

Competition Rule T: British Sprint Relay Orienteering Championships

CHANGE SHEET			
TITLE: Competition Rule T: British Sprint Relay Orienteering Championships			
DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE			
VERSION	DATE	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
1.0	01/01/2020	All	Created new Competition Rule.
2.0	01/01/2024	Several	Minor clarifications following Controllers' report on 2023 event.

Competition Rule T: British Sprint 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. Any questions regarding these Rules should be emailed to: rules@britishorienteering.org.uk

1. General information

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 To find the British Sprint Relay Champions in each relevant age class.
- 1.1.2 To provide a high standard of domestic relay competition for all members of British Orienteering.
- 1.1.3 For the Elite class, the event is intended to provide an equivalent type of competition to that held at the World Orienteering Championships.

1.2 Format

- 1.2.1 Single day, relay race for teams of three (or four in the Elite class), run in age classes.

1.3 Administration

- 1.3.1 The British Sprint 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 Sprint 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 Rules Group under delegation from Events and Competitions Committee
- 1.3.4 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.
- 1.3.5 The Sprint Relay Championships could be held in conjunction with the British Sprint Distance Orienteering Championships.
- 1.3.6 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 Sprint Relay Champions (all classes except for 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. Men's courses are open to all, Women's courses are restricted to Females (see British Orienteering Trans policy).

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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 are as in British Sprint Championships rules.
- 2.1.5 To be eligible for British Sprint Relay Championship 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 In the Elite class the UK Relay League Neighbouring Clubs Alliance may apply - Geographically adjacent clubs are permitted to form combined teams ("Alliances"). 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. Alliance teams must be treated as competitive and will be eligible to win medals. 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 Medals

- 2.3.1 British Championship medals will be awarded to the first, second and third placed team members in each age class relay team.
- 2.3.2 Competitors are only eligible for British Championship medals in the age class they have entered and if all members of the team 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.

3. Organisation

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Full details of the requirements for a level A event are covered in the British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering.

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3.2 Additional requirements

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

3.3 Seeding

- 3.3.1 Organisers must attempt to seed teams in order to prevent potential winners having identical gaffles.
- 3.3.2 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 should be included.
- 3.3.3 The number of seeds should be a minimum of three. Once a list of seeded teams is identified, they should be ranked 1, 2, 3 etc.
- 3.3.4 The actual number of seeds depends on the chosen system of gaffling.

3.4 Starts

- 3.4.1 All classes running the same course should start at the same time, unless they are separated for safety reasons.
- 3.4.2 Start times are to be decided by the event organisers in order to maximise the number of spectators for the Elite race, and to consider entry numbers and safety considerations. Ideally, the Elite class should start 1 hour before a mass start for other classes, except Juniors and Young Juniors who should have their own mass start.

3.5 Mini-mass starts

- 3.5.1 Arrangements for mini-mass starts must be publicised in the Event Details
- 3.5.2 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.
- 3.5.3 Participation in a mini-mass start does not disqualify a team unless previous notice has been given that this will be the case.
- 3.5.4 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.

3.6 Finish, timing and results

- 3.6.1 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).
- 3.6.2 The total aggregate time of the runners will decide the results of teams involved in 'mini-mass starts'.
- 3.6.3 Time must be allowed for appeals against disqualifications to be

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considered and resolved well before the prize-giving.

- 3.6.4 At least 'race time' should be displayed/put online along with team positions on the day.
- 3.6.5 As well as team times and positions, the final results should show individual times and details of the course variants.

3.7 GPS Tracking

- 3.7.1 The use of GPS tracking for the top teams in the Elite class should be considered.

4. Map and terrain

4.1 Quality of terrain

- 4.1.1 The terrain for the British Sprint Orienteering Championships must be predominantly very runnable park or urban, or a combination of these. Some fast-runnable forest may be included.
- 4.1.2 The terrain is to be sufficiently complex to allow courses to be set which force competitors to make frequent rapid decisions and to concentrate throughout the race.
- 4.1.3 Areas so complex that it is doubtful whether a competitor can interpret the map at high speed should be avoided.
- 4.1.4 Each area should allow a Men's Elite course with a winning time as specified below in 5.1.7 without undue repetition.
- 4.1.5 The terrain needs to be well-featured as the control density in certain key places is likely to be unusually high.
- 4.1.6 The terrain must be a safe environment for both the competitors and other people present (such as spectators and the general public). There are likely to be people racing head-to-head at full speed in an area which may contain occasional traffic and/or members of the public or other hazards. This will require strong risk management and both suitable terrain and planning.
- 4.1.7 The map scale for the Elite class must be 1:4,000, with 1:3,000 recommended for all other classes. All relevant requirements of Rules of Orienteering, Appendix D (Mapping) must also be met.

5. Course planning

5.1 Classes/Courses

- 5.1.1 Classes for competition are to be provided and may be combined onto courses as detailed below:
- 5.1.2 **Elite** – teams of 4 people (at least 2 female) running 4 legs with women running the first and last legs. **Course 1**.
- 5.1.3 **Ad Hoc** - 3 legs, free running order, with teams consisting of 3 people, of which at least one must be female. TD5. Middle leg shorter. Not a championship class. **Course 2** - combined with Veteran/Junior. Non-competitive teams allowed.

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- 5.1.4 **Veteran (40+) /Junior (16-)** - 3 legs, free running order, with teams consisting of 3 people, of which at least one must be female. Middle leg shorter. **Course 2** - combined with Ad Hoc.
- 5.1.5 **Super Veteran (55+) /Ultra Veteran (65+)** - 3 legs, free running order, with teams consisting of 3 people, of which at least one must be female. Middle leg shorter. **Course 3.**
- 5.1.6 **Young Juniors (12-)** - 3 legs, free running order, with teams consisting of 3 people, of which at least one must be female. TD2. Ungaffled. **Course 4.**
- 5.1.7 Course 1 must be planned to provide winning times of approximately 12-15 minutes for a top M/W 21 on relevant legs and an overall winning time of 55-60 mins.
- 5.1.8 Approximate ratios (of shortest possible route rather than straight line):
Course 1 – 1.00 (men)/0.85 (women), Course 2 – 0.90/0.70 (middle leg), Course 3 – 0.75/0.60 (middle leg), Course 4 – 0.60.
- 5.1.9 Courses with more than one class could be split into separate courses if necessary for safety reasons.