

ESRG - REVISED GUIDELINE A (Graeme Ackland v1)

Standard Events

1. General Information



1.1 Nature of Event

Standard events provide domestic competition for orienteers of all abilities, from novice to elite. These guidelines indicate the quality of organisation and planning expected at a “standard” event. Events not meeting these standards should be designated “Local Events”.

It is not necessary for a particular Standard quality event to cater for all orienteers. Events which are junior-only, adult-only, elite-only or of limited technical difficulty may meet the requirements. The guiding principle is that the event should be worth competitors travelling a significant distance to take part.

Traditional, cross-country style orienteering courses are designated by colour, where each colour represents a course with a certain level of technical difficulty. This ensures a consistency of course standards between events so that someone entering an Orange course one weekend will be able to enter an Orange course the following weekend confident that the physical and technical standards will be similar.

A youngster would be expected to start on either the White or Yellow course, whilst an adult novice would begin with either the Yellow or Orange course depending on his or her confidence. A competitor’s progression can then be made either towards longer courses with the navigation remaining relatively simple, or on to technically difficult courses up to the appropriate length for his or her fitness.

Standard event guidelines can be readily adapted to night, urban, middle, mass start and relay events. Other formats such as score events may be designated to be “standard” quality if they meet the general requirements.

1.2 Eligibility

Anybody may compete in any class at a Standard Event.

1.3 Age class competition

For consistency with international and championship competitions some indication of which Colour courses are appropriate for which age classes should be given in the pre-event information. These are not prescriptive, but may be used, e.g. to determine the awarding of prizes and awards.

Events attracting a significant foreign entry, may wish to use the standard IOF age classes. Such events should base their class combinations and course length ratios on the table in Guideline C: Championship Events.

Competitor age class should be included in the results.

1.4 Terrain

Standard events can be staged on all types of terrain, including urban, but there should be sufficient detail on the map to provide a navigational challenge without undue repetition. Ideally

(a) At least 50%, and preferably considerably more, of the area which the longer courses will use

should be reasonably runnable, (i.e. the majority of the competition should avoid excessively steep or unpleasant terrain).

(b) The total amount of marked routes or other sections requiring minimal navigation should not exceed 15% of the total course length.

(c) The area should not normally have been used for an open orienteering competition in the 11 months preceding the event.

1.5 Map

see Rule 5.1 (requirements), Appendix H parts 1.1 (requirements), 1.2 (symbols), 1.4.3 (scales), and 2.1.5 (printing), the International Specification for Orienteering Maps 2000, and ISSOM.

1.6 Officials

The officials for the event shall follow Rule 4, and shall meet the requirements set out in Appendix C (Event Officials).

2. Organisational Requirements

2.1 Responsibility

The committee of each British Orienteering Constituent Association is responsible for the co-ordination of Standard events within its area, working to ensure a sensible geographical spread of events. It will normally delegate responsibility for the organisation of such events to a club. Clubs should apply to stage Standard events via whatever method is in use within their Constituent Association. For particularly high profile events, then the dates should be notified to the British Orienteering fixtures committee to avoid clashes with neighbouring Associations. Each Club may expect that, on average, one of its event per year will get such fixtures protection.

2.2 Event Organisation

The organisation should be sufficient to cope with the number of competitors expected to attend the event. The event team should include an organiser, planner and controller. Standard events should provide the following facilities

- pre-event details with clear description of courses available
- entry on the day (and, optionally, pre-entry at discounted rates)
- premarked maps
- results display
- published results on the internet within two days
- clearly signed First Aid point
- toilets
- electronic punching

The Organiser should particularly take account of the guidance provided in:

- Appendix E: Event Safety
- Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice
- Appendix G: Protests, Juries and Appeals

2.3. Ranking Scheme

Standard events will normally be included in the National ranking scheme, and pre-event details should state whether the event is included as a ranking event. Preliminary results should be submitted as soon as possible after (ideally on the day of) the event. Final results should be submitted within two weeks of the event. See Appendix K (The Ranking Scheme) for details of how to do this.

3. Planning Requirements

3.1 Courses

Courses at Standard events are designated by colour. Within each Course, competitions in classes defined by age, residence or experience may be staged.

The Planner should decide which courses are to be provided from the table below. Whilst the scheme is not intended to restrict a Planner's options, it is essential that a course designated as a particular colour is of the appropriate length and difficulty. In those areas which do not permit TD5, courses up to Light Green must be planned to the correct absolute standard, whilst Green and above will by necessity be easier than the correct standard. In such situations it is important that competitors are made aware of this beforehand. The most effective way of doing this is to provide a brief description of the terrain in the event advertising.

A Standard event should offer at least White, Yellow, Orange and Light Green courses for juniors, and an appropriate length TD3/4 course for fit adult novices. A range of senior courses suitable for competitors of all abilities shall be provided depending on the size of the area, terrain, expected number of competitors, etc.

If a large entry is expected then extra courses must be planned either:

- a) the length difference between courses may be reduced, and the courses designated "long blue", "short blue" etc.
- b) two courses of particular length should be planned, with entrants divided between them.

In such cases competitors in the same age class should be kept together

It is important that some indication of course lengths be available before pre entries. While there is an expectation of a range from white to elite technical courses of 60-70 minute duration, planners should note that it may not be possible to provide certain colour courses on some areas. The guiding principle is the provision of high quality courses, in exceptional cases high quality events which do not cater for all abilities may be designated Standard Events.

3.2 Course Details

The definitions of the levels of Technical Difficulty, as used in the following table, are explained in Appendix B. Adhering to them ensures that standards are comparable across all Standard events. Note that where an area cannot accommodate TD5, red and light green courses need not be provided. The Black course has an expected elite winning time of 67 minutes. This means that a top elite standard runner would be expected to complete the course in 67 minutes. Elite winning times define the target length for shorter courses – for areas where terrain is similar throughout, course length ratios are a more practical guide. In practice these will accommodate slower orienteers and the bulk of competitors should finish in around 70 minutes. Where age-class trophies are to be awarded, suggested courses are given below.

Colour	TD	Age Awards	Elite winning time	Length Ratio
White	1			
Yellow	2			
Orange	3			
Light Red	4		20 Minutes	0.3

Short Red	5			
Long Red	5	M70+, W55+	25 Minutes	0.33
Light Green	4		30 Minutes	0.45
Short Green	5	M60-65, W45-50	30 Minutes	0.45
Long Green	5	M55-60, W20, 35-40	35 Minutes	0.54
Light Blue	4		44 Minutes	0.65
Blue	5	M45-50, W21	44 Minutes	0.65
Brown	5	M20,M35-40	55 Minutes	0.82
Black	5	M21	67 Minutes	1.0
String	0			

It is not necessary to offer all the above courses – Long and Short variants can be combined in smaller events. In a TD4 area the “light “ variants would be identical to the regular colours. A middle-distance race might offer only red and green courses. Events which choose not to cater for extremes in the range need not offer Red and Black, events not catering for juniors may drop white-orange, events not catering for adult improvers may drop “light “ variants.

What is necessary is to ensure the quality of the courses which are offered. To ensure that competitors know what to expect, the length and technical difficulty of courses for conventional orienteering events must conform to the above scheme, which is also appropriate for night events.

However, some standard quality events such as sprint, urban, score and long-O races will have different formats. In such cases a numbering system may be used.

3.3 Maps, Course Marking and Control Descriptions

The map should be premarked in accordance with Rule 5.2, Rule 5.4 and Appendix B. It should be up to date: if the survey is not new, planner and controller should add minor map corrections if appropriate. Organisers should always allow competitors on White and Yellow courses to see their courses before the start. Control Descriptions may be written or pictorial and should be produced in accordance with Rule 6.6 and Appendix A. Course distance and climb should be calculated according to Rules 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 and given in pre-event details.

4. Other Information

4.1 National Standard Awards

A competitor qualifies for a National Standard Award by achieving the National Standard for that colour course on three separate occasions. Pairs can qualify for Awards on the White, Yellow and Orange courses. A White Standard is achieved by anyone who successfully completes the White course.

The Standard time for courses other than White is calculated using whichever of the following two methods gives the larger number of qualifiers:

- The time that is achieved by at least 50% of those who started the course, which includes those who retire or are disqualified. Each pair or group on Yellow and Orange courses (if any) should be treated as a single starter.
- 150% of the winner's time.

The Controller may extend the qualifying time if there are reasonable circumstances to do so, but may not reduce it.

The National Standard time for each course should be included in the final results.

4.2 Further Advice

If you cannot find the answer to a question within the published Rules, Appendices and Guidelines then please contact your Association's representative on Rules Group, or failing that the Chairman of Rules Group via the British Orienteering National Office.

5. Notes

Standard level events replace what were previously known variously as regional, district, badge, ranking and colour coded events. The increased quality of all but the smallest events make distinguishing between them unnecessary. Competitors should expect a good level of serious competition, organisation and well planned courses.

The shorthand designation C3/C4/N3 etc can be replaced by CS, NS, MS, RS, SS for cross country, night, mass/chasing-start, relay or score events which aspire to this level of quality. The standard level allows for events such as sprint, middle distance, urban and long-O to be incorporated in the same framework and national ranking scheme.