avoided at all cost.*
- g) *Although groups of controls are often used it is not good planning to have them too close together, or visible from one another. A competitor who arrives at the wrong control should be penalised for it. Grouped controls should also be on unambiguous features and have very different control codes. The planner should not be trying to trick people - the fewer people disqualified for mis-punching the better.*