

Junior Representative Orienteering Report 2021

Irish Orienteering Association

For the year 2020-2021 we have once again been significantly restricted by COVID-19 and there is not a significant amount to report.

Activities

Once again this year junior and all orienteering activities have been curtailed by COVID restrictions. International competitions initially postponed were eventually cancelled.

Training

Virtual Training Sessions on Zoom

While our real-time training events have had to be cancelled in the last while due to the presence of COVID-19, we moved last year to Zoom to host a variety of training sessions. There were further zoom training sessions and presentations in the autumn and winter this year for the various junior groups. This hopefully will remain an additional means of bringing the juniors from across the country together from time to time to work together to train technical elements and be part of other training presentations. We are working on organising some international elite athletes to give presentations to our orienteers in the coming months.

As we have been recently able to allow for junior training activities work has been ongoing to get some training events up and running. Tony Cotter has been working on a series of training events to take place in Cork – the first of which has already taken place with more on the way. Plans are underway for a series of junior training events in the Leinster area with a number of clubs working on this series to bring juniors back together and engaged in orienteering.

Summer events

There was no organised camp over the summer.

2021 Events

Currently JWOC has been postponed until September. We await the next bulletin for planning. We are engaging with Sport Ireland with regard to restrictions and the ability to hold selection events and the possibility of sending a team to JWOC. The planning is going ahead for JHI

Communications

We have continued to work using Clubforce to keep track of registrations, consent forms and to communicate in a manner that is GDPR compliant.

Next year

In a similar vein to last year the plan for the coming year would include the following:

- Continue to develop communications across all junior orienteers
- Have teams attend training events for EYOC and JWOC
- Select well prepared teams for EYOC and JWOC
- Encourage juniors to attend international competitions throughout the year where possible
- Full team of 24 for JHI
- Increase the number of regular training events and camps held across the country as well as increase the numbers attending.
- Continue to encourage juniors to train and track their training (technical and physical) in training diaries / attackpoint
- Develop suggested training plans that are age appropriate for juniors to follow
- Possibly continue intermittent zoom training sessions for technical training to maintain regularity of training available

After much consideration I have taken the decision to step down from the role of Director of Junior Representative Orienteering. Over the last number of months my work and personal circumstances

have changed significantly and I am no longer in a position to give the time that this role requires and deserves. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the juniors and I hope that I have helped to establish some elements of communication and training that can be continued and developed in future. I am incredibly grateful to Ruth Lynam, Mike Long and Ciarán Donaghy for their knowledge, guidance and unlimited patience in easing me into this role and all it entails and helping me along the way. Many thanks as well to Mary for always being available to help me and provide support. To Aine and the rest of the IOA, juniors and parents thank you very much for your assistance along the way.

Hopefully we will see the juniors in action again very soon

Colleen Robinson
Director Junior Representative Orienteering
Irish Orienteering Association