**Orienteering Australia selection arrangements for**

**2012 Australian WOC and World Cup Teams**

**1. Background**

**1.1 Australian Teams for 2012**

This document sets out selection arrangements for the following elite Australian orienteering teams in 2012:

- World Orienteering Championships

- World Cup Races

They reflect input from Australian and overseas-based elite athletes; coaches, experience from past selection processes and general selection guidelines published by the Australian Sports Commission. They also reflect Orienteering Australia’s rules.

**1.2 Selection Panel**

The selection panel for 2012 is:

* WOC Head Coach: Rob Lewis robert\_lewis\_7@hotmail.com
* Bushrangers Coach & WOC Assistant Coach: Wendy Read wread2@eq.edu.au
* Manager, High Performance Kay Haarsma kayhaarsma@hotmail.com
* Chair of Selectors: Jenny Casanova jenny.casanova@health.sa.gov.au

In accordance with the OA rules, members of the selection panel will not vote or take

part in discussion on selection of the class in which he or she, or a member of his or

her immediate family, or a partner, is a contender for selection.

**2. 2012 World Orienteering Championships (WOC)**

**2.1 Programme**

**July 14-21, 2012, Lausanne, Switzerland**

Sat July 14th Sprint Qualification and Final

Sun July 15th Long Qualification

Mon July 16th Middle Qualification

Tues July 17th Middle Final

Thurs July 19th Long Final

Sat July 21st Relay

**2.2 Team size**

The WOC team will ideally consist of at least four men and four women, provided that the available athletes clearly demonstrate their potential to reach the final in the races in which they compete. Additional team members will only be selected based on their potential to reach a final, up to a maximum of six men and six women, noting that a maximum of three athletes can be selected for any discipline.

The team will be announced shortly after the second set of selection trials in May.

* Given Australia’s limited resources to support a large team and the possibility of injury or change in form, it is desirable that athletes can perform at the international level in more than one discipline.
* However, specialisation in a single discipline (and particularly in the sprint discipline) will be supported where the athlete is perceived to have outstanding ability in that discipline.
* Given the rigours of the WOC week, only exceptional athletes will be considered for selection to run all four disciplines (sprint, middle, long and relay).

**Reserves** may be announced but there will be no funding for them to travel to or train with the team in Europe.

**The selectors will name the participants for each discipline of WOC, including the relay, when the team is named.**

Each team member will run at least one discipline, subject to them not suffering from **significant illness or injury or substantial loss of form**. At the discretion of the WOC Head Coach and WOC Assistant Coach, fitness tests may be conducted and selected athletes may be withdrawn from the team should sufficient fitness not be demonstrated.

Any decision on changes to the races which athletes run will be made by the WOC Head Coach in consultation with the WOC Assistant Coach, as per OA Operational Manual 5.1. Decisions regarding each participant’s races will take into account runner’s preferences, form, fitness, and injury and illness status at the time. Athletes should understand that they have a responsibility to disclose any significant injury problems to team management upon occurrence.

If the Head Coach suggests an athlete run a discipline for which they weren’t initially selected then the reasoning behind this decision will be conveyed to the Manager, High Performance and Chair of Selectors in a timely fashion, preferably before the event takes place.

The order of the relay team will also be decided by the WOC Head Coach, in consultation with the Assistant Coach, with athlete input. This may take place during WOC week.

**2.3 Selection trials and criteria**

Team selection in 2012 will be based on the following criteria :

(i) Primary (ie most important) criteria

1. Results in the selection trials listed below

(ii) Secondary criteria, in order of importance:

1. Past international performance, particularly at WOC

2. Recent performance at major Australian events within the last 12 months

3. Previous Australian performance

(iii) Ability to relate well within a team atmosphere.

Athletes are reminded that in accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, priority will be given to selecting a team which can be expected to behave in a harmonious and responsible manner. Past unacceptable behaviour by an orienteer will be taken into account by the selection panel.

Selection will be largely evidence-based. It will analyse event results to determine who is likely to achieve the best results at the WOC. While the selection panel will take all relevant factors into consideration, the strongest cases for selection will be those that meet both the primary and secondary criteria.

Those athletes who do not have past international results which prove that they are capable of making finals will need to rely on results at the trials to demonstrate that they are better prospects at WOC 2012 than those who have performed well at WOC in previous years.

While the primary selection criteria will remain pre-eminent, **selection for the sprint discipline and the relay** will focus slightly more on past performance than the long and middle races, as ability in these disciplines is best assessed across a number of races and it is impractical to organise sufficient specific trials.

The selection panel also wishes to make clear that sprint contenders do not need to demonstrate a high standard in ‘traditional’ forest orienteering if the WOC event will be an urban sprint.

When two athletes have very similar performance, based on the criteria above, selection will have regard to potential for future development, including factors such as age, experience and running speed.

**2.3.1 The Primary WOC 2012 Criteria - Selection Trials**

The Australian selection trials for 2012 will cover two sets of races:

* all four races of Easter from 06 to 09 April 2012 in Queensland
* the three National Orienteering League races in NSW on 12 and 13 May.

To give everyone a fair and open chance for selection, all Australian-based athletes shall compete in the Australian selection trials and overseas based athletes are strongly encouraged to do so.

**Absence at selection trials** will be normally be taken as an indication that the athlete is uncompetitive relative to others at the time. Anyone who is unable to compete in one of the sets of selection trials (e.g. through injury, illness or absence overseas) will be required to advise the Chair of Selectors stating the reasons for the absence. If the absence is due to injury or illness a medical certificate shall be provided.

**Overseas selection races** will be scheduled by the selection panel for athletes who choose not to return for the Australian selection trials. These races will be identified by the selection panel by early March, and publicised on the OA website.

Athletes will need to achieve results at the overseas trials which are clearly superior to those achieved by their Australian-based competitors, and competetive with WOC team members from other countries. In essence: if you are at the margins of selection you are strongly encouraged to return for the Australian selection trials to demonstrate your position relative to your peers. This is the same principle that has been used in previous years. It is also essential to consult with the Chair of Selectors over your plans to ensure there is no ambiguity over expectations.

There are no absolute measures of performance (ie times and records) so **relative performance compared to other athletes vying for selection will be crucial to the selection process.**

Selection trials provide the most recent guide to form. Within practical constraints of timing and venue, the trials provide a situation of pressure to perform on the day, a feature of WOC.

Within the constraints of team size, outstanding performance in individual selection races will be rewarded with selection, in recognition that athletes who can achieve outstanding results are more likely to be able to achieve top 30 performances at WOC.

In accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, the selection panel will take account of any **exceptional circumstances** affecting the performance of candidates in the selection trials.

However the onus is on the candidate to advise the Chair of Selectors in writing of these exceptional circumstances.

Given that some **selection races will be run on areas previously used**, the selection panel is also required to take into account competitors’ training or competition experience in these areas.

**2.3.2 The Secondary WOC 2012 Criteria – Past Performance**

This includes results in the following events in order of reducing importance:

**Past International Performance**

* World Championships;
* World Games, Nordic Championships and World Cup races;
* Other major international races such Jukola, Tio Mila, JWOC, Oringen, Park World Tour and major elite series and sprint races.
* Bushrangers Test matches, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships;
* other World Ranking Events

**Pre-selection**

Upon application from the athlete, the Selection Panel may pre-select one or more athletes. This will only be done in circumstances where the athlete has:

* outstanding previous international performances
* a demonstrated high level of current fitness.

**2.4 Nominations and team announcements**

It is important that all athletes who wish to be considered for selection in national teams and squads inform the Head Coach and Manager, High Performance of their current contact details.

All athletes shall ensure they conform with the OA operational manual with regard to anti-doping provisions and the maintenance of up to date contact details with ASADA. Failure to meet such obligations may result in an athlete’s nomination for selection being refused.

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection in the Australian 2012 WOC team will be required to submit a nomination form by email to both the Chair of Selectors and the Manager, High Performance, as outlined below, **by APRIL 1 2012.**

However, the selectors have the discretion to call for nominations until the end of Easter, from athletes who have not submitted a nomination by that date and whom they consider have the potential to make the WOC team in one or more disciplines.

All nominations should include the information set out in the nomination form which is Appendix 1 to this document.

It is the intention that the 2012 WOC team be announced within 2 weeks of the second set of selection races on May 12/13.

**3.0 World Cup Races**

**3.1 2012 World Cup Dates**

**14-20 May:** European Orienteering Championships, Sweden (Sprint, Middle, Long)
**23-24 June:** PostFinance, Switzerland (Middle, Sprint)
**14-21 July:** World Orienteering Championships, Switzerland (Sprint, Middle, Long)
**1-8 September:** Nordic Orienteering Tour. Norway (Sprint, Middle), Sweden (Knock-out Sprint), Finland (Sprint, chase start Middle)

**3.2 Potential size of team**

Australia may enter up to 6 men and 6 women for each of the three non-WOC sets of races.

No funding is expected to be available except for the payment of entry fees for members of the High Performance Group of the National Senior Squad (NSS).

**3.3 Selection trials and criteria**

There will be no separate selection trials for the World Cup races.

Selection will be made by the selection panel, having regard to the Australian ranking list at the time of selection and the need to ensure that athletes are of appropriate international standard. The following arrangements will apply:

1. Members of the High Performance Group of the NSS will be considered as being of appropriate international standard and automatically will be selected for the relevant World Cup Team provided they nominate by the required dates (see below).

2. Other members of the NSS and the members of the 2010 Australian Junior World Championship team will also be considered as being of appropriate international standard and will be eligible to be considered for selection.

3. Athletes who are not in the NSS may apply for selection on a case by case basis. However, it is anticipated that the selection of athletes from outside the NSS will be the exception rather than the rule. The selectors will consider, amongst other things, the following matters:

* where an athlete has shown high quality performance in recent high level national or international-standard races including Jukola, Tio Mila, JWOC, O-Ringen, Park World Tour, Swedish elite series and other major international elite series and sprint races, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships and other World Ranking Events
* circumstances where an athlete has previously performed at a high level in international races and is coming back from injury or pregnancy.

**3.4 Nominations and team announcements**

All athletes who wish to be considered for World Cup races should advise both the Chair of Selectors and the Manager, High Performance by email, using the attached nomination form (Appendix 1);

by April 1st for the May and June series of races;

by July 1st for the September series of races

Nominations should set out:

* the races you are nominating to enter
* in the case of athletes who are not a member of the NSS, performances in recent high level national or international races
* any other relevant information in support of your nomination.

Team announcements should be made within 2 weeks of the relevant closing dates.

**4.0 Bushrangers Test Matches**

Nominations for these will be called for separately when the dates of the Test matches have been determined.

**5.0 Enquiries**

Enquiries about the nomination process are to be directed initially to the Chair of Selectors, Jenny Casanova jenny.casanova@health.sa.gov.au or phone 0427 605 167

Jenny Casanova

Chair of Selectors

December 16th, 2012