Queensland Schools Orienteering Team Selection Policy

Updated November 2026

Introduction

Orienteering is a sport where athletes must be able to adapt their navigation and running ability to varied terrains, course lengths and disciplines. This unique aspect of the sport adds a complex dimension to selection processes. At a school sport level, selectors shall identify committed athletes who have demonstrated consistent, high-quality performances in a range of terrains, and who have the potential to be competitive at the junior national standard.

It is the responsibility of all prospective team members and their coaches, parents and team officials to read and make sure they understand this selection policy and how it operates. If anyone has a specific query in relation to the intended meaning or operation of the policy, they can contact the Chair of the Queensland Junior Development Committee.

Selection Philosophy

The purpose of the selection policy is to provide a procedure which will result in the selection of the best possible team to represent Queensland at the annual Australian Schools Orienteering Championships.

This selection policy aims to provide a framework that:

- protects the interests of competitors and selectors
- is fair and transparent and does not discriminate
- clearly articulates the requirements of selection to all interested bodies.

1.0 Queensland Schools Orienteering Team Size

1.1 A team of maximum 20 competitors will be selected to represent Queensland at the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships, held in conjunction with the Australian Orienteering Championships carnival. The team will consist of up to 6* athletes in each of the following age divisions:

- Junior Boys - 15 years and under
- Junior Girls - 15 years and under
- Senior Boys - 19 years and under
- Senior Girls - 19 years and under

Age is determined at 31 December of the year of the championship. The minimum age for selection in the team is 12 years as at 31 December.

*In exceptional circumstances, the selection panel may apply to the OQ Management Committee to allow 7 athletes in a class.

1.2 In addition to the athletes above, up to 3 reserves may be named in each age class. A reserve (not necessarily from the same class) may be called upon to travel if a team member is unable to take their place in the team.

1.3 There is no requirement for all places in the team to be filled.

2.0 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships (QSOC), a student must be enrolled or registered with an institution approved by the Queensland Department of Education and Training and meet age and selection criteria. This includes students who are registered for home education in accordance with the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, students enrolled at a School of Distance Education, and students studying Years 11 and 12 full-time at TAFE. An exception may be made (on application to Orienteering Australia)

- where a competitor lives in a Queensland border area and is a member of, and regularly associated with Orienteering Queensland.
- where a competitor attends school in a different State/Territory to their family's place of residence.
- where a competitor moves State/Territory during the year.

3.0 Selection Panel

3.1 There will be 3 selectors. They will be nominated at a Queensland Junior Development Committee meeting prior to March 31st each year, and the nominations will be forwarded to the OQ executive for endorsement. The panel will include at least one of the official coaches accompanying the team to the National Championships, where possible.

3.2 The Chair of the selection panel will be determined by the Queensland Junior Development Committee and endorsed by the OQ executive. The Chairperson will normally be one of the 3 selectors. If the Chairperson is additional to the 3 selectors, this will be a non-voting role.

3.3 Conflict of Interest - Where, in the opinion of the selection panel, an actual conflict of interest arises for any selector with respect to any athlete under consideration by the selection panel, then the selector to whom that conflict attaches will not take part in any exercise of discretion with respect to that athlete.

4.0 Selection Criteria

Team selection will be based on consistent performance as well as outstanding ability in all selection races (see 4.1). The attitude, commitment and behaviour of the athlete throughout the year will also be considered.

The selectors will make use of all available data for analysing the results from the selection races (e.g. placings, kilometre rates, percentage behind winner, total elapsed times) as well as using race analysis tools (e.g. pack running index, head to head, etc.) to gain further insight into race performance over different terrains.

Both objective results and comparative result data with some degree of subjectivity will be used to determine selection.

4.1 Selection Races

Selection will be based on the performance of the athlete in all the following events:

- Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships Individual Long Distance (compulsory)
- Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships Individual Sprint (compulsory)

- Relay, Mass Start or other event conducted as part of the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships
- All Queensland Orienteer of the Year (OY) events leading up to the championships.

Attendance at as many OY events as possible is strongly recommended to give the best opportunity for good results and to demonstrate commitment and consistency in the sport. It is expected that regular orienteers will complete a minimum of 2 age-appropriate OY courses (see 4.2) in addition to the QSOC events.

Additional events (e.g. NOL races held in Queensland) may be designated selection races at the discretion of the OQ Management Committee on the recommendation of the Junior Development Committee. These must be decided prior to the first OY event for the year.

4.2 Age Classes & Courses

To be considered for selection in the Queensland Schools Orienteering team, students must compete in the following courses:

Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships Individual Long and Individual Sprint Races:

- For selection in the Junior classes: 15 yrs Championship course.
- For selection in the Senior classes: 19 yrs Championship course.

OY events:

- At any Championship event, candidates should run their normal age class.
- At other OY events, appropriate courses will be nominated by the Queensland Junior Development Committee after consultation with event organizers, and listed in the event information. Candidates are strongly advised to consult with an event official or their coach if they wish to run a different course, as it may affect their selection.

4.3 Extenuating Circumstances

Consideration will be given to competitors who nominate for team selection under the following extenuating circumstances:

4.3.1 Injury or illness at the time of a selection race, provided that the injury or illness is declared to the Chair of Selectors prior to the selection race, and that documentation verifying their medical condition is submitted to the Chair of Selectors as soon as practicable after the event. If an illness or injury has been declared, athletes should not participate in the race. If they do so, their performance will not be included in the selection data.

4.3.2 Representation in a significant event (e.g. State representative in another sport) at the time of QSOC, provided that documentation of their participation is provided to the Chair of Selectors prior to the competition.

4.3.3 Temporary residence overseas including the time of QSOC. It is the athlete's responsibility to submit a written application with evidence of high performance in recent equivalent championship races to the Chair of Selectors a minimum of two weeks before QSOC.

4.3.4 A competitor did not finish a selection race because his/her performance was significantly impeded due to accident, injury or illness during the race. Verification must be obtained from event officials and the competitor or his/her representative must submit the application in writing to the Chair of Selectors prior to the meeting of the selection panel.

4.3.5 Selection may also be conditional, subject to factors such as, but not limited to, fitness being regained

after injury.

4.4 Unavailability for the National Championships

An athlete who knows in advance that they are unable to participate in the National Championships should advise the Chair of Selectors. This will not affect their eligibility to be selected as a member of the team.

4.5 Correspondence to Chair of Selectors

All correspondence to the Chair of Selectors should be submitted to the Secretary of the Junior Development Committee (email: jundevcom@oq.asn.au) within the time frames stated in 4.3 and 4.4. Correspondence will be acknowledged by the Secretary within 3 days of receipt. The Secretary will forward all submissions to the Chair of Selectors prior to the meeting of the selection panel.

5.0 Selection Procedures

5.1 The selection panel will deliberate the selection of the team members under the criteria outlined in section 4.0 of this policy. In evaluating performances, selectors may be required to apply discretionary measures to compare athletes.

In exercising their discretion, the selectors may consider any factor, or combination of factors that is, in the opinion of the selectors, relevant for consideration when selecting the Queensland Schools Orienteering Team. Without in any way limiting the discretion of the selectors as set out in this clause, the selectors may consider the following: course difficulty, running conditions, kilometre rates, reason for mispunch/dnf, and information from coaches / team managers.

Additionally, discretion may be considered by the selectors with regard to athletes deemed to be on a rapid improvement curve and/or possess high potential in future championship events.

Also, in considering the performances of athletes, the selection panel may, at its discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances not covered by 4.3. In such circumstances (for example, travel delays, bereavement or personal misfortune), it is the athlete's responsibility to submit a written application with evidence for special consideration to the Chair of Selectors prior to the meeting of the selection panel (see section 4.5).

5.2 Team officials, competitors, coaches and parents need to make themselves aware of the criteria necessary for selection of an athlete in the Queensland Schools Orienteering Team and the criteria for extenuating circumstances (see section 4.3).

5.3 The chair of selectors will provide a written report to the OQ Executive of the selection process and outcome.

6.0 Announcement of the Queensland Team

6.1 The Chair of Selectors must submit the final team to the President of Orienteering Queensland or his/her appointed representative for ratification prior to announcement.

6.2 A member of the OQ executive may announce the team to officials and school representatives prior to the general announcement on the understanding that selections are not to be made public.

6.3 The team will be announced within one week of the completion of QSOC and will be posted on the OQ website and all entrants in Junior and Senior Championship classes advised by email.

7.0 Requirements after Selection

Following selection of the team, athletes will need to sign an athlete agreement, ensure club membership, attend team meeting, training and/or coaching sessions, as well as meet costs associated with team travel, accommodation, event entries, levies and uniforms.

Athletes should confirm their acceptance of their position in the team within one week of the announcement of the team.

7.1 Removal from the team

Following selection, the selection panel may remove from the team any student who:

- breaches the Code of Conduct and/or the athlete agreement;
- by reason of illness or injury is unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the Selection Panel (after having received advice from a medical practitioner);
- has failed to sustain their performance and attitude to a satisfactory level, provided that the required performance levels had first been discussed with the individual and the individual had been given the opportunity to attain those performance levels.

8.0 Race Complaints and Protests

Complaints and protests about a race will be handled in accordance with the current Competition Rules published by Orienteering Australia for Foot Orienteering Events (OA Operations Guide section 2.1 – see sections 27 & 28). Any complaint must be made to the event organiser as soon as possible at the event.

9.0 Appeals Regarding Selection

Any appeal shall, in the first instance, be made in writing by an Athlete, Team Manager, School Representative, or Parent to the Orienteering Queensland President within 72 hours of announcement of the team, and must outline which of the selection procedures they believe were not followed with respect to team selection.

The OQ executive will decide on the appeal in accordance with this document and notify interested parties in writing. Appeals in the first instance will be dealt by a jury convened by the OQ Management Committe and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will be the final appeals body.

Any person who has a conflict of interest with respect to selection should not be a member of the OQ jury deciding an appeal.

Any issues with respect to the fairness of a race do not constitute a reason for appeal but must be made on the day as outlined in section 8.1 and 8.2 above.

10.0 Selection Policy Review

The present document will be reviewed at the end of each year. Suggested changes should be submitted to the Queensland Junior Development Committee secretary on the form provided.