



Bulletin One



Invitation

Australian and New Zealand school students are invited to attend the **2020 Australian Schools Orienteering Challenge** organised by Melbourne Forest Racers in conjunction with Orienteering Victoria.

This is not an official Australian Schools Orienteering Championships. The next championships will be hosted by Orienteering Tasmania in 2021.

Overview

Our goal is to keep school aged junior orienteers engaged with our sport.

We know that the highlight of the orienteering year for many kids is the schools championships, and we don't want the kids to miss out on a similar experience this year. Of course, there will still be some restrictions for a while, but Melbourne Forest Racers is confident of arranging at least the familiar schools orienteering events.

It is likely that entrants may have to arrange their own accommodation, and perhaps travel in small groups, and there won't be a disco or large group gatherings. However, our aim is to provide a quality schools orienteering challenge without the championships, but with most of the fun.

We want to make the schools challenge events accessible to anyone that can travel and feels safe to do so. Flexibility is a key principle, given our constantly changing landscape. We won't be tied down by orienteering rules (such as team selection), but we will be attempting to make the best possible schools event given the circumstances.

We see a major risk that when participants and volunteers fall out of the routine and habit of participating, they are harder to re-engage in the sport. It is critical that we maintain this connection in coming months or risk a decline in participation and associated longer-term ramifications for community health and wellbeing.

Safety

Safety of competitors, officials and the community remains our number one priority.

Thanks to the latest Victorian Government announcement of further easing of restrictions, we're looking forward with great anticipation to the return of organised orienteering.

The organisation of this event will be guided by government restrictions and Orienteering Victoria's Return to Sport plan. This provides comprehensive guidelines to ensure clubs can hold safe events. The plan will be subject to frequent and ongoing change at short notice, as restrictions ease further and the number of allowed participants gradually increases over coming weeks and months.

You can find the plan at <https://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/return-to-orienteering/>

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the current Victorian Government easing of restrictions for sport and exercise, announced May 24, and VicSport guidelines for community sport and recreation. The plan has been approved by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Location

Events will be in the Beechworth/Chiltern area of NE Victoria.

With travel being one major variable, this area has been chosen as it is relatively close to most states. For many, this may allow the option of driving and making a decision to attend once more restrictions are eased.



Chiltern is easily accessible on the Hume Freeway (M31)

- 280km from Melbourne
- 375km from Canberra
- 590km from Sydney
- 840km from Adelaide
- 1400km from Brisbane

Dates

Dates are to be confirmed, but the likely dates are

- Mon pm 28 Sep
- Tue 29 Sep
- Wed 30 Sep,

With Thu 1 Oct a possible reserve day if plans need to change.

This is the only week where school holidays overlap for most states.

The Victorian Orienteering Championships have been rescheduled for the following weekend (Middle Sat 3 Oct and Long Sun 4 Oct) at Kangaroo Crossing (near El Dorado) , for those that may like to enjoy an extended orienteering vacation.

Event Format

The intention is to organise 3 schools events

- Urban/Park Sprint
- Forest Individual
- Forest Relay

The final format of the Forest Relay will be determined closer to entry closure. This is to enable the majority of entrants to compete in official teams. This will not necessarily be teams with 3 members of the same gender.

Classes

Age classes will be:

- Senior Girls (19 years and under)
- Senior Boys (19 years and under)
- Junior Girls (15 years and under)
- Junior Boys (15 years and under)

Junior classes will be moderate navigation. Senior classes will be hard navigation.

Students must be in attendance at schools recognised by state and territory education departments. Age calculated as at 31 Dec 2020.

A decision on the availability of public classes will be made later.

Terrain

Sprint will be in parklands with some building, canopies and un-crossable features. Forest races will be undulating spur/gully terrain in mostly open runnable forest. The proposed areas have not been used for competitions since 2012.

Entry

Pre-entry will be required through Eventor. Entries are likely to close in early September.

Enter for each of the 3 days, or choose any of the events that suit you.

<https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/10134>

<https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/10135>

<https://eventor.orienteering.asn.au/Events/Show/10136>

Accommodation

Entrants will need to arrange their own accommodation. There are many options available in Beechworth and the surrounding area. Most offer flexible cancellation options in case of changing circumstances.

Beechworth Lake Sambell Caravan Park is suggested and would make a great social hub. It has a number of cabins that are suitable for families or small groups. It has some large open grounds around the lake, ideal for students to relax and socialise (while social distancing) after the races.

If you plan to also enter the Victorian Championships, you may consider booking for the week.

Contact Details

Further information: Eventor

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