

GLOSSARY

1. Child: For the purpose of this Code a child is any person under 18 years of age
2. Orienteering Leaders: For the purpose of this Code all adults involved in *children's Orienteering* are referred to as Orienteering Leaders. All have a role to play in ensuring that procedures as described in the Code are put in place, agreed, followed and reviewed on a regular basis. The principal leadership roles (some of which overlap) include the following:
 - Club/Organisation Officers: President, Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members are appointed to oversee club activities and the development of the club/organisation.
 - Administrators: While administrators may not be actively involved in children's sport, they may be involved in organising activities and events.
 - Coach/Trainer: A coach is a person who assists the young participant to develop his or her skills and abilities in a progressive way.
 - Instructor/Sports Teacher: Instructors are involved in the systematic development of the core skills and abilities of an activity, sometimes in a non-competitive context.
 - Manager: A manager is an individual who takes overall responsibility for a team or a group of sports people and who will often have a direct input into the nature and organisation of the activity itself.
 - Mentor: A mentor is an individual who undertakes an overseeing role with a group of participants under 18 years of age, often in co-operation with other mentors.
 - Selector: A selector is an individual who has responsibility for the selection of participants under 18 years of age for teams and events.
 - Official: An official is an individual charged with the responsibility of ensuring that the rules of an activity are adhered to in a formal way. This category includes referees, judges, umpires, etc.
 - Assistants: Assistants are those people who provide back-up to any of the roles outlined in this section and often such assistants are involved on an intermittent basis (e.g. provision of lifts to matches or competitions; checking equipment, etc.).
 - Junior Representative
 - Schools Orienteering organisers
 - Schools Orienteering Volunteers
 - Irish Junior Squad volunteers
3. Children's Officers: Children's Officers are appointed within clubs to act as a resource for children and to represent them at Committee level.

4. Designated Person: A person who is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the Statutory Authorities. This person will also be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of young people.
5. Statutory Authorities: the authorities who promote the protection and welfare of young people and who have the responsibility for the investigation and/or validation of suspected child abuse, i.e. in the ROI it is An Garda Síochána and the Health Services Executive.
6. Statutory Authority Guidelines on Child Protection: Children First: National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children, Department of Health and Children 1999 (IRL).
7. IOA: Irish Orienteering Association
8. IOF: International Orienteering Federation

PREFACE

It is the policy of the Irish Orienteering Association to set standards for the welfare of all children taking part in orienteering with a view to protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm.

This Safety Statement covers all disciplines of orienteering including: Foot, Mountain Bike, Ski and Trail.

WHAT IS ORIENTEERING?

Orienteering is an adventure sport. The risks to juniors are small as many orienteers are moving around the same areas at the same time. It is part of the sport for juniors to go out alone on courses in forests and open hillsides.

Orienteering is an amateur sport, organised by non-professionals belonging to orienteering clubs.

At some events there may be “String Courses” for children under the age of 8 years. The children follow a long string from control to control, so they cannot get lost. While on the course, they are visible to parents and carers.

The “Playing Fields” of orienteering are usually forests and wilderness areas and as a consequence club houses and changing rooms are usually not available. Young orienteers travel to the event venues in cars of their parents or friends or in groups by buses e.g. schools groups.

EXTRACTS FROM IRISH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION RULES

DEFINITION OF FOOT ORIENTEERING

Orienteering is a sport in which the competitors navigate independently through the terrain. Competitors must visit a number of control points marked on the ground in the shortest possible time aided only by map and compass. The course, defined by the location of the controls, is not revealed to competitors until they start.

CLASSES FOR COMPETITION

Division by gender and age

Competitors are divided into classes according to their sex and age. Women may compete in men's classes.

A competitor changes from one age category to the next on the 1st January of the calendar year in which he reaches the age of the older age category.

If age categories and classes are used they shall be as follows:

Men	Women	Age
M10 -	W10-	8, 9, 10
M12 -	W12-	11, 12
M14 -	W14-	13, 14
M16 -	W16-	15, 16
M18 -	W18-	17, 18

The age categories and classes indicated may be split further for a competition with an entry concentrated within a narrow age range (e.g. a schools competition).

R5.2 ORGANISER

The Organiser shall be responsible for the organisation of the event. He shall ensure that other competition officials are appointed as necessary.

The Organiser shall be a member of the IOA.

R5.3 PLANNER

- R5.3 1 The Course Planner shall design the orienteering courses and be responsible for
- (1) The preparation of control markers and control codes,
 - (2) Overprinting maps with courses or the preparation of master maps,
 - (3) The preparation of control description lists, and
 - (4) The correct placement of the control markers prior to the competition.

R5.4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONTROLLER

- R5.4.2.1 Controllers shall be conversant with the IOA Rules of Foot Orienteering.
- R5.4.2.2 The Controller shall be responsible for ensuring that the courses are fair, and that the competition is organised fairly and in accordance with the Rules. If he becomes aware that any breach of these Rules has occurred, or is likely to occur, he shall take whatever action he considers necessary. The Controller may require the Organiser to cancel the competition if necessary.

THE ORGANISATION OF AN ORIENTEERING EVENT

The Map of the area is the basic necessity. This is a large scale colour printed map, with appropriate symbols. Each competitor carries his/her map with the control sites marked on it.

The Organiser is concerned with the overall arrangements for the event. This includes necessary permissions, facilities, car parking and general safety.

The Course Planner plans a series of different courses suited to the types of competitor expected, considering the terrain and safety precautions. The control markers are put out shortly before the competition.

The Controller is responsible for the competition - standards, fairness, terrain, weather precautions and safety.

These Officers, together with other helpers, work together to ensure an event which is safe, suitable and enjoyable.

The competitor is timed from the Start line and is timed as he/she finds the control markers in consecutive order.

There is a “punch” or an electronic recorder at each control and they record each competitor’s presence at each control.

The competitor with the fastest time wins. Thus physical, intellectual map reading and technical skills are tested.

IRISH ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION POLICY STATEMENT

“As the organisation recognised by the IOF and Sport Ireland, as being responsible for the administration of Orienteering, we are responsible for overseeing the adoption and the implementation of the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport, by our members.

To maximise compliance with the Code, the IOA will:

- ensure that the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport is adopted, agreed to, implemented and signed up to by all members
- amend, as necessary, its Constitution to reflect a safe and clearly defined method of recruiting, selecting and managing
- appoint a National Children’s Officer/Designated Person . S/he should be a member of the Executive Committee
- ensure that effective disciplinary, complaints and appeals procedures are in place
- have in place procedures for dealing with a concern or complaint made to the Statutory Authorities against a committee member or an Orienteering Leader. Regulations should stipulate that an Orienteering Leader who is the subject of an allegation, which has been reported to the Statutory Authorities, should stand aside while the matter is being examined. S/he should be invited to resume full duties when and if appropriate internal disciplinary procedures are completed
- ensure that all affiliated Orienteering clubs with child members are signed up to the IOA’s constitution
- be represented by appropriate personnel at all education/training workshops dealing with the Code
- where children are involved in representative teams, designate an appropriate senior officer as the person with responsibility for following the guidelines of the Code
- review its child protection procedures regularly through open discussion with its members, Sports Councils and Statutory Authorities

- promote contact with representatives of the Statutory Authorities. The building of these relationships will contribute to the creation of an environment in which education and knowledge of child protection issues and procedures are widely known
- examine and take appropriate action in response to any reports or observations of unusual incidents

(This Policy Statement will be put as a Motion to the AGM in May 2017 and if accepted it will be written into the IOA Constitution)

THE PURPOSE OF THE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

Thousands of children, young people and adults participate in orienteering events each year. This is achieved by the commitment of adult members within orienteering clubs affiliated to the Irish Orienteering Association. It is a priority of the Irish Orienteering Association to be concerned for the welfare and safety of children and young people.

The Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport is designed to enable everyone within orienteering to fulfil their proper responsibilities within the organisation:

- To encourage safe practices for those who work with junior orienteers.
- To prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of junior orienteers.
- To set out appropriate responses and procedures in the event of abuse taking place.
- To safeguard those who work with junior orienteers from the consequences of unfounded accusations.