



Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships

Competition Procedures, Rules and Guidelines

Updated December 2023

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

The Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships (QSOC) have been conducted annually since 1977. The first official Queensland Schools Orienteering Team was selected to attend the inaugural Australian Schools Orienteering Carnival in the ACT in October 1989. Both the state and national competitions were established through the efforts of Rob Simson, who convened QSOC from 1977 until 2014.

1.2. Purpose

1.2.1. Orienteering is a sport that provides a rare combination of mental and physical challenges. It encourages the development of a sense of independence, an ability to solve problems under pressure, skills in map reading and navigation as well as improved levels of fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

1.2.2. The QSOC features events for school students and is an integral part of the junior athlete development pathway, introducing young orienteers to a higher standard of competition that local clubs can provide and extending opportunities to be involved in the sport. For students aged 12-19, it also provides the opportunity to qualify for selection in the Queensland Schools Orienteering Team to compete in the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships.

1.3. Partnership with Queensland School Sport

1.3.1. Orienteering is not currently registered as one of the 21 sports approved by Queensland School Sport (QSS) since it is not currently feasible to organize an inter-regional orienteering championship at which at least six QSS regions field representative teams. Nonetheless, the competition procedures in this document comply where possible with QSS standards ([QSSMG Competition Procedures](#)).

1.3.2. Through its Partnership Agreement with Orienteering Queensland, Queensland School Sport facilitates the participation of the Queensland Schools Orienteering team in the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships. To remain eligible, Orienteering Queensland complies with the guidelines laid out in section 1.3.4 of the [QSSMG Competition Procedures](#).

1.4. Sport Specific Rules

1.4.1. The championships shall be run in accordance with the [Competition Rules for Orienteering Australia Foot Orienteering Events](#). All competition rules of Orienteering Australia shall apply with the exception of those governing eligibility to compete in the events.

1.4.2. The event shall be conducted under the risk management procedures of Orienteering Queensland.

2. Approval of Competition Rules

The present document shall be reviewed annually by the Queensland Schools Orienteering Subcommittee. The subcommittee shall furnish a current copy to the Orienteering Queensland Management Committee for approval prior to the first Management Committee meeting of the year.

3. Competition Program

3.1. State Championships: Inter-regional Competition

3.1.1. An inter-regional competition shall be held at the Championships if a team is fielded by more than one QSS region.

3.1.2. In other cases, a less formal regional competition may be devised, for example City VS Country, to promote team-building and stimulate team spirit among competitors.

3.2. State Championships: Competition Format

3.2.1. The championships shall consist of three events:

- relay event – preferably bush
- individual sprint distance – preferably urban
- individual long distance – bush

An alternative format, such as a Hagaby, may be offered instead of a traditional relay.

3.2.2. The championships shall be held over two consecutive days. The programme will normally be as follows:

- Day One, morning: Individual sprint
- Day One, afternoon: Relay/Hagaby
- Day Two, morning: Individual long
- Day Two, immediately after event: Prize giving
(*Note that Queensland Team announcement will be at a later date*)

The QSO subcommittee may need to vary this timetable in some years, due to the nature, availability or location of the venues.

3.3. Age classes

3.3.1. The following age classes shall be offered as a minimum to boys and to girls:

Class	Relay	Sprint	Long
11 years & under		X	X
13 years & under	X	X	X
Junior Standard (15 years & under)			X
Junior Championship (15 yrs & under)	X	X	X
Senior Standard (19 years & under)			X
Senior Championship (19 yrs & under)	X	X	X

3.3.2. If practical, Boys and Girls 10-11 years may be offered a training race instead of a relay.

3.3.3. Only students able to complete a course independently (unshadowed) are eligible to compete in any class. Students who require shadowing may participate in the public events.

3.3.4. Age is determined at 31 December of the year of the state championship.

3.3.5. The minimum age for selection in the Queensland Schools Team is 12 years at 31 December.

3.3.6. Runners may compete in different classes in different events, however the Queensland representative team will be selected only from those running in the Junior and Senior Championship classes in the individual events.

3.4. Length and difficulty of courses

3.4.1. The following anticipated winning times and navigational standards shall be used as a guide to course-setters.

Class (Boys and Girls)	Anticipated winning times			Navigational standard
	Long	Sprint	Relay	
11 years & under	20 mins	12-15 mins	N/A	Very Easy
13 years & under	25-30 mins	12-15 mins	15 mins	Easy
Junior Standard (15 yrs & under)	25-30 mins	N/A	15 mins*	Moderate
Junior Championship (15 yrs & under)	35-40 mins	12-15 mins	25 mins	Moderate
Senior Standard (19 yrs & under)	35-40 mins	N/A	25 mins*	Moderate
Senior Championship (19 yrs & under)	40-45 mins	12-15 mins	30 mins	Hard

(*if offered)

3.4.2. The Senior Standard courses may duplicate the Junior Championship courses. The Junior Standard courses should be short moderate standard courses. Runners in each competition class should be started as a block if this occurs; the start order should not alternate between classes.

3.4.3. The navigational standards are set out in Appendix 1, Section 3 of the OA Foot Competition rules.

3.4.4. Course setters need to be aware that results of the relay event are considered by selectors when choosing members of the Queensland Schools Team. Relay legs therefore need to be similar in length, number of controls, difficulty of navigation and terrain covered.

3.4.5. Competitors in the Senior Championship courses shall be provided with IOF control descriptions only. All other competitors shall be provided with control descriptions in English in addition to IOF symbols.

3.4.6. A complete set of maps for Championship classes for Sprint, Long and Relay will be made available to the selection committee after the completion of starts of the final race.

3.5. Start intervals

3.5.1. Individual Sprint Event: start intervals of 2 minutes in the Championship classes. In all other classes, start intervals of one minute are acceptable.

3.5.2. Individual Long Event: start intervals of 3 minutes in the Championship classes. In all other classes, start intervals of 2 minutes are acceptable.

3.5.3. Competitors will be seeded in the individual championship events. The Event Organiser in consultation with the Controller will use all available results from regional trials, Junior Camp Champs, OY, National and International events from the current year, and if necessary seek advice from coaches and clubs, to create a start list of runners in ranked order (best seed first) for each of the Individual Sprint and Individual Long races.

3.5.4. In the relay, team managers will have the right to nominate the running order for their teams. A mass start will be used for the first leg and the courses will be set so that all the teams will have visited all the same controls and run all the same legs between controls by the end of the race.

3.5.5. If public races are held in conjunction with the Championships, starts for public races shall be at least

- 20 minutes after the last starter in the individual long distance event,
- 15 minutes after the last starter in the sprint,
- 15 minutes after any mass start of last runners in the relay.

4. Access to State Championships

4.1. Eligibility

4.1.1. To be eligible to participate in the State Championships, a competitor must be a school student (including home education and distance education).

4.1.2. In QSS regions where selection trials are held to select a regional team, the regional team will compete in the inter-regional competition.

4.1.3. Limits on regional team size may be imposed by the QSO subcommittee.

5. Conduct of State Championships

5.1. Organisation of State Championships

5.1.1. The QSO subcommittee shall appoint an event organiser, course setters, and a suitably experienced controller to oversee the championships.

5.1.2. The QSO subcommittee shall determine the event venues.

5.1.3. In appointing Course Planners for the event, the QSO subcommittee is encouraged to invite recent members of the Queensland Schools Team to set courses, in consultation with more experienced personnel.

5.1.4. Sprint maps should use ISSOM specifications rather than school conventions, at a scale of either 1:3000 or 1:4000.

5.2. Risk Management

5.2.1. Risk assessment will be undertaken according to the risk management procedures of Orienteering Queensland. The Risk Assessment will be sent to event officials, team officials and other interested parties at least one week prior to the event..

5.3. Complaints Management

5.3.1. Complaints and protests about a race will be handled in accordance with the [Competition Rules for Orienteering Australia Foot Orienteering Events](#)

5.3.2. Complaints

5.3.2.1. A complaint can be made about infringements of competition rules or the organiser's directions.

5.3.2.2. Complaints can be made by event or team officials, competitors or anybody else connected with the event.

5.3.2.3. Any complaint shall be made orally or in writing to the organiser or at the registration tent to a representative of the organiser as defined in the Event Bulletin within one hour after the results for an age class are complete. A complaint is adjudicated by the organiser. The complainant shall be informed of the decision immediately.

5.3.2.4. There is no fee for a complaint.

5.3.2.5. Complaints received after this time limit will only be considered if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained by the complainant.

5.3.2.6. The organiser's decision in relation to any complaint shall be advised to all competitors affected by the decision.

5.3.3. Race Protest

5.3.3.1. A protest can be made against the organiser's decision about a complaint.

5.3.3.2. A protest can only be made by a team official, competitor (or their representative) or event official.

5.3.3.3. Any protest shall be made in writing to the organiser or at the registration tent to a representative of the organiser as defined in the Event Bulletin, no later than 15 minutes after the organiser has informed the complainant of the decision about the complaint. Protests received after this time limit may be considered at the discretion of the jury if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the protest.

5.3.3.4. There is no fee for a protest.

5.3.3.5. The result of any protest shall be advised to all competitors affected by the decision.

5.3.3.6. A jury will be appointed to rule on protests, according to Section 29 of the OA Foot Competition rules. The jury will be appointed from a pool of potential jurors pre-nominated by the organising committee.

5.3.3.7. The organiser will have a copy of the most up to date OA Foot Competition rules available for consideration by the jury, in the event that this is required.

5.4. Trophies, Awards & Ceremonies

5.4.1. Presentations will be made at the conclusion of the carnival.

5.4.2. Team awards

5.4.2.1. A perpetual shield shall be presented to the best performing regional team, in the case of an inter-regional competition. An alternative presentation may be made in the case of an informal competition such as City/Country.

5.4.2.2. A perpetual shield shall be presented to the best performing school in the competition.

5.4.2.3. Points shall be awarded as follows:

Event	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	≥7 th
Relay Event (per team)	15	12	9	6	3	3	3*
Standard Individual classes	5	4	3	2	1	1	1
Championship Individual event classes (long distance and sprint)	10	8	6	4	2	2	2

5.4.2.4. *In the event of a team DNF or an incomplete or composite team, each competitor who completes their relay course successfully scores 1 point.

5.4.2.5. The team with the highest overall point score from the individual sprint, individual long and relay competitions is the winner. In the event of a draw, joint winners will be announced.

5.4.3. Individual awards

5.4.3.1. Certificates shall be presented to the first three (3) place-getters in each Junior and Senior Standard class in the individual events.

5.4.3.2. Medallions shall be presented to the first three (3) place-getters in all other classes in the individual events.

5.4.3.3. Medallions shall be presented to the three (3) members of the winning team in each class in the relay event.

5.4.4. The organiser should formally acknowledge the efforts of Landowners and key contributors to the carnival through the presentation of a small gift or certificate of appreciation.

6. Queensland Team

6.1. State Team Selection Policy

6.1.1. The Queensland Schools Orienteering State Team Selection Policy is appended as a separate document (Appendix 1).

6.1.2. The team will be announced within one week of the completion of the Qld Schools Orienteering Championships, as detailed in the Selection Policy document.

7. Codes of Conduct

Competitors, officials, parents and spectators shall comply with the Queensland School Sport Codes of Conduct (Appendix 2)

8. Appendices

8.1. Appendix 1: Queensland Schools Orienteering State Team Selection Policy

8.2. Appendix 2: Queensland School Sport Codes of Conduct