

British Orienteering Regional Development Plans Questions and Answers

British Orienteering is committed to supporting clubs and associations in increasing participation. British Orienteering has learnt from the experiences of a number of clubs delivering programmes to increase participation and has brought these ideas together to form the basis of the Community Orienteering programme. The set of regional development plans show a way forward for British Orienteering to deliver a programme to meet the needs of both new and existing participants. These sets of questions and answers should be read in conjunction with the regional development plans.

Why is British Orienteering investing time and money into Community Orienteering?

The British Orienteering vision is 'More People, More Places, More Podiums'. The Development programme is entrusted with delivering the 'More People' and 'More Places' part of the vision and is working towards increasing participation in orienteering. The Community Orienteering programme has been in existence since 2008 and has evolved to be the principal programme that is delivering increased participation in orienteering. Research has shown that delivering regular (weekly) local sporting opportunities will lead to more people participating. By developing these opportunities British Orienteering will encourage new and existing participants to take part in more orienteering activities in more places.

Why increase participation?

Increasing participation means increasing the number of people exposed to orienteering and generally more people participating in the sport we enjoy. By widening the access to new participants we can grow the field of competitors; more volunteers; ensure dynamic clubs and vibrant competitions.

Orienteering is meant to happen outdoors in forests, so why are you setting up indoor centres?

The Community Orienteering programme offers opportunities for new participants to develop their skills in a friendly, welcoming and local environment before they progress into orienteering competitions. The programme offers a varied and interesting programme that isn't just about indoor exercises. Many Community Orienteering programmes venture outside throughout the year but have the opportunity to use indoor space in case of poor weather.

How can a club night be sustained from a single location? Surely participants will get to know the area? Isn't it hard for a coach to find new things to do in a single location?

Research shows that most newcomers like to experience a new sport from a fixed location that is accommodating and known to them. Experience and evidence shows that the fixed location is important to enable the club to direct newcomers to the club night and develop a regular social and training night, similar to those of many other sports. There are a huge number of both fitness and skills sessions that can be conducted from one venue – coaches are supported with tools such as 'Year in a Box' which provides new ideas. There are also opportunities to use the venue as a meeting place whilst visiting other local areas, or holding local events, to provide variety whilst having the continuity of a single meeting place.

**How will my club benefit from having a Community Orienteering project in our area?
How will the new participants from Community Orienteering help our club?**

The aim of the programme is to attract new participants to orienteering and also support current participants with the opportunity to do more activities. This will see clubs benefit by new club members coming into the club which will in turn lead to more vibrant clubs and also a new pool of event volunteers. There is also a benefit for all members in having opportunities to receive coaching to improve their orienteering and also a social opportunity with fellow teammates.

Is the Community Orienteering scheme only for England, or does it apply in Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland as well?

British Orienteering is committed to working with Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland in developing plans and programmes that take on board the knowledge that has been gained from the work done on Community Orienteering in England. There are universal challenges faced by all the nations in the UK in delivering more people into orienteering and British Orienteering welcomes the opportunity to support all nations with their aims and objectives. In addition, the coaching and organisation resources developed for Community Orienteering are available for clubs in Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland.

Will setting up and running Community Orienteering projects in our area create more work for the volunteers in my club?

No. The Community Orienteering programme is driven by the British Orienteering Development programme and, using the support we receive, we are looking to bring in coaches who will evolve and develop the projects. This does not mean that clubs or individual members cannot get involved in the running of the programme – far from it, as we would really welcome clubs to take as active a part in these projects as they wish and are able to. There is wide spectrum of club involvement from nothing to complete contribution.

Will my club be expected to contribute financially to Community Orienteering projects in our area and where is the money to pay for coaches coming from?

No. British Orienteering is fortunate to be supported by Sport England as part of their efforts to increase sporting opportunities and participation. The funding we receive from Sport England is used to support the delivery of Community Orienteering in England. In terms of Scotland/Wales/Northern Ireland we will make the resources developed for the programme available as well as the information and ideas that sit behind the delivery of Community Orienteering.

Is Community Orienteering sustainable? What happens when the funding to pay coaches stops?

The aim of Community Orienteering is to develop new volunteer coaches from the new participants and those who are already involved in orienteering. From the programmes that British Orienteering have already developed we believe that a well run Community Orienteering programme will take a maximum of three years to become sustainable.

How will the paid coaches be recruited? Our club has very few/no qualified coaches - how are we going to run Community Orienteering?

British Orienteering recognises that there are a number of suitable individuals in clubs and associations and therefore our first step will be to work with club members to find if someone suitable is available. If no one is forthcoming from within the club environment then there are a number of other opportunities to recruit qualified coaches by making use of the County Sports Partnerships and Local Authorities who have knowledge of local coaches from across sports.

Why weren't all clubs consulted on the choice of location?

British Orienteering is keen to move the Community Orienteering programme forward to ensure that there is a good coverage of opportunities across the country. British Orienteering has used a series of principles to determine where it would like to deliver the programme. Now is the opportunity to feedback to us what, as clubs, members and associations, your thoughts are on the plans. Please feel free to send feedback to edward@britishorienteering.org.uk

How were locations for Community Orienteering projects chosen?

The following key principles were used to identify areas:
Good support from the local club; Availability of volunteers; Availability of a coaching workforce; Accessibility to orienteering facilities (including urban complexes with reduced vehicle traffic) e.g. University campus, schools, housing estates, parks, woodland and open spaces/countryside; The demand for orienteering and outdoor leisure activities; Population centres.

The map shows a Community O project in town X, but I think it would be a better idea to have one in town Y?

Programme staff are prepared to talk to clubs about venue changes and British Orienteering would like to hear the views of clubs, members and associations about where Community Orienteering programmes are best placed. British Orienteering would also welcome further opportunities to develop Community Orienteering so would be very interested in developing more projects than those planned.

Are the start dates for each location fixed, or can Community Orienteering be set up earlier than listed in the proposals?

The start dates are flexible however to enable effective use of resources British Orienteering would like to ensure that a planned approach is taken in the delivery of the projects.

Do we have to achieve Clubmark to set up Community Orienteering?

No. The Clubmark programme is not a requirement. British Orienteering does however recognise that Clubmark does enable a Club to understand a number of issues around Club management; Club Development; Protection of Children and Vulnerable adults which will help to make the Community Orienteering programmes a success. With 40 clubs now Clubmark accredited British Orienteering will continue to work with those clubs who have yet to achieve this level.



Who will contact us about the setting up of Community Orienteering?

British Orienteering has a network of Participation Managers and Development Officers who will be in contact. A list of them can be found here
http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/page/development_team

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the British Orienteering Development Manager, Edward Nicholas at
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