

RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR MOUNTAIN BIKE ORIENTEERING 2.6

These Rules and Guidelines for the conduct of MTBO events in Australia have three sections:

- **Protocols** which will apply to all events.
- **Guidelines** for the conduct of State-standard or local events. These may be adapted as appropriate to the local circumstances.
- **Competition Rules** which will apply to MTBO Championship events held in Australia and used as a model for State MTBO events.

All competitors, event advisers, and those connected with the organisation of the event are accountable for compliance with the Protocols and Competition Rules.

Note that events conducted in Australia under the auspices of the International Orienteering Federation (eg World Ranking Events) are covered by the *Competition Rules for IOF MTBO Events*.

PREAMBLE

MTBO is a sport in which the competitors using bicycles visit a number of control points marked in the forest, in the shortest possible time aided by map and compass. These protocols, guidelines and competition rules have been written to:

- ensure fair competition;
- ensure high standards of environmental sensitivity are maintained by event organisers and competitors;
- provide for participant safety and enjoyment; and
- provide sound procedures that cater for both recreational and competitive riders.

PROTOCOLS

1 Fairness

1.1 Orienteering is a sport in which event organisers set courses on maps that may not depict the terrain with complete accuracy, and competitors are often alone in the terrain. It is the competitor's responsibility to observe and comply with the protocols and rules of the event. It is the responsibility of the event organiser, course setter and event adviser to design a competition in which fairness is pre-eminent, for example:

- minimise the possibility of competitors taking un-marked tracks
- make it clear to competitors which open areas (mapped as item 401 'Open Land' on the map) are permissible for riding
- make it clear to competitors if it is possible to cross fences from one track to another track on the other side of the fence – and where such crossings may be made
- make it clear to competitors which areas are out of bounds (eg private property) on the competition map and in the terrain if possible.

2 Environmental considerations

2.1 MTBO is highly dependent on access to both private and public land to conduct events and the full cooperation of land owners and land managers is vital. Orienteering Australia has developed an environmental code of practice to demonstrate what is expected of both event organisers and competitors in all types of orienteering. This code of Practice is published as Appendix 7 to the *Orienteering Australia Competition rules for Foot Orienteering Events*. Particularly note that:

- courses should be set to avoid environmentally sensitive areas

- riders should remove any seeds and mud from clothing and bicycle prior to leaving the event, if possible. Otherwise clean at home, disposing of the material so that it does not spread infested material to other bush areas.
- any rubbish should be removed so that the area is left clean
- courses and organisational aspects should respect any land management plans or protocols that are in place.

3 Riding

3.1 Competitors must stay on permissible tracks marked on the competition map or open areas (mapped as item 401 'Open Land' on the map). This applies even if the terrain or road conditions force riders to dismount and push or carry their bikes. No off-track short cuts through the bush are permitted.

3.2 If competitors inadvertently take an indistinct track which is not marked on the competition map, they should retrace their route to the previously known point – and not continue cross country to the nearest marked track.

3.3 Competitors must not become separated from their bike during the competition.

3.4 While riding, competitors must

- wear standard bicycle safety helmets
- start the event carrying sufficient drinking fluid. Event organisers do not usually provide water on the course. It is expected that riders will carry what they will need.
- practise and observe the rules of the road – keep to the left on tracks/roads
- approach all track/road crossings, corners and hill crests with caution
- ride defensively and in control at all times
- give way to faster riders wishing to pass on narrow tracks
- when going uphill, give way to riders going downhill

3.5 It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that cycles are roadworthy.

3.6 Courtesy and sensible behaviour is expected when mountain bike riders encounter walkers, runners, horseback riders, land-owners and others during an event.

3.7 Competitors should give assistance to injured riders on the course. Event organisers may allow a restart or refund of fees for the rider who gave assistance.

3.8 Competitors must read and comply with any particular instructions or rules issued by the event organisers for the event.

4 Event organisation

4.1 Advertised course lengths and climb will be measured by the shortest sensible track route (not "as the crow flies").

4.2 Safety should be a prime consideration in course setting:

- As far as possible avoid courses crossing main roads. If this is unavoidable, provide for a control just prior to the crossing or provide for a 'diagonal' crossing so that the rider will join the main road for a short stretch before crossing.
- Avoid legs which would result in a large numbers of competitors riding in opposite directions on the same single track.
- If an MTBO event is to be conducted in conjunction with a foot-O event, the timing of each event and/or the course setting should prevent conflicts of riders and runners using the same narrow tracks.

4.3 All control markers will be located beside established tracks or roads or in open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land'.

4.4 Controls must not be placed at locations that may be dangerous eg blind corners, steep downhill, poor visibility, or near dangerous obstacles.

GUIDELINES

These may be adapted as appropriate to local conditions. They are provided as guidance to MTBO event organisers, in addition to the Protocols which must be adhered to for each event.

1. Event organisers should contact the relevant land owners or managers to obtain permission to stage the event in sufficient time to cancel/reschedule if permission is refused. A minimum of 2 months' notice is suggested.
2. In line with State Orienteering Association practice, event organisers should *cancel competitions on Total Fire Ban days and days affected by extreme weather conditions.*
3. Where possible, maps used for MTBO events should comply with the MTBO map conventions. Refer to Orienteering Australia MTBO Mapping guidelines, and the current IOF ISOM rules for MTBO maps.
4. In individual events, if pre-marked maps are used, competitors should be given the map at least one minute prior to the designated start time to allow the rider to arrange for carrying the map.
5. If pre-marked maps are not used, map copying time should not be included in the competitor's elapsed time for the course.
6. There are various styles of event:
 - Long distance: competitors visit controls in number order (1, 2, 3)
 - Spanish Score: competitors visit all controls on their map but in any order.
 - Scatter: There may be a total of, say, 20 controls on the map. Competitors must visit a designated number of controls (in any order) – so, say, course 1 visits 18 controls; course 2 – 15 controls etc – in a designated time eg. 75 minutes.
 - Middle distance: competitors visit controls in number order (1, 2, 3)
 - Sprint distance: competitors visit controls in number order (1, 2, 3)
 - Relay distance: competitors visit controls in number order (1, 2, 3)
7. The competitor's control recording device eg control card or e-stick, should be fixed to the bike throughout the competition (to ensure that rider and bike visit each control). This means that the control/ punching device must be placed in such a way that the rider can reach the device and record the control visit without difficulty. If a standard manual punching system is used, the punch should be on a cord of at least 1.5-2 metres in length and tied in such a way that it will reach a card attached to the bike crossbar. If the SI punching system is used, the control unit must be located so that an e-stick with retractable cord, cord or elastic attached to the bike (max 1 metre in length) will reach it without difficulty.
8. It is desirable for the finish chute to be slightly uphill, sufficiently wide to allow at least two riders to approach the finish line together, and provide a suitable ride-through area to permit safe stopping. For safety reasons, it is desirable for the finish line to be some distance before the place where riders will stop to hand over their control cards.
9. For smaller events, low-workforce measures are encouraged with start, registration and finish areas *close together*, provided safety measures are used to separate fast-moving riders from spectators and waiting competitors.
10. It is helpful to locate the start/finish area near public toilets to avoid environmental issues, or the cost of toilet hire.
11. State representatives may wish to add to this list to reflect desired practices in their jurisdictions.

COMPETITION RULES FOR MTBO CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

These rules are binding on event organisers of and competitors in MTBO Championship events held in Australia. They should be applied to State MTBO Championship events and be used as a model for MTBO events of lower status.

1. Definitions

- 1.1. MTBO is a sport in which the competitors using cycles visit a number of control points marked on the ground, in the shortest possible time aided by map and compass. Mountain Biking and navigational skills shall be tested in such a way that navigational skill is the decisive element. In MTBO the course shall be completed by the cyclist riding, carrying or pushing his/her mountain bike. Riding off the track or designated open ground or along a designated marked route will be disallowed unless specifically agreed by the event organiser and national event adviser.
- 1.2. Types of MTBO may be distinguished by
 - 1.2.1. the nature of the competition:
 - individual: the Individual performs independently
 - Relay: Two or more team members complete consecutive individual races
 - Team: Two or more individuals collaborate.
 - 1.2.2. The way of determining the competition result:
 - Single race competition. The result of one single race is the final result.
 - Multi-race competition. The combined results of two or more races, held during one day or several days, form the final result.
 - Qualification race competition: The competitors qualify for a final race through one or more qualification races in which they may be allocated to different heats. The competition's result is that of the final only. There may be A and B finals and so on, with the placed competitors of the B final placed after the placed competitors of the A final and so on.
 - 1.2.3. The order in which the controls are to be visited:
 - In a specific order. The sequence is prescribed (traditionally 1 then 2 then 3, etc).
 - In no specific order. The competitors are free to choose the order (score or scatter event).
 - 1.2.4. The length of the race – long distance, middle distance, sprint distance, endurance distance, and other distance.

2. General Provisions

- 2.1. Additional regulations which do not conflict with these rules may be determined by the event organiser. They need the approval of the event adviser.
- 2.2. These rules, the Orienteering Australia Protocols for MTBO Events, and any additional regulations set for the event are binding for all competitors, team officials and other persons connected with the organisation of the competition.
- 2.3. Sporting fairness will be the guiding principle in the interpretation of these rules by competitors, event organisers and the jury.
- 2.4. The conduct of IOF events – the Senior and Junior World Championships in MTBO or the World Cup in MTBO – will be in accordance with the *Competition Rules for IOF Mountain Bike Orienteering Events*.
- 2.5. The Orienteering Australia Council may decide special rules or norms which shall be followed eg anti-doping rules, or mapping protocols.
- 2.6. Deviations from these rules and norms may be allowed. Requests for permission to deviate from them shall be made in writing at least 6 months prior to the event to the Orienteering Australia MTBO Chairperson for Australian Championship events. Any variation to the regulations must be advertised in advance of the event.

3. Event Program

3.1. The event dates and program are proposed by the event organiser and approved by the Orienteering Australia Council.

4. Participation

4.1. Competitors participate at their own risk. Insurance against accidents shall be their responsibility.

4.2. The event organisers are entitled to refuse entries from persons whom they consider to be competing beyond their capabilities. A person whose entry has been refused shall be notified immediately and refunded the entry fee.

5. Costs

5.1. To cover the costs of the competition, the event organiser may charge an entry fee. This fee shall be kept as low as possible and shall be approved by the event adviser. Competitors in junior classes should be charged a reduced entry fee.

5.2. Each individual competitor is responsible for paying the entry fee as specified in the invitation.

5.3. Late entries can be charged an additional fee. The amount of the additional fee shall be approved by the event adviser.

5.4. The event organiser may exclude competitors from starting if their entry fee is not paid and no agreement has been reached about payment.

5.5. All reasonable costs of the event adviser shall be paid by the event organiser.

6. Information about the event

6.1. Event information shall be sent to all State Associations and be available via the Orienteering Australia website three months prior to the event. The invitation shall include:

- The name of the Event organiser and the names of the event director and event adviser: address, telephone/ fax number, website and email address for information
- Sponsors
- Approximate venue
- Dates
- Classes offered
- Entry procedure and fees
- Entry form
- Latest date and address for entries
- Suggestions for accommodation
- Approximate course lengths and winning times
- Embargoed areas
- Information about how to obtain copies of any previous orienteering maps of the embargoed area(s)
- Other information of interest

6.2. Event organisers shall provide a program to all entrants at least two weeks prior to the event. The program shall include

- All information included in the invitation
- Full details of venues and travel directions
- Description of terrain, climate and any hazards
- Scale, contour interval of maps and any other relevant mapping information
- Method of marking out of bounds areas and forbidden or marked routes
- Start and finish procedures
- Distances from parking to finish and start
- Registration times, venue and procedure
- Facilities available (toilets, refreshments etc)
- full start list for all classes
- any permitted deviations from the usual rules
- the length, total climb, number of controls on each individual course and, for relays, on each leg

- punching system to be used; advice for attaching control 'card' to the cycle
- jury members' names
- information of interest

7. Starting order

- 7.1. In an interval start, the competitors in the same class start singly at equal start intervals. Late entries start before or after competitors in the same class. In a mass start competition, all competitors in a class start simultaneously; in relays this applies only to the team members cycling the first leg. In a chasing start, the competitors start singly at start times and intervals determined by their previous results.
- 7.2. The start draw shall be approved by the event adviser. The start list shall be published before the day of the competition. If a qualification race is organised on the same day as the finals, the start list of the finals shall be published at least one hour before the first start.
- 7.3. For an interval start other than finals of qualification race competitions, the starting order shall be drawn at random, except that competitors may be seeded on the basis of prior performance.
- 7.4. Unseeded competitors from the organising group may be allotted early start times outside the sequence, provided that the start time is within 90 minutes of the first normal start at the event. Such competitors must be timed with the same equipment as for the normal time starts.
- 7.5. The start interval to be used will be agreed with the event adviser, and will depend on the number of competitors and the terrain. A minimum 2 minute start interval will apply to individual races with 3 or 4 minute interval preferred.

8. Terrain

- 8.1. The terrain shall be suitable for setting competitive MTBO courses.
- 8.2. The area should contain a comprehensive network of roads and tracks of differing qualities.
- 8.3. The competition terrain shall not have been used for either foot orienteering or MTBO for as long as possible (with a 2 year minimum) prior to the competition, so that no competitor has an unfair advantage.
- 8.4. The competition area shall be embargoed as soon as it is decided.
- 8.5. Permission for access into embargoed terrain shall be obtained from the event organiser if needed.

9. Maps

- 9.1. Maps, course markings and additional overprinting shall be drawn and printed according to the IOF International specification for Orienteering Maps, with any deviations as approved by Orienteering Australia.
- 9.2. Event organisers are encouraged to use maps drawn for MTBO at a scale of 1:15,000 or 1:20,000 depending on the terrain or length of event, with 1:10,000, 1:7,500, or 1:5,000 also acceptable to the event adviser.
- 9.3. Errors on the map and changes which have occurred in the terrain since the map was printed shall be overprinted on the map or otherwise corrected if they have a bearing on the event.
- 9.4. At the Start, event organisers may offer plastic bags to competitors to enable them to protect their maps against moisture and damage.
- 9.5. If previous foot or MTBO orienteering maps of the competition area exists, colour copies of the most recent editions must be displayed for all competitors at the assembly area prior to the competition and on the website 2 months before the event.
- 9.6. On the day of the competition, the use of any map of the competition area by competitors or team officials is prohibited until permitted by the event organiser.
- 9.7. The competition map should be of A4 size, but in any case should be no larger than required by a competitor to complete the course.

9.8. On smaller event areas, second or third maps may be used to complete the course.

10. Classes and Courses

10.1. At least four courses will be set to cater for competitors in the Open Men (M21) and Open Women’s (W21-) classes, and for a range of age groups for junior and veteran competitors.

10.2 At least the following age classes will be offered in the Individual Australian championship events: A classes: M and W -14,-16, -20, 21- Open,40-49,50-59,60-69,70+.

It is desirable to offer opportunity for competitors to ride on shorter courses than their age dictates eg by also offering Women B and C, and Men B and C competition.

10.3 Age will be taken as at 31 December in the year of the event.

10.4 Courses should be planned for winning times (minutes) in the following ranges for the various age groups:

	Long	Middle	Sprint	Relay (per leg)
M/W -14	40-50	30-40	20-30	30-40
M/W -16	45-55	35-45	20-30	30-40
M/W -20	70-90	40-50	20-30	35-45
M21- Open	90-110	50-60	20-30	50-60
W21-Open	70-90	40-50	20-30	40-50
M/W 40-49	80-100	40-50	20-30	40-50
M/W 50-59	70-90	35-45	20-30	35-45
M/W 60-69	60-80	35-45	20-30	35-45
M/W 70+	50-70	35-45	20-30	30-40

10.5 The navigational skill, concentration and cycling ability of the competitors should be tested. Courses should call upon a range of different MTBO techniques. All legs should be designed to provide a variety of route choices and attempt to maximise competitor safety.

10.6 Length of courses will be given as following the shortest sensible route choice from the start via the controls to the finish following permissible tracks/roads or open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land'.

10.7 The total climb will be given as the climb in metres along the shortest sensible route choice.

10.8 In relay competitions, the controls shall be combined differently for the teams, but all teams shall complete the same overall course. If the terrain and the concept of the courses permit it, the length of the legs may be significantly different, but the sum of the winning times of the legs shall be kept as prescribed.

11 Restricted areas and routes

11.1 Rules set by Orienteering Australia to protect the environment (as set out in the MTBO Protocols and Appendix 7 to the *Orienteering Australia competition rules for Foot Orienteering Events*, and any related instructions from the event organisers shall be strictly observed by all persons connected with the event.

11.2 Out of bounds or dangerous areas, forbidden routes etc shall be described in the pre-event information and marked on the map in purple stripes or bars. If necessary, they shall also be marked in the terrain. Competitors shall not enter, follow or cross such areas, routes or features.

11.3 Riding off the track or trail or across open areas mapped as item 401 'Open Land' is disallowed except as specifically advised by the event organiser and as agreed with the event adviser. Planners should design courses so as to minimise any benefit gained from infringement of this rule. The penalty for breaking this rule is disqualification from the event.

- 11.4 Compulsory routes, crossing points and passages shall be marked clearly on the map and on the ground. Competitors shall follow the entire length of any marked section of their course.
- 11.5 Any crossing point over major vehicular roads must be clearly signed to warn motorists and competitors. Courses should be set to maximise competitor safety at such crossings eg by placing a control at the crossing and providing a marshal if appropriate, or setting the leg so that competitors have the option of following the road for some distance before crossing.
- 11.6 Where tracks occur on both sides of a fence, it is forbidden to cross fences except where legal crossings may be made. Unless the map clearly shows the track crosses a fence, riders should not cross it unless explicit permission is given by the event organiser.

12 Control Descriptions

- 12.1 Control descriptions are not normally used in MTBO, but may be used to assist site identification if deemed desirable eg indicating which track if there are two parallel tracks in the control circle, or which intersection if there is more than one intersection in the circle.

13 Control set-up and equipment

- 13.1 The control point given on the map shall be clearly marked in the terrain and be equipped to enable the competitors to prove their passage.
- 13.2 Standard orienteering control markers of white and orange (PMS 165) will be used.
- 13.3 All controls must be situated on tracks or open areas in such a position that they can be easily reached by competitors to record their passage.
- 13.4 Each control shall be identified with a code number, which shall be fixed to the control so that a competitor using the marking device can clearly read the code. Numbers less than 31 should not be used. The figures shall be black on white, 5-10 cm in height and have a line thickness of 5-10 mm.
- 13.5 The code number for each control shall be available to competitors, either by providing details before the start of the event, or as an overprint on the map adjacent to the control number eg 1-49.
- 13.6 To prove the passage of the competitors, there shall be sufficient number of marking devices in the immediate vicinity of each control marker.

14 Punching Systems

- 14.1 Only Orienteering Australia approved (electronic or other) punching systems may be used.
- 14.2 Control cards or electronic e-sticks must be connected to the cycle by a zip tie or other secure device. It is not permitted to remove the control card or electronic e-stick from the cycle during the event. If SI units are used, slips of waterproof paper must be attached to the bicycle to punch in case failure of the SI unit. The competitor must use the backup slip provided and will be disqualified if no punch is recorded.
- 14.3 Competitors shall be responsible for marking their own control card at each control using the marking device provided. Competitors are responsible for correct marking, even if at some controls the marking is facilitated by the event organiser.
- 14.4 The control card must clearly show that all controls have been visited in the correct order.
- 14.5 A competitor with a control mark missing or unidentifiable shall not be placed, unless it can be established with certainty that the punch missing or unidentifiable is not the competitor's fault, and that the competitor visited the control.

15 Equipment

- 15.1 Protective headgear conforming to the recognised Australian standard shall be worn at all times when competing.
- 15.2 It is the responsibility of the competitors and team managers to ensure that cycles are roadworthy.

- 15.3 If start numbers or bibs are prescribed by the event organiser they shall be fixed to the cycle or worn as prescribed.
- 15.4 During the competition the only navigational equipment that competitors may use are the map provided by the event organiser, a compass and an 'approved' cycle computer.
- 15.5 'Approved' cycle computers can provide information to assist navigation to include time, distance, speed and height, but not any satellite-based navigation aid or any screen displaying topographic maps. Course advisers may cover screens with tamper-proof stickers.
- 15.6 Competitors shall ride, push or carry their cycles from the start via the controls to the finish.
- 15.7 Competitors may carry tools and spare parts during the competition, but shall not use spares or tools other than those carried by themselves or another competitor.

16 Start

- 16.1 The start may be organised with a pre-start before the time start.
- 16.2 The start shall be organised so that later competitors and other persons cannot see the map, courses, route choices or the direction to the first control. If necessary, there shall be a marked route from the time start to the point where the orienteering begins.
- 16.3 The competitor is responsible for taking the correct map. The competitor's start number or name or course shall be indicated on the map so as to be visible to the competitors before they start.
- 16.4 In an Individual race, competitors will have one minute to arrange to carry their map before they start. In a mass start race, competitors will get their map at the start time.
- 16.5 The point where orienteering begins shall be shown on the map with the start triangle and, marked in the terrain either with a triangle or with a control marker, but no marking device.
- 16.6 Competitors who are late for their start time through their own fault shall be permitted to start. The event organiser will determine at which time they may start, considering the possible influence on other competitors. They shall be timed as if they had started at their original start time.
- 16.7 Competitors who are late for their start time through the fault of the event organiser shall be given a new start time.
- 16.8 The changeover between the members of each relay team normally takes place by touch.
- 16.9 Correct and timely relay changeover is the responsibility of the competitors, even when the event organiser arranges an advanced warning of incoming teams.
- 16.10 With the approval of the event adviser the event organiser may arrange mass starts for the later legs for relay teams that have not changed over.
- 16.11 The mass start area in relay events must be sufficiently wide to provide a fair and safe start for riders. Ideally this would be at least 20m wide with an uphill gradient. Competitors at the mass start will line up some 50m behind their cycles, with the maps on the ground in front of them. At the start signal, they will pick up the map and run to the cycle, following tapes to the start triangle. No spectators shall be allowed between the cycles and the competitors during a mass start.

17 Finish and time-keeping

- 17.1 The competition ends for a competitor when crossing the finishing line.
- 17.2 The route from the last control to the finish shall be bounded by tape or rope. The last 100 m of the course before the finish, and before the exchange zones in relays, should be as straight as possible and at least 10m wide.
- 17.3 The finish line shall be at right angles to the direction of the finish lanes. The exact position of the finish lines shall be obvious to approaching competitors.
- 17.4 When a competitor has crossed the finish line, the competitor shall punch the finish control, hand in the control card including any plastic bag and, if so required by the event organiser, the competition map.

- 17.5 When using hand-timing, the time is taken when the competitor's front tyre crosses the finish line, or when the competitor uses an electronic punch at the finish line. When a light beam is used for finish timing, the time is taken when the contact is broken. The measuring point of the light or photo barrier should be at height of 15 cm above the ground. Times are rounded down to whole seconds. So 89 minutes 13.98 seconds becomes 89 minutes 13 seconds.
- 17.6 In competitions with simultaneous, mass or chasing starts, a finish judge shall rule on the final placing and a jury member shall be present at the finish line.
- 17.7 Two independent time keeping systems, a primary and a secondary, shall be used continuously throughout the competition. The timekeeping systems shall measure times of competitors in the same class, relative to each other, with an accuracy of 0.5 seconds or better.
- 17.8 The event organiser may set maximum times for each class.
- 17.9 There shall be medical facilities and personnel at the finish, who are also equipped to work in the competition terrain.

18 Results

- 18.1 Provisional results shall be announced and displayed in the finish or assembly area during the competition.
- 18.2 The official results shall be confirmed no more than 4 hours after the latest allowable finishing time.
- 18.3 The official results shall include the following information:
 - Class and course
 - Length of course
 - Number of controls
 - The names of all participating competitors
 - Each competitor's club, team or Association as appropriate
 - Each competitor's time
 - Details of all protests (minus the names of the protestor) and their eventual resolution.

In relays, the results shall include the competitors' names in running order and times for their legs as well as the course combinations that each competitor rode.
- 18.4 If an interval start is used, two or more competitors having the same time shall be given the same placing in the results list. The position(s) following the tie shall remain vacant.
- 18.5 If a mass start or chasing start is used, the placing is determined by the order in which the competitors finish. In relays this will be the team member completing the last relay leg.
- 18.6 In relays where there are mass starts for later legs, the sum of the individual times of the team members shall determine the placing of the teams that have taken part in such mass starts. Teams taking part in mass starts for later legs are placed after all teams which have changed over and finished in the ordinary way.
- 18.7 Competitors or teams who exceed the maximum time (closure of the course) shall not be placed.

19 Awards and Prizes

- 19.1 Prizes for men and women shall be equivalent.
- 19.2 If two or more competitors have the same placing, they shall each receive the appropriate award and/or its equivalent.

20 Fair Play

- 20.1 All persons taking part in an MTBO event shall behave with fairness and honesty. They shall have a sporting attitude and a spirit of friendship. Competitors shall show respect for each other, for officials, journalists, spectators and inhabitants of the competition area. The competitors shall be as quiet as possible in the terrain.
- 20.2 It is the duty of all competitors to help injured competitors.

- 20.3 The provision of mechanical (spares or repairs) assistance between competitors during a competition is permitted but is not compulsory. No outside mechanical assistance is permitted.
- 20.4 Doping is forbidden. The *Orienteering Australia Anti-Doping Rules* apply to all Orienteering Australia events and the Orienteering Australia council may require doping control procedures to be conducted.
- 20.5 The event organiser, with the consent of the event adviser, may decide to publish the venue of the competition in advance. If the venue is not made public, all officials shall maintain strict secrecy about the competition area and the terrain. In any case strict secrecy about the courses must be kept.
- 20.6 Any attempt to survey or train in the competition terrain is forbidden. Attempts to gain any information related to the courses, beyond that provided by the event organiser, is forbidden before and during the competition.
- 20.7 The event organiser may consider barring from the competition any competitor who is so well acquainted with the terrain or the map, that the competitor would have a substantial advantage over other competitors. In case of doubt, the matter shall be decided by the event adviser.
- 20.8 Team officials, competitors, media representatives and spectators shall remain in the areas assigned to them.
- 20.9 Control officials shall neither disturb nor detain any competitor, nor supply any information whatsoever. They shall remain quiet, wear inconspicuous clothing and shall not help competitors approaching controls. This also applies to all other persons in the terrain, e.g. media representatives.
- 20.10 Having crossed the finish line, a competitor may not re-enter the competition terrain without the permission of the event organiser. A competitor who retires shall announce this at the finish immediately and hand in the map and control card. That competitor shall in no way influence the competition nor help other competitors.
- 20.11 A competitor who breaks any rule, or who benefits from the breaking of any rule, may be disqualified.
- 20.12 Non-competitors who break any rule are liable to disciplinary action.

21 Complaints

- 21.1 A complaint can be made about infringements of these rules or the event organiser's directions.
- 21.2 Complaints can be made by event or team officials, competitors or anybody else connected with the event about the positioning of controls or the accuracy of the map.
- 21.3 Any complaint shall be made orally or in writing to the event organiser as soon as possible. A complaint is adjudicated by the event organiser. The complainant shall be informed about the decision immediately.
- 21.4 The organiser may set a time limit for complaints. Complaints received after this time limit will only be considered if there are valid exceptional circumstances which must be explained in the complaint.
- 21.5 There is no fee for a complaint.

22 Protests

- 22.1 A protest can be made against the event organiser's decision about a complaint.
- 22.2 Protests can be made by team officials, competitors or event officials.
- 22.3 Any protest shall be made in writing to a member of the jury no later than one hour after the event organiser has announced the decision about the complaint.
- 22.4 There is no fee for a protest.

23 Jury

- 23.1 A jury shall be appointed to rule on protests.
- 23.2 Jury members are appointed by the event organiser and approved by the event adviser.

- 23.3 The jury shall consist of 3 members plus the event adviser who shall lead the jury but has no vote. Only one member shall come from the State Association of the event organiser.
- 23.4 A representative of the event organiser has the right to participate in the jury meetings but has no vote.
- 23.5 The event organiser shall act according to the jury's decision, e.g. to reinstate a competitor disqualified by the event organiser, to disqualify a competitor approved by the event organiser, to void the results in a class approved by the event organiser, to impose a time penalty, or to approve results declared invalid by the event organiser.
- 23.6 The jury is competent to rule only if all members are present. In urgent cases preliminary decisions may be taken if a majority of the jury members agree on the decision.
- 23.7 If a jury member declares him or herself prejudiced or if a jury member is unable to fulfil his or her task, the event adviser shall nominate a substitute.
- 23.8 Arising from its ruling on a protest, the jury - in addition to instructing the event organiser - may recommend that the Orienteering Australia Council excludes a person from some or all future Orienteering Australia events in the case of a major violation of the rules.
- 23.9 Decisions of the jury are final.

24 Appeals

- 24.1 An appeal may be made against infringements of these rules, if the infringement is not related to a specific event or if a jury is not yet set up.
- 24.2 An appeal may be made by team officials, competitors, event officials or Associations.
- 24.3 Any appeal shall be made in writing to the Orienteering Australia Board as soon as possible.
- 24.4 There is no fee for an appeal.
- 24.5 Decisions about an appeal are final.

25 Event Control

- 25.1 An event adviser must be appointed to oversee the organisation of the event. The event adviser shall ensure that rules are followed, mistakes are avoided and that fairness is paramount. The event adviser has the authority to require adjustments to be made if he or she deems them necessary to satisfy the requirements of the event.
- 25.2 The event adviser shall work in close collaboration with the event organiser, and shall be given all relevant information. All official information such as entry forms and programs, shall be approved by the event adviser.
- 25.3 As a minimum, the following tasks shall be carried out under the authority of the event adviser:
- to approve the venue and the terrain for the event, including reserve area
 - to look into the event organisation and assess the suitability of the proposed accommodation, food, transport, programme, budget, and training possibilities
 - to check that land access has been provided
 - to check that the map conforms with the Orienteering Australia standards
 - to approve the courses after assessing their quality, including degree of difficulty, control settings and equipment, chance factors and map correctness
 - to check any course splitting method and course combinations
 - to approve the organisation and layout of start, finish and changeover areas
 - to assess the reliability and accuracy of the time-keeping and results producing systems
 - to ensure that control markers, equipment and officials are suitably positioned
 - to assess any planned ceremonies
 - to be present during the event
 - ensure that results and reports are distributed promptly.

25.4 One or more assistants may be appointed to assist the event adviser, particularly in the fields of mapping, courses, financing, sponsoring and media.

26 Event Report

26.1 The event organiser and event adviser shall submit a report to the Orienteering Australia Board within 8 weeks of the event, including a complete results list and comments about the event.

27 Advertising and sponsorship

27.1 Advertising of tobacco and hard liquor is not permitted.

27.2 The Orienteering Australia Council may issue specific rules for advertising and sponsorship.

28 Media

28.1 The event organiser shall make every effort to maximise media coverage as long as this does not jeopardise the fairness of the event.