Course Planner Guidelines for the Twilight Series

Roles

Each orienteering event is created by a Course Planner teamed with a Controller. The Controller ensures that events comply with the Orienteering Tasmania rules and requirements, and especially that each course is fair and that there is consistency throughout the series. The Controller will review courses proposed by the Planner and provide guidance and suggestions. This approach allows novices to have a crack at course planning but also means that even experienced Planners will often be asked to consider alterations suggested by the Controllers.

The Course Planner role involves setting the course in course planning software Condes, and putting out tapes at control sites. The Event Organiser will arrange map printing, control placement and collection, and other event logistics on the day.

Courses

Four courses are required:

Course	Approx. length	Navigation	# controls	Max Climb*
Long	4-5 km	Moderate	14 - 18	4 to 5%
Medium	3 km	Moderate	10 - 15	<4%
Short	2 km	Easy	9 - 12	<4%
Primary	1.5 km	Very easy with no road crossings	9 - 12	<4%

*Climb is calculated as climb/distance for optimum route choice.

You have 25 controls - use SI box numbers 141-165

Don't use more than 18 controls on any course, because P-cards will only store 20 punches, and we need to allow for the occasional double punch.

This series is intended to introduce people to orienteering, so navigation shouldn't be too hard. Don't make controls too tricky – it is route choice options that make for an interesting course. All courses should be able to be completed without a compass. All controls should be clearly visible. Err on the side of being too easy.

LONG
Controls may be off-track, but use obvious features, and those with good attack points and strong catching features. Offer plenty of route choice – ideally a track choice should be slower than cross-country. Avoid the dark green!

MEDIUM
Controls should be close to tracks or good attack points and keep the climb below 4%. Offer route choice. Lots of inexperienced schoolkids and older people do the Medium course, and we want them to enjoy themselves and not take too long. Make sure all route choices are safe (i.e. avoid cliffs, major roads).

SHORT
Controls should all be on or very close to tracks or other obvious linear features (e.g. fence), not much route choice.

PRIMARY
Controls all on tracks, **no road crossings**, almost no route choice. Have short legs and a large number of controls. Try and site track junction controls to lead the orienteer in the correct direction.

More advice on course planning can be found on the OT website under Events/Organisers Toolkit. Please read! There is also a 'Condes tips' document there that is very useful to look at prior to planning your courses.

Process

- Download Condes. The website support page has lots of helpful instructions, including a walk-through video. http://www.condes.net/ Ask your Controller or Jeff Dunn (eventinfo@tasorienteering.asn.au) if you need any further help

- Email Greg Hawthorne (mapping@tasorienteering.asn.au) to get the password for downloading Condes.

- Get the OCAD base map by emailing mapping officer Greg Hawthorne

- Decide the location of the assembly area, in consultation with your Controller. The courses should start and finish in this area. Locate start and finish close to where the trailer will be.

- Plan a draft course in Condes on your home PC. Name your course: "**SSSS Twilight YYYY LLLL**", where SSSS is Spring or Autumn, YYYY is the year and LLLL is the location for your event

- Make sure all courses will fit on A4 size paper (but the page alignment need not be the same for all courses.) See the 'Condes tips' document for help with this.

- Note that on a 1:10,000 map controls must be at least 60m apart, or 30m if on distinctly different features, and for a 1:5000 map these distances are 30m and 15m.

- Plan the courses using International symbolic control descriptions for all courses, but have Condes convert them to text, and over-ride Condes text if necessary, e.g. 'bench' instead of 'man-made object', so that all courses end up using English descriptions

- Have at least one field checking session to make sure your chosen control features exist, that there is something there at the appropriate height to which to attach the lockable control (on a thin wire), and that there are no major map changes. If you want to use controls on stands then check with Jeff because different control numbers will be required.

- Concentrate on getting the courses right. Don't worry about getting the map format, titles etc set up for printing.   The Controller will do this afterwards so it is in a consistent format.

- Send your Controller the Condes file **at least two weeks** before the event. This will be enough time for them to provide feedback on changes that may improve fairness, safety or participant enjoyment.

- When the courses are finalised, put tape around what you want the lockable control wire loop placed around, with the SI box number written on the tape with texta. In urban areas use unobtrusive pieces of tape so they don't get removed.