

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 to 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 President of the Queensland Schools Orienteering 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 to all interested bodies, the requirements of selection.

1.0 Queensland Team Size

1.1 A team of 16 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 4 males and 4 females in each of the following age divisions:

Junior - 15 years & under

Senior - 16-19 years

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

1.2 Up to 3 reserves may be named in each age class. (There is no guarantee any of the reserves will be able to travel with the team).

1.3 The maximum team size with reserves is 20.

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

2.0 Selection Panel

2.1 The number of selectors will be 3 who will be nominated at a Queensland Schools Orienteering Committee meeting prior to the state championships, and forwarded to the OQ executive for endorsement. At least one of the panel must be an official accompanying the team to the National Championships, preferably the team coach.

2.2 The chairperson of the selection panel will be determined by the Queensland Schools Orienteering Committee and endorsed by the OQ executive.

2.3 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.

3.0 Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in a State Championship, a student must be enrolled or registered with an institution approved by The Department and meets age and selection criteria. This includes students who are registered for home education in accordance with Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and students enrolled at a School of Distance Education.

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 selectors will make use of all available data for analysing the results from the selection races (eg placings, kilometre rates, percentage behind winner, total elapsed times) as well as using race analysis tools (eg winsplits pro) to gain further insight into race performance.

Both objective results from the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships major selection race, and comparative result data with some degree of subjectivity (from minor selection races), will be used to determine selection.

4.1 Selection Races

Performances in the following events will be considered when selecting the Queensland Schools Orienteering Team.

Major Selection Race

Queensland Schools Orienteering Individual Long Course Championship

Minor Selection Races

1. All State OY Events leading up to the championships will be considered by the selection panel. It is recommended that a minimum of 2 age appropriate OY courses (see 4.2) be completed in order to demonstrate commitment and consistency in the sport.

2. Queensland Schools Orienteering Sprint Championship

3. Queensland Schools Orienteering Relay Championship

4.2 Age Classes & Courses

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

Queensland Schools Orienteering Individual Long Course Championship Race.

(See also clause 1.3)

Juniors 12-15 years old must run in the 14-15A course

Seniors 16-19 years old must run in the 16-19A course

OY Events

Juniors Boys 12-15 years must run Moderate 1

Junior Girls 12-15 years must run Moderate 2

Senior Boys 16-19 years must run Hard 3

Senior Girls 16-19 years must run Hard 4

4.3 Extenuating Circumstances

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

4.31 Injury or illness at the time of the state championships provided that documentation verifying their medical condition is submitted to the Chair of Selectors prior to the competition.

4.32 Representation in an International, Australian or Queensland Orienteering, Cross Country, Athletics or other sporting competition at the time of the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championships provided that documentation of their participation is provided to the Chair of Selectors prior to the competition.

4.33 A competitor did not finish the individual 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 team manager or a school representative must submit the application in writing to the Chair of Selectors prior to the meeting of the selection panel.

4.34 Where special consideration is requested, performances in minor selection races become much more important, especially participation and performance in OY events.

4.35 Selection may also be conditional, subject to factors such as, but not limited to, fitness.

4.4 Pre-Selection

The Selection Panel has the authority to pre-select one or more individuals at any time if, in the Panel's opinion, they are members of the Australian High Performance Squad and have clearly demonstrated outstanding talent at a national level. Such a decision will be based on previous national championship performances, the candidate's proposed program of training and competition, and performances in earlier selection trials (if applicable). It is the athlete's responsibility to submit a written application with evidence for pre-selection consideration to the Chair of Selectors in a timely manner.

5.0 Selection Procedures

5.1 The selectors will meet after the final event of the Qld Schools Orienteering Championships to determine the membership of the Queensland Schools Orienteering Team.

5.2 Area team managers and/or school representatives need to make themselves aware of the criteria necessary for selection of an athlete in the Queensland Orienteering Team and the criteria for extenuating circumstances. (see section 4.3)

5.3 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 Qld 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, and kilometre rates of all selection races.

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 committee may, at its discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances. 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.

5.4 The chair of selectors must make 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 Queensland 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 Queensland team will be announced at the presentations at the completion of the Qld Schools Orienteering Championships.

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 / coaching sessions, as well as meet costs associated with team travel, accommodation, event entries and levies and uniforms.

8.0 Appeals Regarding Selection

Any appeal shall, in the first instance, be made verbally by a Team Manager, or School Representative to the Orienteering Queensland President or his/her representative. A written appeal must then be submitted in writing to the Orienteering Queensland executive within 48 hours of announcement of the team. The OQ executive will decide on the appeal and notify interested parties in writing. Appeals in the first instance will be dealt by the internal appeals tribunal (OQ) and Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will be the final appeals body.

Review of success of selection process to be held annually after each championships