

## **Report to IOA**

The annual meeting of the IOSG (Irish Orienteering Schools Group) took place on May 26th at 7.30 p.m. in the Kilcoran Lodge Hotel near Cahir.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the 2009-10 year, to clarify structures and to set dates for 2010-11.

In attendance were: Mary Healy (Leinster Schools/GEN); Kevin O'Callaghan (Connacht Schools/GMIT), Hugh Dobbs (SE Schools/Wato), Liam O'Brien (CSOA/CorkO), Willie Fitzgerald (CSOA/CorkO), Jim Callnan (CSOA/CorkO), Ann Marie Lucey (CSOA), Ted Lucey (CSOA), Andrew Cox (Development Officer/Wato), Ed Niland (Director of Education/Boru), Barbara Foley-Fisher (Child Protection Officer/Mnav), Nigel Foley Fisher (AITO)

The following are the main topics discussed and recommendations made.

### **1. Organisation of events:**

- a. Risk assessment needs to be carried out for each event organised
- b. Primary and Secondary schools events should be organised on different days or at least with different starts, where resources and safety issues demand it.
- c. All events should be safe, enjoyable and positive for those involved.
- d. All event organisers should complete the Garda Vetting Process.
- e. An accident book should be used to record and issues that arise at an event.
- f. Support of clubs in terms of manpower and equipment is vitally important.
- g. Entry details must be completed in advance and changes on the day should be kept to a minimum. Some flexibility may be needed with secondary schools.
- h. Entry fees should be sent in advance where feasible.
- i. Competitor details should be written down in sequence at the start to facilitate checking later
- j. Trophies for Irish Schools Competition to be considered. The IOA could consider financial support.
- k. All events to be posted on both IOA website and IOSG blog. All dates agreed for 2010-11 were agreed. See blog for full list.
- l. ISOC (Irish schools competition) draft rules were discussed and changes related to age classes recommended. See blog for updated version.
- m. Affiliation to the IOSG was discussed and a simplified version recommended. For Insurance reasons it is important that specific statement of IOA policies are listed. See blog for updated version.
- n. Family Day run by clubs should be encouraged at the weekend following a school event to encourage further participation.

### **2. Sport Ident:**

- a. Clubs have been supportive in lending equipment
- b. More SI cards are needed with the growth in numbers at events. The current 100 SI cards with the Development Officer have been heavily used. Another 150 to 200 are required in the Leinster region. Could the IOA consider financial support?

- c. It may be possible to access SI equipment recently purchased by Outdoor Education centres.
- d. Would older generation equipment be available from clubs as they upgrade their own equipment?
- e. Power supply is an ongoing problem, particularly where no buildings close-by. Any advice welcome?
- f. A school-specific SI workshop to exchange ideas and improve efficiency would be welcome.

**3. Map availability:**

- a. The availability of maps is not meeting demand for suitable areas for use with schools. These ideally require:
  - i. Good bus access
  - ii. Electricity supply if possible
  - iii. Toilets
  - iv. Large holding area at start
  - v. 1:4000 or 1:5000 scale
  - vi. Updated recently
- b. We request that the IOA encourage all clubs to release maps to those organising recognised/registered school events.
- c. A list of mappers that are currently available to map/remap areas with schools in mind is urgently required.
- d. The Local Sports Partnerships are a possible source of part funding. They have shown interest in Permanent Orienteering courses to date.
- e. We need large scale maps (1:4000 or 1:5000) to cater for different technical levels (mostly yellow/red colour coded). We require IOA financial support for this process.
- f. Suitable urban park areas should be selected to cater for clusters of schools.

**4. Training:**

- a. The use of Transition Year Pupils to help run school events is a common practice and needs to be further encouraged with basic certified course. Proficiency courses run by Outdoor Education centres require the Instructors to be fully trained. The TY pupils can then deliver to Primary level and 1<sup>st</sup> year pupils.
- b. The JCPE (Junior Certificate Physical Education Programme) orienteering instructors programme needs to be fully recognised and certified. This will encourage development of orienteering in Secondary schools. They can then deliver an event and provide a map.
- c. The Active Schools Programme have been in communication and will promote schools orienteering in their training information.
- d. More formal links should be established with the Uniformed organisations.