

# Orienteering Queensland

## Event Safety

The safety of our volunteers and participants is the most important aspect of the events we organise, and while orienteers are very good at organising events safely, it's good to have a reminder about how to ensure our events are conducted safely.

### When to cancel an event?

Occasionally events need to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. If an event needs to be cancelled the decision should be made as soon as reasonably possible and communicated to competitors via the OQ web page, email etc. If an organiser is unsure as to whether they need to cancel they should contact the OQ Technical Officer and President. Also consider the option to postpone the event or move it earlier or later in the day.

Reasons an event might be cancelled include:

- Forecast high temperatures (35C and over events must be cancelled);
- Fire danger;
- Storms with any chance of lightning;
- High wind (risk of falling trees or branches);
- Flooding (to map or access);
- When the land-owner has asked that the event not proceed, or when using the area could risk future use of the area (a paddock full of bogged cars will not make a happy farmer!).

### Water

Water should be provided on courses and at the assembly area. Water on courses should be placed every 25 mins, with 200 – 300ml per competitor. If hot conditions are expected then more may be required. Remember to supply disposable cups. Water should be placed at controls, but can also be placed at marked crossings.

Tip – consider where the water will need to go as you plan the courses. This can help avoid hauling large water drums a long way through the bush.

### Course safety

Courses and control locations should be planned to consider the safety of competitors. Particular attention should be given to courses for our youngest and oldest competitors!

### Event Planning

As an event organiser, make sure you consider your own safety when planning the event. Work in pairs if possible when visiting the forest, and check that your phone/radio/EPIRB works where you'll be in the forest, and make sure someone knows where you'll be!

### First Aid

Make sure you have the first aid kit at your event, check that it's stocked and that you have a qualified first aider in your event team. If you use items from the kit let the club gear coordinator know so that it can be re-stocked.

### Hygiene

Hygiene is important at events. Ensure that there are suitable hand washing facilities at toilets. Disposable gloves should be available for anyone doing first aid, or handling items contaminated with blood.

### Search and Rescue

Event organisers should advertise a safety bearing, or very simple directions back to the assembly areas for lost competitors. Also be careful not to put controls too close to vague map boundaries. Organisers should also have

a plan for what to do if a competitor is lost or injured and needs to be found or retrieved from the terrain. Do you need keys or a 4wd to access the terrain?

### **Responsibility of the Competitor**

Competitors are responsible for their personal safety at an event. Do the correct course for your navigational level and physical ability. Pay attention to instructions about safety bearings and other information, make sure you return by course closure time and register at the finish.

For more information event organisers should see Appendix 4 of the Competition Rules, available on the Orienteering Australia web page, or the OQ Technical Officer [technical@oq.asn.au](mailto:technical@oq.asn.au)