

Selection arrangements for 2010 Australian Teams

1. Background

1.1 Australian teams for 2010

This document sets out selection arrangements for the following elite Australian orienteering teams in 2010:

- World Orienteering Championships (8-15 August, Trondheim, Norway)
- World University Championships (18-24 July, Borlange, Sweden)
- Bushrangers challenge (5-7 June, Auckland, New Zealand)
- World Cup races

They reflect input from Australian and overseas-based elite athletes; coaches, experience from past selection processes and general selection guidelines published by the Australian Sports Commission. They also reflect Orienteering Australia's rules.

Please read this document carefully it provides detailed advice on how to get selected in the respective teams.

1.2 Selection Panel

The selection panel for 2010 is as follows:

- Manager, High Performance – Rob Preston (oa_headcoach@netspeed.com)
- WOC Men's Coach – Rob Lewis (robert_lewis_7@hotmail.com)
- Bushrangers Coach – Wendy Read (wread2@eq.edu.au)
- Fiona Calabro (f.calabro@bigpond.com)
- Chair – Paul Liggins (paul.liggins@gmail.com)

In accordance with the OA rules, members of the selection panel will not vote or take part in discussion on selection of the class in which he or she, or a member of his or her immediate family, or a partner, is a contender for selection.

2. 2010 World Orienteering Championships (WOC)

2.1 Program

The program for WOC 2010 in Trondheim Norway is as follows:

Sunday 8 August	Sprint distance qualification and final
Monday 9 August	Middle distance qualification
Tuesday 10 August	Long distance qualification
Thursday 12 August	Long distance final
Saturday 14 August	Middle distance final
Sunday 15 August	Relay

2.2 Team size

The WOC team will consist of at least four men and four women, provided that these athletes clearly demonstrate their potential to reach the final in the races in which they compete. Additional team members will only be selected based on their potential to meet the international benchmark performance of a top 16 result, up to a maximum of six men and six women. The team will be announced shortly after the second set of selection trials in May.

Given Australia's limited resources to support a large team and the possibility of injury or change in form, it is desirable that athletes can perform at the international level in more than one discipline. However, specialization in a single discipline (and particularly in the sprint discipline) will be supported where the athlete has outstanding ability in that discipline.

At the same time, given the rigours of the WOC week, only exceptional athletes will be considered for selection to run all four disciplines (sprint, middle, long and relay).

The selectors may name some or all of the participants for each discipline of WOC when the team is named, with the exception of the relay. However, participants in each individual event, and the relay, will not be confirmed until 2 weeks before the start of WOC. This decision will be made by the WOC Coach, and following endorsement from the Chair of the Senior Selection Panel.

The decisions regarding participant's races will take into account runner's preferences, form, fitness, and injury and illness status of the runners at the time.

Each team member will run at least one discipline, subject to them not suffering from significant illness or injury or **substantial** loss of form.

The order of the relay team will also be decided by the WOC coach.

2.3 Selection trials and criteria

Team selection in 2010 will be based on two criteria:

- (i) the primary (ie most important) criteria: results in the selection trials; and
- (ii) the secondary criteria:
 - past international performance, particularly at WOC
 - current Australian performance
 - previous Australian performance

Selection will be evidence-based. It will analyse event results to determine who is likely to achieve the best results at the WOC. The strongest cases for selection will be those that meet both of the above criteria.

Those athletes that do not have past international results that prove they are capable of benchmark performances will need to rely on results at the trials to demonstrate that they are better prospects at WOC 2010 than those who have performed well at WOC in previous years, or at least better than other athletes competing for inclusion in the team.

While the primary selection criteria will remain pre-eminent, selection for the sprint discipline and the relay will focus slightly more on past performance than the long and middle races, as ability in these disciplines is best assessed across a number of races and it is impractical to organise sufficient specific trials.

The selection panel also wishes to make clear that sprint contenders do not need to demonstrate a high standard in 'traditional' forest orienteering.

When two athletes have very similar performance, based on the criteria above, selection will have regard to potential for future development, including factors such as age, experience and running speed.

2.3.1 The Primary WOC 2010 Criteria - Selection Trials

The Australian selection trials for 2010 will be all four races of Easter from 2 to 5 April 2010 plus the three May 2010 NOL races in NSW on 15 and 16 May.

Overseas selection races may be scheduled by the selection panel for athletes who choose not to return for the Australian selection trials. These will be identified by the selection panel prior to 31 March 2010, but see the comments below about use of overseas selection trial results. To give everyone a fair and open chance for selection, all Australian-based athletes shall compete in the Australian selection trials and overseas based athletes are strongly encouraged to do so. Absence at selection trials will be normally be taken as an indication that the athlete is uncompetitive relative to others at the time. Anyone who is unable to compete in one of the sets of selection trials (e.g. through injury, illness or absence overseas) will be required to advise the Panel Chair stating the reasons for the absence. If the absence is due to injury or illness a medical certificate shall be provided.

There are no absolute measures of performance (ie times and records) so relative performance compared to other athletes vying for selection will be crucial to the selection process. Selection trials provide the best way of comparing everyone's performance to each other in as objective a way as is possible. They also provide the most recent guide to form. Within practical constraints of timing and venue, the trials provide a situation of pressure to perform on the day, a feature of WOC.

Within the constraints of team size, outstanding performance in individual selection races will be rewarded with selection, in recognition that athletes who can achieve outstanding results are more likely to be able to achieve benchmark performances at WOC.

In accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, the selection panel will take account of any exceptional circumstances affecting the performance of candidates in the selection trials. However the onus is on the candidate to advise the Panel Chair **in writing** of these exceptional circumstances. Given that some selection races will be run on areas previously used, the selection panel is also required to take into account competitors' training or competition experience in these areas.

Overseas based athletes who are unable to return to Australia for the selection trials, will need to attend overseas selection trials as nominated by the Selection Panel. Athletes will need to achieve results at the overseas trials that are clearly superior to those achieved by their Australian-based competitors. In essence, if you are at the margins of selection you are strongly encouraged to return for the Australian selection trials to demonstrate your position relative to your peers. This is the same principle that has been used in previous years. It is also essential to consult with the Panel Chair over your plans to ensure there is no ambiguity over our expectations.

2.3.2 The Secondary WOC 2010 Criteria – Past Performance

For the purposes of the second selection criteria, past performance includes results in the following events in order of reducing importance:

Past International Performance

- World Championships;
- World Games, Nordic Championships and World Cup races;
- Other major international races such Jukola, Tio Mila, JWOC, Oringen, Park World Tour and major elite series and sprint races.
- NZ test results, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships;
- other World Ranking Events

Current Australian Performance

- results in 2010 NOL races
- results in 2009 Australian long, middle and sprint distance championships

Past Australian Performance

- the Australian Championships for each discipline;
- other Australian ranking scheme events with an event weighting of 1.0 or more.

Past performance includes both high levels of performance and performance that that has been below expectations.

No consideration will be given to the Christmas 5 days, training camp races, OY events, Badge events, and other lesser races and their equivalents overseas.

Athletes are reminded that in accordance with the Orienteering Australia operational manual, priority will be given to selecting a team which can be expected to behave in a harmonious and responsible manner. Past unacceptable behaviour by an orienteer will be taken into account by the selection panel.

Upon application from the athlete, the Selection Panel may pre-select one or more athletes. This will only be done in circumstances where the athlete has:

- outstanding previous international performances, and
- a demonstrated high level of current fitness.

2.4 Nominations and team announcements

All athletes who wish to be considered for selection in the Australian team for WOC 2010 will be required to submit a nomination by email to both the Panel Chair and the Manager High Performance as outlined below:

Nomination date	Nomination date
Athletes intending to attend Australian selection trials	31 March 2010
Athletes not intending to attend Australian selection trials	31 March 2010

Nominations should include the information set out in the nomination form which is Appendix 1 to this document.

At this stage it is expected the WOC team will be announced by 20 May 2010, although it may be slightly later depending on the arrangements for overseas trials.

It is important that all athletes who wish to be considered for selection in national teams and squads inform the Panel Chair and Manager High Performance of their current contact details. Overseas athletes should also keep selectors informed of any pertinent results that do not receive international publicity.

All athletes shall ensure they conform with the OA operational manual with regard to anti-doping provisions and the maintenance of up to date contact details with ASADA. Failure to meet such obligations may result in an athlete's nomination for selection being refused.

3. 2010 World University Championships

The World University Orienteering Championships (WUOC) will be held in 2010 in Borlange, Sweden, from 18 to 24 July (see <http://www.wuoc2010.se/>).

Participants of WUOC have to be students who are currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute whose status is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority of their country, or former students who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year 2009. Participants must also:

- be at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on January 1st, 2010 (date of birth must be between January 1st, 1982 and December 31st, 1992);
- have a full passport-holding citizenship of the country they represent.

Each country may enter a team consisting of up to 12 competitors (6 women and 6 men) and 5 team officials. Maximum number of competitors from each country for participation in different races:

Sprint - 3 men and 3 women
Long distance - 4 men and 4 women
Middle distance - 4 men and 4 women
Relay - 1 men's team (3 legs) and 1 women's team (3 legs)

Following selection of an Australian team by OA, Australian University Sport (AUS) will cross check that all selected team members are bona fide uni students in the correct age range.

No funding is likely to be available from OA, however some may be available through competitors' Universities or AUS. The onus will be on competitors to pursue this funding.

3.1 Selection trials and criteria

The selection trials will be all four races of Easter 2010, to be held in Canberra from 2 to 5 April.

There are no absolute measures of performance (i.e. times and records) so relative performance compared to other athletes vying for selection will be crucial to the selection process. Selection trials provide the best way of comparing everyone's performance to each other in as objective a way as is possible.

Eligible candidates will be expected to compete in either M/W21E or M/W20E. The selectors may need to compare performance across age groups, and in doing so will take into account such things as kilometre rates.

An Australian orienteer based in Europe and studying at a university in Europe who is unable to attend the selection trials may apply for selection but must do so by 28 February 2010. Such an application will only be considered if it documents evidence of a strong record of performance in international competition in WOC, JWOC or other major international events, and against age group peers in Australia.

The size of the team selected will depend, in part, on the number and quality of nominations received. There is no guarantee that the maximum team size of 6 men and 6 women will be selected. The selectors will select both team members and the races they will be running.

Team selection will be finalised by 6 April for submission to AUS.

3.2 Selection Panel

As required by clause 9 of section 5.1 of the OA Operational Manual, the selection panel will be:

Manager High Performance – currently Rob Preston
Chair of Senior selection panel – currently Paul Liggins
Chair of Junior selection panel – currently Blair Trewin.

3.3 Nominations

All athletes who intend to attend the selection trials and wish to be considered for selection in the Australian team for WUOC 2010 must inform the OA high performance manager by email at **oa_headcoach@netspeed.com.au**, prior to 31 March 2010 and sending a copy of Appendix 2. Overseas-based runners must advise the OA high performance manager by 28 February 2010.

4. Bushrangers Challenge

4.1 Program

The Bushrangers Challenge is a competition, usually held twice each year, between Australia and Zealand. The races and formats for 2010 are yet to be determined, although it is likely that the May WOC trials will be one of the competitions, with the other in New Zealand in June.

4.2 Team size

The size of the team is determined by the visiting country, but is usually 3-6 men and 3-6 women.

4.3 Selection trials and criteria

There will be no formal selection trials for the Bushrangers teams.

Selection will be made by the selection panel, having regard to the Australian ranking list two months prior to the relevant competitions and the following factors:

- the primary purpose of the Bushrangers team, which is to provide exposure to international competition and also to provide a 'stepping stone' for athletes with high potential to reach future WOC teams
- all past and present WOC team members will be eligible for selection, particularly for races in New Zealand. For races in Australia, a stronger emphasis may be given to the development of high potential athletes
- it is expected that most athletes selected in the Bushrangers team will already be members of the National Senior Squad or current WOC team

4.4 Nominations and team announcements

No nominations are required for the 2010 Bushrangers team. Following advice from New Zealand regarding the size of the team, the selectors will select a team based on the above criteria. All potential selections will be contacted prior to announcement of the team to confirm they are willing to be selected and will be competing in the relevant races.

5. World Cup 2010

5.1 Program

The program of World Cup races for 2010 is as follows:

Event	Date	Type	Location
Event 1	Sun 30 May	Sprint	BUL
Event 2	Fri 4 Jun	Middle	BUL
Event 3	Sat 5 Jun	Long	BUL
Event 4	Fri 18 Jun	Middle	FIN
Event 5	Tue 22 Jun	Sprint	SWE
Event 6	Sat 26 Jun	Middle	NOR
Event 7	Sun 8 Aug	Sprint Final	NOR
Event 8	Thu 12 Aug	Long Final	NOR
Event 9	Sat 14 Aug	Middle Final	NOR
Event 10	Sun 3 Oct	Long	FRA
Event 11	Sat 9 Oct	Middle	SUI
Event 12	Sun 10 Oct	Sprint	SUI

More information on the program and special rules for the World Cup can be found here:

http://www.orienteering.org/i3/index.php?iof2006/news/special_rules_for_world_cup

5.2 Potential size of team

Events 1 to 3 are the European Orienteering Championships. Australia may enter up to 6 men and 6 women.

Events 4 to 6 are the 'Nordic Orienteering Tour'.

Events 7 to 9 are part of the World Orienteering championships

No funding is expected to be available except for the payment of entry fees for members of the High Performance Group of the National Senior Squad (NSS).

5.3 Selection trials and criteria

There will be no separate selection trials for the World Cup races.

Selection will be made by the selection panel, having regard to the Australian ranking list at the time of selection and the need to ensure that athletes are of appropriate international standard. The following arrangements will apply:

1. Members of the High Performance Group of the NSS will be considered as being of appropriate international standard and automatically will be selected for the relevant World Cup Team provided they nominate by the required dates (see below).
2. Other members of the NSS and selected members of the 2009 Australian Junior World Championship team will be considered as being of appropriate international standard and will be eligible to be considered for selection.

3. Athletes that are not in the NSS may apply for selection on a case by case basis. However, it is anticipated that the selection of athletes from outside the NSS will be the exception rather than the rule. The selectors will consider, amongst other things, the following matters:

- where an athlete has shown high quality performance in recent high level national or international-standard races including Jukola, Tio Mila, JWOC, O-ringen, Park World Tour, Swedish elite series and other major international elite series and sprint races, Asia-Pacific Championships and other regional international championships and other World Ranking Events
- circumstances where an athlete has previously performed at a high level in international races and is coming back from injury.

5.4 Nominations and team announcements

All athletes who wish to be considered for World Cup races should advise both the Panel Chair and the Manager High Performance by email by the following dates:

Events	Nomination date	Team announcement
1-4	Thursday 9 April 2009	Saturday 25 April 2009
8,9	Tuesday 25 August 2009	Thursday 27 August 2009

Nominations should set out:

- the races you are nominating to enter
- in the case of athletes who are not a member of the NSS, performances in recent high level national or international races
- any other relevant information in support of your nomination.

Appendix 1 - WOC Nomination Form

I wish to be considered for selection in the Australian Boomerangs team for the World Orienteering Championships 2010 in Norway and declare that I am available to attend the World Orienteering Championships and Australian team commitments if selected

Yes/No (delete whichever is not applicable)

I wish to be considered for selection in the Australian Bushrangers team for the Bushrangers/Pinestars Challenge in Auckland, New Zealand, 5-7 June 2010

Yes/No (delete whichever is not applicable)

A. Contact Details

1. NAME:

2. EMAIL:

3. TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Home:

Mobile:

Overseas (if applicable):

4. ADDRESS:

B. Selection Trials

5. Do you intend to compete in the Australian selection trials (all days of Easter 2009, plus the May NOL races (for World Championships team only) (Y/N):

6. If not, why not:

7. Do you wish to be notified of overseas selection races ? (Y/N)

C. Other

Please provide any other relevant information which you think the selectors should be aware of when considering your nomination:

Please return this form by email to paul.liggins@gmail.com with a cc to Rob Preston at oa_headcoach@netspeed.com.au.

Appendix 2– World University Championships 2010 Nomination Form

A. Contact and other details

1. NAME:

2. DOB:

3. EMAIL:

4. TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Home:

Mobile:

Overseas (if applicable):

5. ADDRESS:

6. UNIVERSITY AND COURSE STUDIED

B. Selection Trials

5. Do you intend to compete in the selection trials (all days of Easter 2010) (Y/N):

6. If not, why not:

C. Other

Please provide any other relevant information which you think the selectors should be aware of when considering your nomination:

Please return this form by email to paul.liggins@gmail.com and oa_headcoach@netspeed.com.au by 31 March, 2010 (or 28 February 2010 if not attending trials)