

Sydney Summer Series – Orienteering NSW

Guidelines for Participants and Code of Conduct

Participation

Participants in the Series may either compete in the age class according to their age as at 31st December of the year the series commences, or in any younger class (except Juniors) and will remain in that class until the conclusion of the series.

Once the age category has been nominated by the participant, it may not be changed during the course of the series. (This is to ensure that series results in lower age classes cannot be manipulated by participants changing classes during the course of the season).

The exception to this rule is if a participant who normally competes in an age category is injured or incapacitated for some reason, he or she may compete in the Walking category and be officially recognised in that category.

Any person of any age may compete in the Walking categories.

The Sydney Summer Series is an individual sport and to be scored in the individual classes participants must complete their course alone and not have anyone accompany them on their course. The exception to this condition is that a parent or friend may shadow a child in the junior classes but not render any assistance or advice.

If two or more run together, they must enter the “Group” category. The Group will receive an official result but the category will not qualify for scores or awards.

Walking Categories

There are two Walking categories, one Men’s and one Women’s.

Participants in these categories must completely walk their course and not break in to a run at any time, i.e. they must have at least one foot on the ground at all times. SSS regards fair play as paramount.

Commencement of Timing

After beginning their course, participants may not at any time (except by permission of the organising club under exceptional circumstances) return to the Start, clear their timing sticks, and start again. Anyone found guilty of this offence will be disqualified.

Recording of Points from SI Controls

It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that the si unit flashes and has recorded a response at each control visited. Unless it is found and confirmed by the organisers that the si unit has malfunctioned, participants will not be awarded points where the si unit has not been activated but has registered correctly for all other participants. Where the organising club has determined that

an si unit has malfunctioned during the course of an event, all participants who visited that control will be awarded the appropriate points. Participants should notify the organisers of any problem with si units after finishing their course.

Out of Bounds

It is imperative that participants do not deliberately enter any area on the course marked on the map and in event publicity material as “out of bounds”. Any participant seen crossing an out of bounds area will be disqualified from the event. Disqualification may be based on evidence such as split times, GPS routes and complaints from other persons.

In the event that a participant accidentally enters an “out of bounds” area, as a general rule he or she will not be disqualified as long as they reverse out of the area in the same route as they entered it (e.g. it is sometimes possible to mistake a private driveway as a marked path between houses – if after taking a few steps up the driveway and realising their error, participants should reverse out from the direction they came in). In such instances, disqualification will be at the discretion of the organising club.

Any participants who find themselves in “out of bounds” areas but do not depart the area by retracing their route in to it, must notify the organising club after finishing their course and will be disqualified and receive zero points for this event.

Participants must completely stay out of “out of bounds (OOB)” areas and must not cut corners through residential properties, etc. Respecting private property and all OOB environments is crucial to the future of the series.

Assistance with Placing Controls, etc.

The course setter for each event will not be eligible to run in the event but will be awarded 100 points in their normal class. Only one person will be awarded the 100 points. Joint course setters should nominate the person to receive the 100 points before the event

The course controller and anyone assisting in putting out controls will be allowed to officially enter the event unless it is obvious they are so doing to deliberately gain an unfair advantage from leading competitors in their class.

Lending Assistance to Injured Participant

Any participant encountering an injured competitor during their run must stop running and render assistance.

Once the injured participant has been rescued and taken back to the Finish or Hospital or has continued their course, any participants who rendered assistance may resume their course by returning to the last control site that they punched and punch it again to recommence timing. After completing their course, the participants should inform the organising club of the circumstances and the organising club will adjust their official times to discard the period that expired while rendering assistance.

If it is not practical for the participants who rendered assistance to recommence their course, their time will be calculated to end at the time they punched their last control, and they will receive an official score for the total value of the control sites they had visited

Some “Do Nots” to Abide With

The wellbeing and safety of all participants, goodwill with local residents and also the strict compliance with any conditions imposed by Councils, Landowners, Government Departments, etc. are critical to the long-term future of the Series.

All participants must abide with the following conditions, most of which are consistent with standard orienteering rules:

Please DO NOT:

- Scale or cross any fence marked on the map as a high fence (the fence symbol with two tags), even if you find a hole in the fence.
- Cross/Cut through any bush section where the organisers have specified you must “stay on the tracks”.
- Cross roads at any points other than “compulsory road crossing locations” marked on the map if this has been specified by the organisers and the roads are marked with uncrossable hatch or stripe symbols.
- Cut through any sporting events that are being held during the course of the event even if the field itself is not marked OOB. Please navigate around the perimeter of the sporting fields in such situations.
- Swim at any time between control sites. You may wade if safe through shallow water but not swim.
- Cross boundaries on the course other than at marked “Enter/Exit” points if these are shown on the map by the organising club. Contravention with any of the above will render the participant subject to disqualification.