

British Orienteering

JK 2014 Missing Runner Search Plan

Responsibility

The Day Organiser will be responsible for coordinating the search for a missing runner. He will be assisted by the controller, planner and Safety Officer as needed. He will keep informed:

- a. JK First Aid team leader (Rob Umney of Merlin First Aid Services Ltd)),
- b. JK coordinator (Helen Errington)
- c. JK Safety Officer (Katy Dyer).

Contact BOF Chief Executive (07966 305800) before making any contact with the media.

Missing Runner Search Plan

This Missing Runner Search Plan is a guide for the Day Organiser's own planning. It has 4 stages:

- 1. Pre-event planning**
- 2. Preparing the Search**
- 3. The Main Search**
- 4. The Aftermath**

1. Pre-event planning

a. Read this document and:

British Orienteering Rules (2014) 7 and 14 Event Safety; Appendix E (2014) - Event Safety; BOF Accident Report Form; the JK 2014 Safety document especially JK 2014 Casualty Rescue Plan (Annex I), the JK 2014 Emergency Response Plan (Annex N) and JK 2014 Medical Plan (Annex O). Confirm the day Risk Assessment is up to date and reviewed/signed by controller.

b. Discuss the Missing Runner Search Plan with the controller. Establish a quiet tent/area for relatives in case of a fatality.

c. Establish an Emergency Control point e.g. separate tent, corner of marquee, First Aid vehicle.

d. Identify and brief possible search team people, warning them to bring extra clothes, food, drink, torch, mobile phone etc.

e. Prepare good means of communication (equipment charged/spare batteries). Wear a labelled Hi Viz jacket.

f. Divide the orienteering area into potential search sectors, identifying driveable tracks and perimeter roads, access gates (keys?) etc. Mark this on OCAD and OS map extracts.

g. Keep spare OCAD maps and OS maps extracts of the area and copies of all courses to hand.

h. Be ready to log information of the reporting person, missing person, details of the search teams etc and events as they happen. Use pen and waterproof paper, voice recorder device etc. You will need this information to write up any report.

2. Preparing and initiating the Search

a. Take details of the missing person e.g. name, age, experience and also check the person is really missing. Note name and contact details of person reporting missing runner. Double check Download, radio controls, start and late start lists, possible name variations, car park (child is easily missed sitting in the car), phone home, food queues, toilets, friends etc.

b. Reassure relatives/friends; if necessary appoint someone to look after them.

- c. Organise a preliminary search using teams of 1 or 2 runners to run the course/nearest paths of the missing person. For longer courses, teams could run sections of the course meeting at predetermined points. A car could be helpful here. Record teams, timings and actions etc
- d. If the missing person is found injured alive, the Day Organiser will commence the Casualty Rescue Plan.
- e. In case of a suspected fatality, you and others should still work as if the casualty is alive till confirmed dead. A death must be confirmed by a paramedic or medical doctor. All deaths in a public place should be reported to the police immediately. Be very discreet. Arrange for relatives to be informed. Inform key event personnel and BOF Chief Executive (07966 305800) and refer media contact to the Police. (See JK 2014 Emergency Response Plan.)
- f. If the missing person is NOT found commence the Main Search remembering to record teams, times and actions. Searchers should be adequately prepared e.g. maps, food and drink, compass, means of communication, clothing, clear instructions of area to be searched, return time.
- g. Keep key officials and relatives informed. Inform the Police that you are searching, as they prefer an early warning, especially if the missing person is a junior.
- h. Stay in Emergency Control point.

3. The Main Search

- a. Use the search sectors identified in the pre-event planning. Ribbon searching, which covers linear features e.g. tracks, and land on either side is quickest. Two teams can work in parallel then meet at a prearranged place and time. Team members walk down the feature calling the name of the missing person. Do not use whistles. Cars can be used to carry searchers to search points and to search perimeter roads.
- b. If the missing person is found injured and alive, the Day Organiser will commence the JK 2014 Casualty Rescue Plan.
- c. In case of a suspected fatality, encourage searchers to treat any casualty as alive. A death must be confirmed by a paramedic or medical doctor. Inform the BOF Chief Executive (07966 305800) and Police immediately. Be very discreet. Arrange for the relatives to be informed. Inform key event personnel and call in search teams. Refer media contact to the Police (See JK 2014 Emergency Response Plan).
- d. If the missing person is NOT found inform the Police and BOF Chief Executive (07966 305800). The police may be with you already if a junior is involved. The Police will take charge of rescue operations and will call in Mountain Rescue if necessary. Keep relatives and key personnel informed.
- e. Ensure that all search teams are fully recalled, accounted for and are safe.
- f. If the Police have not yet appeared, the Day Organiser with the controller should continue to direct the search after discussion with the Police, carefully assessing the condition and resources of the search teams.

4. The Aftermath

- a. Check all searchers are back safely and can get home.
- b. Complete a BOF Accident Report Form and send it to British Orienteering office as soon as possible as directed on the form. Send copies to the JK Coordinator and JK Safety Officer.
- c. Keep all records/logs of the incident safe.
- d. A post incident debrief for all involved is strongly recommended

Katy Dyer
JK 2014 Safety Officer
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