



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

### JUNIOR HOME INTERNATIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

The four Home Nations have ownership of the Ward Junior Home International and joint responsibility for these Rules and Guidelines. Rules are to be followed whereas Guidelines are descriptions of best practice to which it would be wise to adhere. Where these rules and British Orienteering rules appear in conflict, these rules take precedence. Any questions regarding these Rules should be emailed to: [homeinternationalrules@britishorienteering.org.uk](mailto:homeinternationalrules@britishorienteering.org.uk).

#### REVISION HISTORY

This document (December 2023) is based on British Orienteering Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home Internationals v1.3 dated 2014 and has been revised (not in substance) to divide it into separate Rules and Guidelines, add detail in the Guidelines for the benefit of organisers, and assert ownership by the four Home Nations.

December 2023 – Revision to implement equal target times for men and women as agreed at the JHI 2023 Team Managers' meeting.

#### RULES

1. **Introduction** The Ward<sup>1</sup> Junior Home International (JHI) is an annual competition between teams from England, Ireland (drawn from all four provinces, team administered/governed by NIOA), Scotland and Wales (collectively the 'Home Nations')<sup>2</sup>. British Orienteering's Competition Rules apply, though, if there is a conflict, these rules take precedence.
2. **Hosting and season** Hosting frequency varies: the rota is managed by the British Orienteering Event Scheduling Group. The JHI is arranged in the autumn and should be stand-alone, i.e. not combined with any other event<sup>3</sup>.
3. **Teams** Each team is to consist of 4 athletes in each of the following classes: W14, W16, W18, M14, M16 and M18: 24 in total. Teams are to be declared before the first start on Day 1 and only those may run in the JHI (i.e. no reserves brought in on Day 2).
4. **Eligibility** To be eligible to represent a nation in a JHI an athlete must be a current British Orienteering member (or for Ireland team members, alternatively a member of IOA) and be:
  - 4.1. **Eligible by Birth.** Be born in that country OR
  - 4.2. **Eligible by Parentage.** Have a parent who was born in that country OR

<sup>1</sup> The event is named after its original benefactors in the 1970s: Elsie and Bertie Ward.

<sup>2</sup> The four National flags are available to be displayed at the event by contacting [homeinternationalrules@britishorienteering.org.uk](mailto:homeinternationalrules@britishorienteering.org.uk) (the Four Provinces flag is to be used for Ireland).

<sup>3</sup> If this is not possible then the open racing should be held after the JHI has finished.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

4.3. **Eligible by Residence.** Have established permanent residence in that country for at least one year (see explanatory Note 1 below).

AND

4.4. Has **not** represented another home nation in a home international (e.g. SHI) in that calendar year (see explanatory Note 2 below).

Note 1: Established eligibility by residency is voided if another home nation is represented, but otherwise endures.

Note 2: For athletes in the JHI, this element of the eligibility rules is different<sup>4</sup> from those for the other home internationals.

5. **Competition format and courses** Individual on Saturday; relay on Sunday<sup>5</sup>. The courses are to be planned at Area Orienteering Championships standards: British Orienteering Competition Rule I, moderated by the course target times specified below. The embargo rule therein also applies. Versions of the competition map are not allowed in the pre-start area. Control descriptions are to be printed on or attached to the map and for the individual also issued loose in the start lanes, not before.

5.1. **Individual** Four to run in each class, with each class running a separate course with target times<sup>6</sup> of:

40 minutes for W14 and M14

50 minutes for W16 and M16

60 minutes for W18 and M18

5.2. **Relay** Four teams of three, for men and women separately. Each team is comprised of a 16, 14 and 18 who will run in that order on courses planned to deliver a 35 minutes target time per leg for 16s and 18s and 25 minutes for 14s.

## 6. Individual scoring

6.1. Two (of 4) to count in each class, scoring 8, 7, 6 points etc. Total points available: 216

6.2. Non-counters (i.e. a nation's third and fourth athletes in a class) are discounted in the allocation of points however nations' third placed athletes may have a tie-breaking effect (qv).

6.3. If there is a tie in individual time the points are to be shared equally.

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<sup>4</sup> For the JHI there is no requirement for 'fallow' years when changing from representing one nation to another.

<sup>5</sup> If combined with an open event, a JHI block of at least 90 minutes should be set aside for the individual and relay before the first open event start.

<sup>6</sup> Defined as being the average of the best 3 runners (per IOF). This amends previous versions of these rules by equalising men's and women's class target times.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

6.4. **Nation scoring** A nation's score for the individual day is to be the total of the points from all six classes. The winning team is the nation with the highest total points with the other nations ranked in order.

6.5. **Tie** In the event of a tie, the relative placing of the tying nations' 3rd placed athletes in each of the six classes are to be used to separate the teams involved in the tie. If still tied then the relative placing of the tying nations' 4th athletes are to be likewise used<sup>7</sup>.

### 7. **Relay scoring** Men's and Women's relay races to be scored separately.

7.1. Two out of four relay teams to count: other teams do not score (nor are considered in place and therefore score allocation) however nations' third teams may have a tie-breaking effect (qv).

7.2. In both classes the scoring will be 16 points for a win, 14 pts for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 pts for 3<sup>rd</sup> down to 2 pts for 8<sup>th</sup>. To score, relay teams must be eligible by composition and must finish successfully; otherwise 0 pts. Total points available: 144.

7.3. **Nation scoring** A nation's score for the relay day is to be the total of the men's and women's points. In the event of a tie the relative placing of the 3rd placed relay teams of the tying nations in both classes are to be used to separate the nations involved in the tie<sup>8</sup>.

### 8. **JHI Ranking**

8.1. **Ranking** The winning nation is the team with the highest total points, calculated by adding the individual points (6.4) and the relay points (7.3), with the other nations ranked in order.

8.2. **Tie** In the event of a tie the nation with the most 1st places across the eight classes (2 relay and 6 individual) is to be ranked ahead. If that is equal then teams' 2nd placings across the same eight classes are to be used. If that is equal then teams' 3rd placings across the same eight classes are to be used. If that is equal then nations are to share the trophy.

### 9. **Trophies** The trophies are<sup>9</sup>:

- The Water Technology Ireland Perpetual Cup to the country with the highest overall points total
- The Ultrasport Junior Trophy to the country with the highest points in the Individual<sup>10</sup>
- The Cranstoun Cup to the country with the highest points in the Relay
- The Judith Wingham Trophy (a platter) for the winner between Ireland and Wales

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<sup>7</sup> A nation's 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> placed (successfully completing) athlete is deemed to place above an athlete who is not placed (mp, DNF or DQ) or an athlete who does not start.

<sup>8</sup> A nation's competitive third relay team completing wins a tie split against a nation with no third team finishing.

<sup>9</sup> Photographs can be found at <https://orienteeringengland.org.uk/event-organisers/trophies/>

<sup>10</sup> The Individual Trophy will have been presented at the social event on Saturday evening.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

### GUIDELINES

10. **Introduction** These guidelines are intended for the person who takes on the role of coordinator for the weekend of a JHI competition. It is often better that this is a different person from the ‘Organiser’ of the events. The guidelines have been drawn up by team managers/previous organisers and are intended to be both prescriptive and helpful. If you, as event coordinator, are tempted to stray from these guidelines, you should consult with the team managers and seek their agreement to any significant changes. The coordinator of JHI often has less experience of HIs whereas it is a competition that is very familiar to the others involved. Some team managers have been in post for several years and themselves have taken part in numerous HI competitions. Do not allow yourself to feel intimidated by this: exploit the available experience and expertise.

11. **Organising nation** Home Internationals are hosted on a basis<sup>11</sup> which recognizes that nations’ resources differ. There is an agreed rota for hosting all three HIs which is managed by the British Orienteering Event Scheduling Group (ESG) (or its functional successor). This shows which nation is due to host and, when an HI is to be held in England, which region is due to host. The ESG will approach associations direct to host the JHI and set the date for competition in good time – at least 15 months ahead.

### 12. Course planning

12.1. Individual courses are to be planned to Area Orienteering Championships standards (BOF Competition Rule I) but planned to achieve target times listed in Sub-paragraph 5.1 above. Each class requires a separate course.

12.2. Each relay team comprises a 16, 14 and 18<sup>12</sup> running in that order on courses planned to deliver a 35 minutes target time per leg for 16s and 18s and 25 minutes for 14s.<sup>13</sup>

12.3. Planners should endeavour to gaffle all the relay courses for a section at technical difficulty 4 and for the 16s and 18s sections at technical difficulty 5 to reduce the possibilities of following. Diagram 1 below is an example of how this can be achieved.

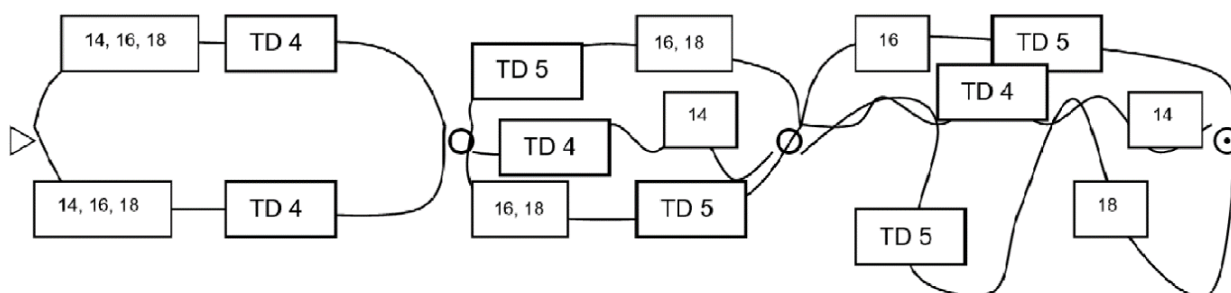


Diagram 1

<sup>11</sup> With 3 HIs per year (JHI, SHI and VHI), the differing hosting frequencies are: Ireland and Wales: 2 in 4 years, Scotland 3 in 4 years and England 5 in 4 years.

<sup>12</sup> Relay teams must be declared at the time/location stated by the event organiser.

<sup>13</sup> If required, non-competitive ad-hoc teams should be accommodated.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

13. **Starts** 1100 is recommended for the first individual start and 0930 is recommended for the first relay start on Sunday<sup>14</sup>.

13.1. **Individual** Starts are to be at 4-minute intervals and it is recommended to start women on even minutes and men on odd minutes (e.g. 1101). Use a varied 'real' start order of teams: see Table 1 below. Orders are for the organiser to draw and allocate with 2 protocols: first starters in each class split equally between the teams (the table does this), and, if some start slots are not occupied, the gap should not be left: fill the start list at the selected interval. Start time lists should be published by D – 5 days on the event webpage. An open event first start can follow no less than 15 minutes after the last JHI starter.

<b>Class</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
M14	C	D	A	B
M16	D	B	C	A
M18	A	C	B	D
W14	B	A	D	C
W16	C	B	A	D
W18	D	A	B	C

Table 1: Order of starts in each class<sup>15</sup>

13.2. **Relay** Two mass starts are best, spaced 10 minutes apart with women starting first. Non-competitive ad-hoc teams can be started in either mass start as appropriate. Athletes should wear numbers. Any open event first start should be scheduled no earlier than 80 minutes after the second JHI start.

14. **Entry form** Entry forms should include a mechanism to allow team managers to nominate their athletes' running order in each each class<sup>16</sup>. Note that an athlete who does not have sufficient capability/experience to run the relevant course is not to be entered. The form can capture accommodation and feeding requirements, and special issues (e.g. dietary: vegetarian/nut/dairy/gluten allergies) information.

15. **Finance** JHIs are to be self-financing with the host nation/association taking the financial responsibility for the event<sup>17</sup>. Normal BOF or IOA levy at the junior level is payable. Any regional levy may be waived at the discretion of the organising nation/region. Entry fee levels are at the discretion of the organising nation/region/club. Organisers should specify a

<sup>14</sup> The factors are: teams' long journeys/ferries/flights after prize-giving, timings of breakfast (at least 2 hours before the start), travel time to the event centre/assembly area.

<sup>15</sup> This order allocation is deliberately not random: it seeks to allocate first offs in the 6 classes as equally as possible and spread 'who is following who' as equally as possible. A,B,C,D randomly represent the nations. 1, 2, 3 etc shows the first starter, second starter, third starter etc. A, B, C, D identities are drawn by lot (i.e. at random) by the organiser.

<sup>16</sup> That is: in each class which of their runners will be first, second, third etc to start. If a team is incomplete, the order specified by the team manager can be 'vacant', 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>17</sup> The Orienteering Foundation [<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/>], a charity that promotes and supports orienteering in the UK, welcomes applications for funding and may make a financial contribution to this event if approached.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

fee covering events, accommodation and meals and communicate this to the team managers in very good time: 3 months is suggested. Ideally the main team payments, to include entry fees, accommodation and meal fees as applicable, can be achieved by bank transfer at the same time as detailed entries are made. The Orienteering Foundation [<https://www.orienteeringfoundation.org.uk/>], a charity that promotes and supports orienteering in the UK, welcomes applications for funding and may make a financial contribution to this event if approached.

16. **Accommodation** Hostel or similar accommodation for the teams should be arranged, preferably all together<sup>18</sup>. Booking this a year ahead reduces risk. For planning: a full team comprises 24 members. Teams will have leaders (up to 4) and may have reserves<sup>19</sup>.

17. **Meals** Plan to provide breakfasts both mornings; a packed lunch or makings thereof for both days; and a Saturday evening meal. Cater for vegetarians etc.

### 18. Social

18.1. **Afternoon** The Organiser should advise Team Managers of the whereabouts of a swimming pool or other recreational facilities within easy reach of the individual event venue and/or accommodation.

18.2. **Evening** The Saturday evening social is an important part of the programme, the venue for which should be reasonably close to the accommodation, preferably no more than 30 minutes drive away. It should include a substantial hot meal, a prize-giving, and a disco, ceilidh or other activity. Alcoholic drinks must not be available. A 6:30 meal is recommended to allow the evening to finish by 10:30.

18.3. **Prize-giving** Small prizes should be presented to the first three in each class. It should be noted that this is an important part of the proceedings and the athletes enjoy cheering for team members. Nations' total points should be announced and the Individual trophy presented to the winning nation.

19. **Prize-giving** On Sunday a prompt prize-giving can be held at the conclusion of the relays.

19.1. Small prizes can be presented to the first three relay teams in each class.

19.2. The Relay trophy, the Ireland v Wales trophy, and the overall JHI Trophy can be presented.

### 20. Communications

20.1. **Point of contact** Each nation should designate a single point of contact. When this changes at least the next organising nation should be informed. A prudent organiser would check the accuracy of this list at the D-7 month point (ie before sending Bulletin 1).

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<sup>18</sup> In the past, youth hostels and caravans have been used. If teams cannot be accommodated together then a maximum of two venues should be used.

<sup>19</sup> Reserves would be able to run in any 'open' event which follows the JHI.



## Competition Rule RJ: Junior Home International

**20.2. Bulletins** Bulletins should be sent to nation points of contact and posted on a website.

20.2.1. Bulletin 1 should be issued at D-6 month point – contents: invitation, date confirmation, event location, organising club, outline accommodation and feeding arrangement, request for confirmation of participation and national best points of contact.

20.2.2. Bulletin 2 should be issued at D-2 month point – contents: more detail of venue, terrain (type and nature), map (including scale, vertical interval and revision year), electronic punching system, event officials, accommodation and feeding arrangements (including need for bedding and whether there might be access to showers before travel on Sunday), call for entries and accommodation and feeding booking (with deadlines), entry fees, accommodation, social and meals costs, method of payment. Reference to detail already on the event webpage is recommended.

20.2.3. Bulletin 3 should be issued at D-3 week point – final details to include: any special map or control description symbols being used, fine detail of event and accommodation locations, event jury, date of start list publication and site, previous version of or link to the competition maps (e.g. Routegadget), arrangements for return of engraved trophies.

**20.3. Clarity** Be clear in the bulletins and other communications exactly what information is required from team managers and by when. Experienced team managers know what you'll need, but they are also human and have been known to forget things. Inexperienced team managers will appreciate clear direction.