

Tasmanian Schools Championship

Organisation Guide

This event has many different requirements to other orienteering events. Entries are accepted directly from schools in batches, courses and classes are unique, many of the competitors are new to bush orienteering, and as it is (or usually is) the first selection event for the Tasmanian Schools team, the entry process must capture all nominations for selection.

The aim of this guide is to provide some background and instructions on how to organise the event. It is a work in progress and the organisers from each year are encouraged to add to the document to capture insights not yet recorded.

Ideally the event would be held shortly after the end of the Term 1 Schools Twilight Series to capture the interest of people who have been enjoying the series.

Courses

Courses should be made slightly easier than at OST events, as many students attending are not regular bush orienteers.

Many entrants are new to orienteering and don't have a SportIdent stick, so courses need to be set with no more than 20 controls to support P cards.

Most students enter the Moderate course, so it is worth having two versions, but they must be one for girls and another for boys, so that all students vying for selection are running the same course.

With the public courses, many older adults want a hard but short course, so we recommend offering all courses to adults.

Classes

Below is a spiel on classes that can be pasted directly into the entry form after updating the Year of birth column.

Schools Championship Classes (A classes)

For club members and for school orienteers with at least 2 years' experience.

The following table shows which class you will be in if you wish to be official for the Schools Championship. You need to enter your correct class to be considered for Schools Team selection. Only High School students are eligible for selection in the Tasmanian Schools Team.

As at 2018:

Year of birth	Class	Difficulty
2001 or earlier	Boys Open A	Hard
2001 or earlier	Girls Open A	Hard
2002	Boys 16A	Hard
2002	Girls 16A	Hard
2003	Girls/Boys 15A	Moderate
2004	Girls/Boys 14A	Moderate
2005	Girls/Boys 13A	Moderate
2006, 2007	Girls/Boys 12A	Easy
2008 or later	Girls/Boys 10A	Very Easy

Schools Non-Championship Classes (B classes)

For those with less experience or who wish to run in pairs.

The following table shows which class you will be in if you don't want to officially enter the Schools Championship. You will not be eligible for Schools Team selection if you run these classes, but you will contribute points to the Schools Trophy calculation.

Grade	Class	Difficulty
9/10/11/12	Girls/Boys Senior B	Moderate
7/8	Girls/Boys Junior B	Easy
Primary	Girls/Boys Primary B	Very Easy

Awards

Medals will be awarded in each Championship category, and there are three School trophies to be awarded: Primary, Girls High, and Boys High. Points towards these trophies are awarded in both A and B classes. Contact Cathy McComb via email – cathy@cakewoman.com – for information about getting hold of the medals. They should be in the Australopers shed.

In 2021:

- the Primary School trophy was won by Australian Christian College, Launceston;
- the Girls High School trophy was won by Launceston Church Grammar School, and
- the Boys High School trophy was won by The Hutchins School.

Points towards the School trophies (Primary, High School Girls, High School Boys) are as follows:

A courses:

1st -12, 2nd - 10, 3rd - 8

B Courses

1st - 6, 2nd - 4, 3rd - 2

All others 1 point each.

Starts

From 10am for Schools competitors. Pre-entry is required and start times will be allocated. The start list will be posted on the Eventor page for the event on the Orienteering Tasmania website.

For non-Schools competitors, starts will be after the Schools competitors. Pre-entry is not required and start times will not be allocated. Just turn up at the Start 10 minutes after the last Schools competitor.

There must be a gap of at least 10 minutes after the last Schools competitor before a non-Schools competitor starts. This is to avoid catching Schools competitors part way on the course and inadvertently assisting them around the rest of the course. This may not affect the placegetters but could easily affect Schools Team selections.

Nomination for Tasmanian Schools Team

The School Champs are usually the first selection event for the Tasmanian Schools Team.

A check box to indicate the entrant's nomination for selection in the schools team is provided on the paper entry form that schools should use to enter. The entry form should also include a statement clearly communicating that name and contact details of all people nominating will be forwarded to the chair of the selection panel.

Entries also come in via Eventor (usually through miscommunication or misunderstandings) so some method of indicating a wish to nominate for selection should be provided in the Eventor entry. This

could be set up as a service, although entrants would easily miss seeing a 'nomination' service to add. So, it may be worthwhile to follow up individual competitors, even if only at presentations or with a notice on the day.

Volunteers

This event needs more helpers than a regular event. The school children are allocated start times but many don't understand the start procedure as most haven't experienced it before. So, friendly but assertive helpers with a strong voice are very useful.

These volunteers should all have a Working with Vulnerable People registration as these roles involve relatively close interactions with children in primary and secondary school.

At least two volunteers should be stationed at the start triangle to check that competitors are heading in the right direction and have some understanding of how to navigate.

More volunteers should be stationed in the forest assisting participants who are clearly struggling with their navigation. Putting someone back on course only takes a couple of minutes, saving them perhaps twenty minutes of frustration and giving them some simple skills that might be enough for them to complete the course and enjoy themselves.

Starting

One helper is required to call up starters early and find them if they don't respond. Two more are necessary to escort starters to the correct map box. This will take some time, so don't expect it to be sorted in much less than 2 minutes. Then you will need another half minute to give start instructions.

So, for this to work without unnecessary stress for everyone, call up starters (Y) with 4 minutes to go until they start and line them up as shown below.

At 2 minutes to go, they can step forward to behind their map box (X).

Course	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Time to go								
2 min	X	X	X		X		X	X
4 min	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Things to watch out for or improve

Entries

LCGS did not use the provided form in 2021 and it caused a lot of work to capture nominations from their students. They also arrived on the day with ten additional participants.

Having a digital copy of the entry form on hand to return via email for non-compliant teachers to fill in and return will make it far easier to process entries.

SI / P-card distribution

Both Hutchins and LCGS handed out their hired SportIdent sticks and P cards randomly instead of matching the allocation recorded in the event software. This caused many hassles and in one case

the first place in a class was awarded to the wrong person. This was not noticed until everyone had gone home resulting in an awkward situation to rectify.

Be sure to stress the importance of allocating SI sticks and P cards correctly to teachers. It seems that even having the entrant's name attached to the SI stick / P card was insufficient!

Courses

The start triangle should be along the direction that the less competent navigators would naturally follow to their first control. They should not have to change direction significantly from the start triangle and ideally it will be on a track bend that they can continue along.

2018

These are the courses and classes used in 2018. We tried to make Course 1 the same standard as OST course 3, Course 2 the same as OST course 4, Courses 3 and 4 like OST Course 7, but on the easy side.

Course	Classes	Difficulty	Approx Distance
1	Boys OpenA, Boys 16A, Men/Women Long	Hard – like OST 3	5 - 6 km
2	Girls OpenA, Girls 16A	Hard - like OST 4	3.5 - 5 km
3	Boys 13A/14A/15A, Boys Senior B	Moderate Like OST 7	3 - 4 km
4	Girls 13A/14A/15A, Girls Senior B, Men/Women Medium	Moderate Like OST 7	3 - 4 km
5	Girls/Boys 12A, Girls/Boys Junior B, Men/Women Short	Easy – like OST 8	2 - 3 km
6	Girls/Boys 10A, Girls/Boys Primary B, Men/Women Novice	Very Easy – like OST 9	1.5 - 2 km

Very few adults will enter course 5 and 6, but we had our oldest regulars tackling a very tough course 2. A short hard course (OST course 6 standard) would be appreciated if it can be easily provided. If there is not pre-entry for adults, print 15-20 extra of each of courses 1-4 and then it's first-come-first-served.

Issues to raise with the OT Board

Privacy implications of forwarding name and contact details for nominating entrants.

WWVP registration for any officials (start, finish and in the forest).