

To the Executive Committee & Members of Orienteering Ireland,

This report provides a general synopsis of activities coordinated and carried out by the operations team across 2023/24.

The set up of our Operations Team was changed during this period and our Orienteering Coordinators became Regional Development Officers (RDOs), while my appointment was adjusted to Operations Manager (also confirming the duties of the National Development Officer into this role). These adjustments recognised the work that was being carried out by us and brought our job titles into a more appropriate and recognisable format for dealing with all our stakeholders.

Across this period, the operations team engaged with multiple Local Sports Partnerships to ensure that our development projects were delivered, or to make headway into regions that have little or no orienteering presence. We team delivered the Ready to Go programme in 14 Local Authority areas. This was supported by 7 follow-on ParkO events where RTGO attendees got the chance to run events under our guidance.

The operations team also coordinated and delivered other Sport Ireland led activities such as Women in Sport Week, Her Outdoors Week and the European Week of Sport. There were also specific events delivered to groups with additional needs, and targeted schools with a focus on generating more interest in our sport, with the ultimate goal being transferring of this interest to clubs.

This period also saw the introduction of direct club support from the Ops Team. This commenced with RDOs being assigned clubs and acting as Club Support Officers. Earlier this year, we saw the commencement of Come & Try It (CATI) events, where our RDOs coordinated instruction for newcomers at club events. So far the feedback has been positive on this, with some attendees already joining clubs on the back of this assisted entry to the world of orienteering. Host clubs were happy that there was no additional burden placed on them when hosting a CATI event, and this will be rolled out nationwide in the coming months.

This year saw the direct support (in minor supporting roles) for the organisers of IOC 2024. This is hoped to continue and to expand to allow host clubs the opportunity to avail of assistance year on year.

Alongside these events, the operations team also completed a large volume of administrative and development support work. This included ensuring that grant applications (Sports Capital, Core, Covid Restart Women in Sport Grants etc) met stringent standards and follow up, ensuring that OI continues to be able to avail of these grant opportunities in the future. The team also coordinated and delivered online training covering. Support to learning programmes including engagement with Coaching Ireland, coordinating, and developing our own courses (Instructor, Planning) was also completed. The Ops Team has seven major projects currently ongoing, and these spread across multiple fields in OI from website redesign to education and awards reviews. Our volunteer Executive Committee (ExCom) members have been very supportive and appreciative of the efforts of our Ops Team and their ability to

OPERATIONS REPORT 2023/24



assign their work time to projects to ensure that they reach completion or review stages on time.

New MapRun signage was rolled out to LSPs in 2023 and these have proven popular for the advertisement of areas which have a MapRun facility. Prior to this, the only method of knowing an area had MapRun was through our website or word of mouth. Now a non-orienteer can start orienteering without having to know what MapRun is by seeing the signs in their local parks. More funded MapRuns are being currently rolled out nationwide, with some existing MapRun areas having accessible courses added to them.

Behind all the prep work and meetings required to get these events and projects delivered, the team also provided admin support to OI in the form of enquiry handling, insurance processing, ExCom support, liaising with Sport Ireland and its departments, and engaging with new stakeholders.

This report provides only a snapshot of the multiple tasks completed by the Ops Team, as to outline every detail of the work completed would not be possible. I would like to thank Déirdre & Mark for their continued enthusiasm, efforts and engagement since I have joined OI, and to Eileen, Pat and the others who have also been more than helpful. Áine as always has been helpful when an “unknown” issue has cropped up and I thank her for her continued support. We are currently preparing for next season and are looking forward to delivering more quality and exciting projects to our clubs, members and to those who have not yet discovered our great sport across Ireland.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support & I look forward to seeing you at IOC2024!

Yours in Sport,

**Eric O'Brien,
Operations Manager,
Orienteering Ireland**