



Eoin Browne

Director of Education

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Beginner Training Sessions

This spring, two beginner training sessions were successfully conducted alongside events in Leinster. These sessions, which were promoted separately, saw a good level of participation. They provided an excellent platform for trainee instructors to gain practical experience and fulfil their logbook hours.

The positive response indicates a demand for such training when it complements an event. We plan to continue this successful format in future beginner events. Thanks to Mark Stephens, Terry Lawless, and all the trainee instructors for their efforts in facilitating these sessions.

Courses and Training

We have had a busy calendar of instructor training courses of the past few months with training taking place in Cork, Kerry and Mayo.

Eileen Young was successful assessed for her Coach Developer Award.

Déirdre Ni Challanáin is close to completing her Coach Developer training through Sport Ireland Coaching.

Leaving Certificate PE

The inclusion of orienteering on the PE curriculum at Leaving Cert is a great opportunity for the sport. The orienteering skills are poorly written in the curriculum. This complaint was echoed by many NGBs, and was taken on board by Sport Ireland who have liaised with the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) to allow NGBs to have an input into a review of the skills and hopefully the assessment methods.

If these changes go through we will be in better position to promote orienteering as a viable option for Leaving Cert students.



Other Training

Our Planner's Course and Introduction to Mapping Courses are now established and becoming regular fixtures on the training calendar. Participants will be pleased to know that we have developed certificates for candidates who complete these training courses. Thanks to Deirdre for coordinating these courses.

Project Vellum

Introduction

Project Vellum was a working group initiated by Eric O'Brien to review and revise Orienteering Ireland's Skills and Coaching Pathways. The project commenced in late November 2023 with a meeting of the Education subcommittee - our team of Coach Developers.

Project Aims

- Review orienteering skills levels 1-5.
- Develop a standard Training Syllabi and reference documents for instructors and program coordinators.
- Restructure and revise current OI qualifications.
- Ensure Level 1 Instructors complete assessments by providing a platform for them to do so.
- Develop Orienteering Skills Awards 1-4.
- Align the coaching pathway with Sport Ireland's Coach Development Pathway Initiative (CDPI).

Progress to Date

- Orienteering skills 1-4 have been reviewed and redrafted.
- A restructured coaching pathway has been developed, aligning with Sport Ireland's CDPI.
- Existing syllabi for RTGO & Level Instructor are being reviewed and will be adjusted to give us a Level 0 (Coaching Fundamentals) and a Level 1 (Club Coach)
- Development of the Level 2 (performance) Coaching Award is underway.

Next Steps

- Complete the development of the Level 2 Coaching Award.
- Develop a platform for Level 1 Instructors to complete assessments.
- Develop support and marketing material Orienteering Skills Awards 1-4.

The restructured pathway, aligned with Sport Ireland's CDPI, ensures coaches receive qualifications that meet national standards.