

# Selection arrangements for 2011 Australian Teams

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Australian Teams for 2011

This document sets out selection arrangements for the following elite Australian orienteering teams in 2011:

- World Orienteering Championships (13-20 August, Savoie Grand Revard, France)
- Bushrangers challenge (likely to be first weekend in June in NZ and the Oceania carnival in Australia in September/October)
- 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 is currently:

WOC Head Coach – Rob Lewis ([robert\\_lewis\\_7@hotmail.com](mailto:robert_lewis_7@hotmail.com))

Bushrangers Coach & WOC Assistant Coach – Wendy Read ([wread2@eq.edu.au](mailto:wread2@eq.edu.au))

Fiona Calabro ([f.calabro@bigpond.com](mailto:f.calabro@bigpond.com))

Chair – Paul Liggins ([paul.liggins@gmail.com](mailto:paul.liggins@gmail.com))

The panel may change at the OFA conference in April 2011.

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. 2011 World Orienteering Championships (WOC)

### 2.1 Program

The program for WOC 2011 in France is as follows:

Saturday 13 August	Long distance qualification
Sunday 14 August	Middle distance qualification
Tuesday 16 August	Sprint qualification and final
Wednesday 17 August	Long distance final
Friday 19 August	Middle distance final
Saturday 20 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 at an international level 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).

Non-travelling reserves may be announced. Travelling reserves for individual disciplines may be announced in advance

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 will not be confirmed until 2 weeks before the start of WOC. This decision will be made by the WOC Head Coach in consultation with the WOC assistant coach.

A decision on the make-up of the relay team will be made by the Head Coach in consultation with the WOC assistant coach shortly prior to or during WOC. The order of the relay team will also be decided by the WOC Head coach, in consultation with the assistant coach.

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. Athletes should understand that they have a responsibility to disclose any significant injury problems to team management upon occurrence. At the discretion of the WOC Head Coach and WOC assistant coach, fitness tests may be conducted and selected athletes may be withdrawn from the team should sufficient fitness not be demonstrated to the Head Coach/assistant's satisfaction.

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

## 2.3 Selection trials and criteria

Team selection in 2011 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. While the selection panel will take all relevant factors into consideration, 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 2011 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. However, athletes who demonstrate versatility across sprint and forest disciplines enhance their chance of selection.

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 2011 Criteria - Selection Trials*

The Australian selection trials for 2011 will cover two sets of races:

- all four races of Easter from 22 to 25 April 2011 plus the Australian middle and sprint championships the following weekend
- the three NOL races in Tasmania on 21 and 22 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 early in March, 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 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 2011 Criteria – Past Performance*

For the purposes of the secondary 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.
- Bushrangers results, Oceania Championships and other regional international championships;
- other World Ranking Events

#### **Current Australian Performance**

- results in 2011 NOL races
- results in 2010 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 2011 will be required to submit a nomination by email to both the Panel Chair and the Manager High Performance as outlined below:

<b>Nomination date</b>	<b>Nomination date</b>
Athletes intending to attend Australian selection trials	31 March 2011
Athletes not intending to attend Australian selection trials	10 March 2011

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 25 May 2011, 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. Bushrangers Challenge**

### **3.1 Program**

The Bushrangers Challenge is a competition, usually held twice each year, between Australia and Zealand. The races and formats for 2011 will be:

- races will be in New Zealand (Auckland area) on the first weekend in June
- the races on the final weekend of the Oceania Championships Carnival in September/October in Australia.

### **3.2 Team size**

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

### **3.3 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 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 most recent WOC team

### 3.4 Nominations and team announcements

Nominations will be required for the 2011 Bushrangers team. Following advice from New Zealand regarding the size of the team, the selectors will select a team based on the above criteria.

The team for the first set of races in New Zealand will be announced as quickly as possible following the Australian sprint and middle championships in Western Australia and will take into account these races as well as those at Easter.

Athletes who nominate and are subsequently selected for the June Bushrangers team will be expected to attend the races even if subsequently selected for the WOC team.

## 4. World Cup 2011

### 4.1 Program

There are 10 World cup races 2011 with four separate series – the NORT tour in Scandinavia, WOC, Czech Republic and Switzerland:

Event	Date	Type	Location
1	Thurs June 16	Sprint	Finland
2	Tue 21 June	Knock-out Sprint	Sweden
3	Sat 25 June	Prolonged Middle Distance chasing start	Norway
4	Tue 16 August	Sprint WOC	France
5	Wed 17 August	Long Distance WOC	France
6	Fri 19 August	Middle Distance WOC	France
7	Sat 24 September	Middle Distance	Czech Republic
8	Sun 25 September	Long Distance chasing start	Czech Republic
9	Sat 1 October	Middle Distance PostFinance	Switzerland
10	Sun 2 October	Sprint PostFinance	Switzerland

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

<http://www.orienteering.org/index.php/iof2006/News/World-Cup-Special-Rules-2011>

## 4.2 Potential size of team

Australia may enter up to 6 men and 6 women for each of the three non-WOC sets of races.

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).

## 4.3 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 the members of the 2010 Australian Junior World Championship team will also 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, using the attached nomination form, by the following dates:

Events	Nomination date	Team announcement
1-3	31 March 2011	First week of May (ie following the Easter set of trials)
7-10	31 March 2011	Last week of May (ie following the Tasmanian WOC trials)

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.

## 1 Appendix 1 – Australian teams nomination form

I wish to be considered for selection for the following teams as indicated below. I declare that I am available to attend the relevant events (including lead-up training camps, where relevant) if selected.

- Yes/No** WOC in France
- Yes/No** World Cup Series 1 in Scandinavia
- Yes/No** World Cup Series 3 in Czech Republic
- Yes/No** World Cup Series 4 in Switzerland
- Yes/No** Bushrangers races in June in New Zealand.
- Yes/No** Bushrangers races at the Oceania carnival in Australia

If you are nominating for WOC, indicate your priority (1 to 4) for each of the sprint, middle, long and relay races:

Priority 1:

Priority 2:

Priority 3:

Priority 4:

### **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 WOC selection trials (Easter 2011 including the Australian middle and sprint championships, plus the May NOL races in Tasmania)  
**Yes/No**

6. If not, why not:

7. Do you wish to be notified of overseas selection races ? **Yes/No**

### **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](mailto:paul.liggins@gmail.com) and [oa\\_headcoach@netspeed.com.au](mailto:oa_headcoach@netspeed.com.au) by 31 March, 2011 (or 14 March 2011 if not attending WOC trials)