



SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES

for

- MISSING or LOST COMPETITOR
- INJURED or INCAPACITATED COMPETITOR
- UNACCOUNTED COMPETITORS after FORCED EVENT CLOSURE

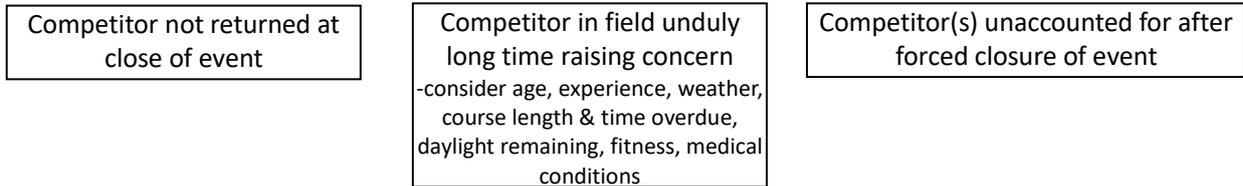
Overview

This document sets out the recommended procedure to be followed in the event of a missing competitor at an Orienteering Queensland Orienteering Event. It forms part of the risk management plan for club orienteering events. An **incident log** is available at end of this document.

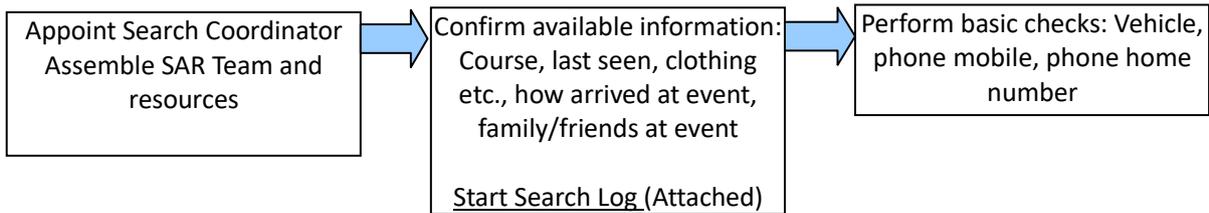
It is important to realise that Search and Rescue (SAR) is not organised solely for lost competitors. A competitor may also become injured or otherwise incapacitated in the field and be requiring urgent assistance. Therefore SAR may be initiated during/before the end of the event. The event may also be closed early due to unforeseen circumstances – fire, storm etc. In this instance SAR starts with accounting for competitors, then as determined by the event officials, launching rescue operations for those not accounted for as safe.

SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCESS

1. Triggers



2. First actions: Decide when to commence search, organise resources and personnel



3. Search Strategy

If Event Still in Progress:

1. Advise Start , enlist assistance of starting competitors (“Look out for...”)
2. Advise Finish, enlist assistance of finishing competitors (“Did you see...”)
3. Send out team to check or patrol safety route
4. Decide to commence/not full SAR – move to Event Closed strategy once decision to search made.
5. Obtain copies of course maps for search teams



If Event Closes:
Restart next column (“If Event Is Closed”).
Note more than one competitor may now be missing)

If SportIdent is being used, it is possible to establish from the SI units on their course which controls were last visited. Retain the services of a SI expert to carry out this task once SI stations have been collected.

If or When Event Closed:

1. Confirm only one missing competitor.
2. Determine staffed search base, search areas/pattern, include party to check or patrol course safety route
3. Consider likely points of error/hazards and estimate likely distance travelled

Searches:

1. Vehicle or foot patrol of central/major tracks
2. Parties perform Start to Finish and Finish to Start patrol of relevant course(s) – the person may have the wrong map/course.
3. Grid searches of specified areas.

Search Party Instructions:

1. Appoint team leaders
2. Members of each team stay in touch with each other
3. Teams have nominated meet up points (can be event assembly area)
4. Set latest return to base time (same for all teams).
5. If competitor found one team member must remain with the competitor. The team decides to rendezvous with other team (if pre-arranged) or return to base for help.

Other:
Search parties should carry water, glucose (lollies etc), some first aid equipment and whistles.
Voices should be used regularly to alert lost persons.

4. Communication strategy

Consider:

1. Are electronic comms available and reliable?
2. Can all teams have comms? May need more than one comms method.
3. Is lighting required? (If so consider need to escalate to authorities).

Consider:

1. Searchers should not use whistles to avoid confusion except
 - in the event of finding lost competitor who requires further assistance (6 blasts every minute)
 - if search is over or called off (10 blasts every minute)
2. Signal for searchers to return to base is 10 short blasts of a car horn every 2 minutes.

Competitor Found:

(If all teams have CB or reliable electronic comms, then rendezvous may not be necessary)

1. If possible one team member guides competitor back to base, other continues to rendezvous, then to base.
2. Otherwise one stays with competitor, other goes to rendezvous.
3. If urgent assistance required, then return to base first.

Competitor Not Found:

1. Repeat initial checks with home etc if required.
2. Consider escalation.
3. Decide on new search areas and repeat with above method.
4. Notify OQ.
5. Launch Media Protocol.

5. Escalation

Consider:

1. Daylight remaining?
2. How far are Emergency Services?
3. Has the competitor been found and is injured
4. Notify local police and prepare for police briefing.
5. Notify Landholder.
6. Notify competitor's emergency contact
7. If ES unwilling to intervene, ask when should re-notify, continue search. In darkness stick to main tracks, or easily followed features.
8. Re-notify ES as requested on initial call.
9. Consider suspend or scale back actions for overnight.

Contact Numbers:

1. For serious injury or life threatening situation: Dial 000
2. Police Assistance: 131 444
3. Emergency contact phone numbers relevant to the map area: see Event Risk Management Plan

6. Close Search

Actions:

1. Notify Emergency Services.
2. Notify OQ.
3. Notify local police.
4. Notify relatives etc.
5. Debrief searchers.
6. Write report.

REFERENCES

1. Ken Brownlie, **Search and Rescue March 2003**, online document, West Australian Rogaine Association, 2002: Compiled from experience of a major search at Mount Observation South. Organised by Carol Broderick and with valuable input from: Jan Fletcher, Peter Gillon, Frank Mansfield, WARA and others.
2. Newcastle Orienteering Club, **Risk Minimisation Guidelines**, online document.
3. Orienteering Association of New South Wales, **Association Manual**, 4.17 SEARCH PLAN.
4. Peter & Mark Milnes 2001, **Search & Rescue Plan**, South Australian Rogaine Association



**SEARCH AND RESCUE INCIDENT LOG
ORIENTEERING QUEENSLAND**

EVENT DETAILS (Attach event risk assessment to this report)

Event Venue:	(Locality or geographic identifiers – not Map name)
Event Date:	
Organiser:	
Course Setter:	
Controller:	
Course Close:	

ACTIVATION DETAILS

Event	Time (24hr format)	Detail	
Person Reported Missing or Injured		Name:	Age:
		Clothing worn:	
		Reported by:	
		Competitor Course:	
		Competitor Start Time:	

Basic Checks Performed	Vehicle Present:		
	Seen by Others (location and time):		
	Home Phoned:		
	Nature of Incident/Injury:		
	Assistance Required:		
	Other:		
Decision to Search Activated		Search Co-ordinator	
Teams Formed:			
Team Roles:			
Teams Departed:			
Search Strategy			
Emergency Services		Latest Time to Notify:	
		Time Actually Notified:	

SEARCH AND OUTCOME DETAILS

Event	Time (24hr format)	Details

Final Outcome:

Information Recorded by:	Date and Time
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The Search Coordinator must prepare a report as soon as possible after the event, detailing procedures undertaken, reasons for extraordinary actions taken and any other considered relevant information. This report must be submitted to the organizing club and the OQ Executive Committee.