

Proposal for rule deviation – running part of 2025 Australian Relays as a night event

Orienteering Queensland is proposing to run the M/W21E, M/W20E and M/W21AS Australian Relays as a night event, and are seeking such rule deviations as are required to make this permissible.

This proposal has the support of the High Performance Management Group.

Background:

The Aus Relays were to be at Ripley Rifle Range; upon our visit today we found out that we are unable to use it due to a new range going through the middle of the map and the range now being open on the day of our event (we had been previously advised that it would be closed specifically for our event - it was quite a U turn).

The map attached, with a sample course from a previous event, is

a) Fully Fenced on all sides with very strong safety features to the South and East (roads) -- we have had permission previously (2019) from SEQW for a night event. The area East of it we are using for the Aus Long and we will have no overlap of areas used.

b) It is generally very good visibility which is why we have not used it for an AusChamps event but at night it is quite challenging.

c) It is usually very pleasant running, no lantana, some grass, no rock under foot and around 60 mins from Schools Accom.

The Event Date is Sat Oct 4.

Note Sunset is around 5:50pm at this time of year and Civil Twilight 6:10pm

The proposal is:

Public Start 2:45pm. Course Close 5:30pm Mass start all remaining runners approx 4:15pm.

21E, 20E, 21AS (for public who wish to do an evening event)

Start 5:15pm

So first runner in good daylight, second runner in transition to twilight, third runner in full dark.

Elite teams should finish in less than two hours and course close 7:45pm.

Mass Start all remaining runners 6:45pm.

It is proposed to use standard winning times for this event (not shortened times as in rule 16.19).

The Schools Teams would have dinner at the event (ie around 6pm) so although many but not all of the public may leave there will be at least 300 people in attendance for the evening event so the atmosphere will be good.

I expect that a lot of Senior Boys and Girls will wish to do the evening event so numbers in the Elite and 21AS classes will be up.

The specific rule deviation requested is that the three classes above can be run at night and remain an official Australian Championship class.

Naturally I need to do some work re permissions but for now this is at least a bit motivating in terms of offering something very Qld/fun and a point of difference and has other upsides as well such as

- more elites coming to second weekend as can fly in Saturday morning
- avoiding potential heat for most runners with a late afternoon
- a very pleasant map which we have relatively up to date and so can make to standard with short notice.
- a memorable event for schools teams

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