

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 of 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 Chair 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 the requirements of selection to all interested bodies.

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 and under

Senior - 19 years and under

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

The minimum age for selection in the team is 12 years as at 31 December.

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 travelling 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 There will be 3 selectors. They will be nominated at a Queensland Schools Orienteering Committee meeting prior to the state championships, and the nominations will be 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 Chair of the selection panel will be determined by the Queensland Schools Orienteering Committee and endorsed by the OQ executive. The Chairperson will normally be one of the 3 selectors. If the Chairperson is additional to the 3 selectors, this will be a non-voting role.

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 Queensland Department of Education and Training and meet age and selection criteria. This includes students who are registered for home education in accordance with the 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 attitude and behaviour of the athlete will also be considered.

The selectors will make use of all available data for analysing the results from the selection races (e.g. placings, kilometre rates, percentage behind winner, total elapsed times) as well as using race analysis tools (e.g. pack running index, head to head, etc.) to gain further insight into race performance.

Both objective results and comparative result data with some degree of subjectivity will be used to determine selection.

4.1 Selection Races

The major criterion for selection will be the performance of the athlete at the Queensland Schools Orienteering Championship in the following two races:

Queensland Schools Orienteering Individual Long Distance Championship

Queensland Schools Orienteering Individual Sprint Championship

Where results in the Individual Long and Sprint races are inconclusive, results from all Minor Selection Races will be used for further clarification about performance. Minor Selection Races will also be used when extenuating circumstances arise. They will comprise:

- Queensland Schools Orienteering Relay Championship

- All State OY Events leading up to the championships.

It is recommended that a minimum of 2 age appropriate OY courses (see 4.2.2) be completed in order to demonstrate commitment and consistency in the sport. These results will also be used to seed runners in the start lists for the individual and sprint events. The Event Organiser in consultation with the Controller will use all available OY, National and International results from the current year to create a start list of runners in ranked order (best seed first) for each of the Individual Sprint and Individual Long races.

4.2 Age Classes & Courses

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

Queensland Schools Orienteering Individual Long and Sprint Championship Races.

(See also clause 4.3)

For selection in the Junior classes: 14-15 yrs Championship course.

For selection in the Senior classes: 16-19 yrs Championship course.

4.2.2 For performance in OY Events to be considered, competitors must run in classes of the following minimum level of difficulty:

Juniors Boys: Moderate 1

Junior Girls: Moderate 2
Senior Boys: Hard 3
Senior Girls: Hard 4

4.3 Extenuating Circumstances

Consideration will be given to competitors who nominate 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 being regained after injury.

4.4 Pre-Selection

The Selection Panel has the authority to pre-select one or more individuals at any time if they are members of the Australian High Performance Squad and have clearly demonstrated outstanding talent at a national level, in the Panel's opinion. 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 a minimum of two weeks before the Queensland Championships.

4.5 Unavailability for the National Championships

An athlete who knows in advance that they are unable to participate in the National Championships should advise the Chair of Selectors. This will not affect their eligibility to be selected as a member of the state team.

5.0 Selection Procedures

5.1 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, kilometre rates of all selection races, and information from coaches / team managers.

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.

5.2 Team managers, school representatives and competitors 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 chair of selectors will provide 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 within one week of the completion of the Qld Schools Orienteering Championships and will be posted on the OQ website and all entrants advised by email.

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

Athletes should confirm their acceptance of their position in the team within one week of the announcement of the team.

8.0 Race Complaints and Protests

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

8.1 Complaints (OA Operational Manual 2.1)

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

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

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.

There is no fee for a complaint.

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

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

8.2 Race Protest (OA Operational Manual 2.1)

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

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

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.

There is no fee for a protest.

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

9.0 Appeals Regarding Selection

Any appeal shall, in the first instance, be made in writing by an Athlete, Team Manager, School Representative, or Parent to the Orienteering Queensland President within 72 hours of announcement of the team, and must outline which of the Selection Criteria they believe were not followed with respect to team selection.

The OQ executive will decide on the appeal in accordance with the criteria of this document and notify interested parties in writing. Appeals in the first instance will be dealt by the internal appeals tribunal (OQ) and the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will be the final appeals body.

Any person who has a conflict of interest with respect to selection should not be a member of the OQ tribunal deciding an appeal.

Any issues with respect to the fairness of a race do not constitute a reason for appeal but must be made on the day as outlined in section 8.1 and 8.2 above.

10.0 Selection Policy Review

The present document will be reviewed at the end of each year. Suggested changes should be submitted to the QSO secretary on the form provided.