

Orienteering Australia selection arrangements for 2014 Australian World Orienteering Championships team

1. Background

1.1 Australian WOC Team for 2014

This document sets out detailed selection arrangements for the following elite Australian orienteering team in 2014:

- World Orienteering Championships

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.

Our aim is to select the best team of athletes who are able to achieve success both individually and for Orienteering Australia.

1.2 Changes to WOC format from 2014 and Australian Team Size

With the removal of qualifying races for middle and long distances at WOC, which have been replaced by a 4-person mixed sprint relay, the number of athletes which Australia is permitted to enter in each race in 2014 is as follows:

• Sprint Qualification & Final	3 men	3 women
• Mixed Sprint Relay	2 men	2 women
• Long Final	1 man	2 women
• Middle Final	1 man	2 women
• Forest Relay	3 men	3 women

All Federations are still permitted 3 athletes in the sprint qualification race but the number of places in the Long distance final and the Middle distance final depends on the Federation's division:

- Division 1 Federations have 3 places;
- Division 2 Federations have 2 places (Aust women);
- Division 3 Federations have 1 place (Aust men).

For 2014, the top 8 Federations are placed in Division 1, the next 14 Federations are placed in Division 2 and the remaining Federations are placed in Division 3.

1.3 Relevance of Australian 2014 WOC results to potential long and middle distance final race slots in 2015 (from IOF website):

Every year, points for each Federation are calculated on the basis of their results at the previous two World Orienteering Championships.

- In the Long and Middle distance competitions: 1st place scores 120 points, 2nd place scores 100, 3rd place scores 80, positions 4-10 score 70-65-60-57-55-53-51, positions 11-60 score 50-49-...-1.
- For the 2014 calculation only the best 3 runners from a Federation in the Long and Middle Distance competitions can score points; any other runners from the Federation do not score points but the points for their positions are not reallocated.
- In the Relay: 1st place scores 240 points, 2nd place scores 160, 3rd place scores 130, 4th place scores 114, 5th place scores 106 and positions 6-30 score 100-96-...-8-4.
- For each Federation, separately for men and women, the points are added to give the total men's score and total women's score. In the case of equal points overall, the Relay placing in the most recent World Championships determines which Federation is placed highest.

From 2015 onwards, the Federations are ordered within their current divisions by calculating their points. Then:

- The highest-scoring Federation from Division 2 is promoted to Division 1 for the following year.
- The lowest-scoring Federation from Division 1 is relegated to Division 2 for the following year.
- The 2 highest-scoring Federations from Division 3 are promoted to Division 2 for the following year.
- The 2 lowest-scoring Federations from Division 2 are relegated to Division 3 for the following year.
- If a Federation outside the automatically promoted group scores more, or as many, points as a Federation outside the automatically relegated group – despite having fewer runners to earn points (e.g. if the 2nd highest-scoring Federation in Division 2 outscores the 2nd lowest-scoring Federation in Division 1) – those Federations also swap divisions.

1.4 Selection Panel

The selection panel for 2014 is:

- WOC Head Coach: Tom Quayle tomquayle@hotmail.com
- WOC Assistant Coach/Manager: Wendy Read wread2@eq.edu.au
- Orienteering Australia Head Coach: TBA
- Chair of Selectors (non-voting): TBA

There have been changes to the composition of the Senior Selection Panel following OA's appointment of a Head Coach for Orienteering Australia and the Australian Sports Commission's recommendation for a non-voting chair.

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. 2014 World Orienteering Championships (WOC)

2.1 Programme

July 5-12, Trentino – Veneto, Italy

Sat July 5th Sprint Qualification and Final

Mon July 7th Mixed Sprint Relay

Wed July 9th Long Final

Fri July 10th Middle Final

Sat July 11th Forest Relay

2.2 Team size

The WOC team will be selected to maximise Australia's uptake of the race slots available to us and will ideally consist of at least four men and four women, provided that the available athletes clearly demonstrate their current or future potential to reach the final in the sprint race, or to reach the top 60 in the middle or long final. Emphasis will be placed on maximising the results achievable by Australian teams in both relays.

The team will be announced shortly after the final Australian selection trials at the end of April.

- 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 format) will be supported where the athlete is perceived to have outstanding ability in that discipline.
- Given the rigours of the WOC week, it is unlikely that any athletes will be considered for selection to run all five race disciplines (individual sprint, mixed sprint relay, middle final, long final and forest 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, possibly including the members of both sprint and forest relays, 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 WOC 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 OA Head Coach and Chair of Selectors in a timely fashion, preferably before the event takes place.

The order of the relay teams 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 2014 will be based on the following criteria :

(i) Primary (ie most important) criteria

1. Results in the selection trials listed below, noting that there will be differing emphasis placed on the race results depending on whether the athlete's primary focus is sprint or forest racing;

(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 2014 than those who have performed well at WOC in previous years.

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 trial results are more likely to be able to achieve top 16 performances at WOC.

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(s) they are nominating for will be urban sprint(s).

Athletes with a history of mispunching jeopardise their likelihood of selection. Results from a selection race where an athlete has mispunched may not be considered by the selection panel towards an athlete's selection.

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 2014 Criteria - Selection Trials

The Australian selection trials for 2014 will cover four sets of races:

- 1) Brisbane NOL races Feb 22nd/23rd
 - Sprint relay Saturday am (teams of 2 of the same gender, each athlete runs twice)
 - Sprint qualifier Saturday pm (top 5 from each heat go through to the final)
 - Sprint final Sunday morning

All are urban races so these will be the primary trials for athletes nominating purely for individual and relay sprint disciplines. Greatest emphasis will be placed on the results of the sprint final..

Other sprint races among the WOC selection trials will be the Good Friday forest sprint (April 18th) and the Mixed sprint relay on Anzac Day Fri April 25th. Athletes nominating purely for individual and relay sprint disciplines are advised to attend these to provide secondary results.

- 2) Beechworth NOL races March 22nd/23rd
 - Rowdy Flat Middle Distance Sat pm
 - Kangaroo Crossing Long Distance Sun amAll athletes nominating for forest races (long final, middle final, relay) are advised to attend these; they replace the traditional 'WOC trials' in these disciplines.

- 3) Australian 3-days April 18-21, Rylstone, NSW
 - Forest sprint Rylstone Common
 - Middle distance Clandulla
 - Long distance Clandulla
 - Relay distance ClandullaAll athletes are advised to attend these as Easter has always been one major set of selection trials.

- 4) Mixed sprint relay Lithgow High School Friday April 25th and Long Distance, Gardens of Stone, Saturday April 26th. The relay will provide invaluable practice to any athlete nominating for either relay team at WOC and therefore attendance is highly recommended. It is acknowledged that there are 3 long races among the selection trials and a limited number of long race positions; see comments below.

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 likewise. 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.

The reason for using all NOL races throughout February-April as selection trials is so that athletes can demonstrate consistency of performance, technical superiority and evidence of a solid training base. It is important that athletes seeking WOC team selection, maximise their chances of producing consistent, quality race results which count, by attending as many races as practical.

Absence at selection trials will 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 should be provided.

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.**

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 may also take into account competitors' training or competition experience in these areas.

2.3.2 Overseas selection races

Overseas selection races are to be scheduled by the selection panel for athletes living overseas who choose not to return for the Australian selection trials. These races will have been individualised for those nominees, who should ideally run at least 2 trial races in each of their chosen disciplines.

Athletes will need to achieve results at the overseas trials which are judged at least equal to those achieved by Australian-based past WOC team members and competitive 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.

2.3.3 The Secondary WOC 2014 Criteria – Past Performance

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

Past International Performance

- World Championships;
- World Cup races in 2013;
- JWOC 2013
- Other major international races such as WUOC, World Games, Nordic Championships, Jukola, Tio Mila, O-ringen, Park World Tour and major elite series and sprint races.
- Bushrangers' Test matches, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships

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 within the past 2 years
- a demonstrated high level of current fitness.

2.3.4 Other Considerations

No outstanding debts to Orienteering Australia, Australian University Sport or the athlete's relevant state association.

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 OA Head Coach and Manager, High Performance of their current contact details. All athletes shall have submitted an athlete profile/proforma to the OA Operations Manager, High Performance (nickdent7@gmail.com), prior to nominating. 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 2014 WOC team will be required to submit a nomination form by email to both the Manager, High Performance (Kay [Haarsma: kayhaarsma@hotmail.com](mailto:kayhaarsma@hotmail.com) and WOC Head Coach (Tom Quayle tomquayle@hotmail.com) **by 8am Saturday February 22nd 2014 (i.e. before the start of the first trial)**

All nominations should include the information set out in the combined WOC/WC/WUOC nomination form which is available from the OA website.

It is the intention that the 2014 WOC team be announced within 2 weeks of the final Australian selection races on April 25/26 unless any subsequent international selection races are determined.

3.0 Enquiries

Enquiries about the nomination process are to be directed initially to Wendy Read, WOC Assistant Coach/Manager: wread2@eq.edu.au

Jenny Casanova
Outgoing Chair of Selectors
January 31st, 2014