



## Orienteering Tasmania – Competitor Search Procedure

This procedure does not supersede the **OT Event Safety Policy**. For complete information about event safety and searching for lost competitors, consult the Event Safety Policy which should also be in the trailer.

### Prepare

**Consider delaying control collection until the lost competitor is found.**

Event Organiser, Planner, Controller or other suitably experienced person:

1. Check that the competitor is actually missing – check start/finish data, competitor's experience, competitor's family/friends, their car, and call their mobile number.
2. Ask experienced orienteers to stay to help search.
3. Appoint a **Search Coordinator**.
4. Hand over to the **Search Coordinator**.

### Organise

Search Coordinator:

1. Get copies of the course map and the master map.
2. Ask if anyone has seen the competitor on course.
3. Decide on a time at which Emergency Services help should be sought (base on daylight hours remaining, weather conditions, travel time it may take Emergency Services).
4. Establish a search base.
5. Organise three search teams of two people each.
6. Record searchers' names.
7. Hand out a UHF radio to each team. If there is phone reception, swap phone numbers.
8. Gather and share information about the competitor eg:
  - Course,
  - Age,
  - Fitness level,
  - Experience and competence,
  - Medical conditions,
  - Clothing
9. Plan the search with the search teams – use the course map and master map
10. Send the teams out on the most appropriate search methods and patterns. Examples:
  - Forwards around the course
  - In reverse around the course
  - Around the course perimeter
  - Along road/track corridors

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11. Set a return time. (At return time, blow 10 short blasts of a car horn every minute)

## Search

- Ensure you are adequately clothed; bring own water, compass and phone.
- Each team carry a **Search and Rescue backpack** (from the club trailer), containing
  - a course map,
  - whistle,
  - water,
  - extra clothing,
  - space blanket,
  - emergency food,
  - basic first aid supplies,
  - pencil or pen,
  - torch.
- Pause frequently and look ahead, behind, and side to side.
- Call out the person's name, listen.
- Do not use whistles unless you find the missing competitor.
- If you find items on the course do not remove them. Mark their locations on your map or phone.
- If you find the competitor, blow **6 one second whistle blasts at one second intervals** and **repeat at one minute intervals** & phone the **Search Coordinator**.
- If the competitor cannot be moved, & contact cannot be made with the **Search Coordinator** leave one searcher with the participant while the other one reports to the **Search Base**.
- Administer first aid if required, and request assistance if necessary.
- All searchers should return to the **Search Base** by the predetermined time (if this is not possible, notify **Search Coordinator** of alternative ETA).
- If competitor is not found, **Search Coordinator and team** must then reassess search strategies and decide on the call to Emergency Services