

## **Orienteering Australia Selection Appeals Committee Report**

*Appeals from Jessica Davis and Heather Harding against non-selection in the 2008 JWOC team.*

The Selection Appeals Committee was asked to consider appeals from Jessica Davis and Heather Harding following their non-selection in the 2008 JWOC team.

The appeal from Heather Harding was dismissed because the appeal did not satisfy any grounds for appeal.

The appeal from Jessica Davis argued that she had met the minimum criteria for an overseas-based competitor by being competitive with orienteers from the mid-field of JWOC2007. The case revolved around the question of whether or not other Australian orienteers could be included in this measure of competitiveness. The committee found that that the selection criteria were ambiguous in this area, but that a person might reasonably interpret the criteria to include competitiveness with other Australian orienteers. Under this interpretation of the criteria, the committee finds that it is likely that the appellant would have satisfied the minimum criteria, and thus should have been very seriously considered for selection.

For these reasons, the Committee has recommended to the OA Board that the appeal from Jessica Davis be upheld on the grounds that the selection criteria have not been properly implemented, and that the selection panel be asked to reconsider the selection of the team.

The Committee clearly stated that it had no reason to believe that the Selection Panel did not rigorously and carefully apply the selection criteria as they understood them; the appeal was upheld because of the lack of clarity in the wording of the selection criteria document.