

Competition Rules D: British Relay Championships

Text in bold below has mandatory status and shall be followed by event officials. Other content refers to material provided for guidance and for information. These Rules shall be read in conjunction with the BOF Rules and have the same authority. They shall be considered as their extension. Where these Rules vary or supplement BOF Rules, then these Competition Rules shall take precedence.

1. General Information

1.1 Level

1.1.1 The British Relay Championships is a Level A event.

1.2 Purpose

1.2.1 To find the British Club Relay Champions in each relevant age class.

1.2.2 to provide a high standard of domestic relay competition for all National Members of British Orienteering through a high quality event.

1.3 Nature of Event

1.3.1 Relay for teams of three in age classes. The event will normally be held the day after the British Long Distance Orienteering Championships.

1.4 Who May Compete

1.4.1 Teams shall only be entered by clubs which are affiliated to British Orienteering or another IOF affiliated National Federation.

1.4.2 Teams are eligible to be British Relay Championships medallists provided that on the day of the competition the club is affiliated to British Orienteering and each of the team members is both a National Member of British Orienteering and a British Citizen. This must be declared at the time of entry to the competition.

1.4.3 All members of a team (except for those in an Ad Hoc class) shall be members of the same club, except in the Men's and Women's Premier classes where the UK Relay League Neighbouring Clubs Alliances guideline applies. For British teams this is as shown on their current British Orienteering membership card. Non-competitive teams (i.e. teams comprising one or more members who are not qualified under the criteria above) are only allowed to enter the Mixed or Junior Ad hoc classes. However teams originally intended to be competitive may become non-competitive due to, for example, runners injured during the progress of the weekend being replaced on the day.

1.5 Responsibility

1.5.1 The British Relay Championships are organised by Constituent Associations or by clubs on behalf of British Orienteering and is scheduled by the Major Events Group, advised by the National Fixtures Secretary. Financial responsibility is

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divided between British Orienteering and the organising Association or Club on a two thirds: one third basis.

1.5.2 These Rules may only be varied by Rules Group, in consultation with the Major Events Group.

1.5.3 The Event Organiser will be required to make regular reports on the progress of the event to their Association and to the Major Events Group. The Major Events Group will report to Events Committee if at any stage it feels the event is at risk.

1.6 Officials

1.6.1 British Orienteering will establish lists of experienced officials at this level and will assess the competency of any unknown volunteer officials.

1.6.2 Controller: Grade A controller appointed by the Major Events Group.

1.6.3 Safety Officer appointed. First Aid provision to be covered within the Partnership Agreement.

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1.6.5 Map Adviser: appointed by Map Group.

1.6.6 Elite Adviser: appointed by Major Events Group.

1.6.7 Since there are comparatively few relay events, officials may lack previous relay experience of their specific jobs. They should, however, have adequate experience of relays both as competitors and as helpers on the administration side.

1.7 Publicity

1.7.1 Via the British Orienteering fixtures list and a direct link from the British Orienteering website to the dedicated event details page

1.7.2 Via advertising flyers

1.8 Timescale

This is intended to give guidance only and is not an all-embracing list.

27 months Area selected, officials agreed, timescales agreed. Map adviser appointed.

14 months Survey underway to ensure correct seasonal representation.

12 months Survey complete and draft colour map available for planning (new maps).

9 months Survey complete and draft colour map available for planning (updated maps).

8 weeks Planning completed.

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- 4 weeks Controlling of courses completed. Map files and course overprints sent to printer.
- 3 weeks Overprinted maps available. N.B. bagging is a long job.
- EVENT Results published at the event and on a website by the next day offering post event route and graphical split time analysis.
Results published on the British Orienteering website within 7 days.
- +2 weeks Results booklet posted.

2. Map and Terrain

2.1 Quality of Terrain

2.1.1 The terrain for the British Relay Championships should be generally runnable and of good technical quality. Much of the excitement of relays comes from head to head racing, but if the competition is to be fair, the terrain must have route-choice and navigation potential so that the better orienteers can benefit from their skill.

2.1.2 Courses are shorter than those for individual competitions, so smaller areas can be used. The terrain needs to be well featured (and accurately mapped!) as the control density in certain key places is likely to be unusually high. Very hilly areas and ones with poor conditions underfoot are unlikely to be suitable – relay areas should be particularly competitor-friendly!

2.1.3 There should be no crossing of roads which carry more than the occasional vehicle.

2.1.4 A relay is far more of a spectator event than any other form of orienteering and it is vital to identify the most suitable area for the change-over before course-planning starts. A good amphitheatre and atmosphere can make up for the lack of top class terrain.

2.2 Embargo

2.2.1 The competition terrain is embargoed as soon as its location is published. The terrain shall not have been used for orienteering for a minimum period of 24 months before the date of the Championships.

2.3 Map

2.3.1 The terrain shall be field worked in order for the map to be legible if presented at a scale of 1:15,000.

2.3.2 See Appendix H (Mapping).

2.4 Map Scale

2.4.1 The map scale for all age classes shall be 1:10,000, drawn with lines, line screens and symbol dimensions 50% greater than those used for 1:15,000 maps.

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2.5 Map Printing

2.5.1 All maps shall be offset litho printed unless agreed otherwise with Map Group.

2.5.2 The map shall be printed by an approved printer.

2.5.3 The British Orienteering map template shall be used.

3. Event Organisation

3.1 General

3.1.1 The organisation should be sufficient to cope with the number of competitors expected to attend the event. Particular care is needed in finding a suitable car park and assembly area. The British Relay Championships should normally provide the following features:

- entry closing date no more than 28 days before date of competition
- where an area has been used for an earlier event, unmarked maps on display in the assembly area (these may be of the map used for the earlier event) and the event website
- electronic punching
- same control site format at each control, with sample on display at the pre-start
- radio controls and a public address system for commentary.
- spectator control
- Map collection from all finishers until after the last runner has started.
- a dignified and prestigious ceremony to present prizes to at least the winners of all classes, and preferably to the first three teams in each class.

3.1.2 On the day of the event, the organisation is likely to experience far greater pressure than for individual events because of significant time compression. The three maxims are:

- off-load responsibility onto club captains or teams wherever possible
- do as much as possible beforehand
- if in doubt, over-staff.

3.2 Car parking

3.2.1 Since competitors arrive (and depart) during a relatively short period of time, several parking teams working in different areas are advised. If only one car park is to be used, multiple entrances may be needed.

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3.3 Toilets

3.3.1 The average length of stay is longer than for an individual event, and there will be a higher proportion of non-competing spectators; consequently, toilet demand is likely to be greater.

3.4 Registration

3.4.1 Teams should register names and running order, and, if appropriate, confirm their eligibility for the class entered. For all classes with laps of unequal length or technical difficulty, information about the order in which these are to be run must be given to each team at, or prior to, registration. The order may be different for different teams in the same class.

3.4.2 Most registrations should be done before 'race day', but there will be many teams who wish to change names, running order or declare themselves non-competitive on the day. User-friendly 'Change Forms' should be readily available at Enquiries.

3.5 Competitors' numbers

3.5.1 Each class should be allocated an easily distinguishable block of team numbers. e.g. 4001 upwards for M40+; 4099 downwards for W40+.

3.5.2 As numbering such as 120/2 is cumbersome, (and ambiguous when called out), the different laps are best indicated by broad, coloured stripes. Red, white, and blue is the usual sequence.

3.6 Map issue

3.6.1 Maps, in opaque paper bags or folded and taped, are usually collected by competitors as each enters the start or change-over waiting area. Completely separate issue 'desks' for the different laps reduce the chance of competitors receiving the wrong map. Only on being shown a running number should the official hand over the appropriate map.

3.6.2 Competitors will have been reminded in the Event Details that any attempt to 'see' the map before they start renders their team liable to disqualification.

3.7 Seeding

3.7.1 Organisers should attempt to seed teams in order to prevent potential winners having identical gaffles. Teams to be seeded include those which have finished in the top few in the class in question in the previous year. Also, any other teams which are thought to be very competitive could be included. A look at the entry list for the individual event should help to identify clubs which have 2 or 3 very good runners eligible for a given class.

3.7.2 Once a list of potentially seeded teams is identified, they should be ranked 1, 2, 3 etc.

3.7.3 The actual number of seeds depends on the chosen system of gaffling. For example, with three legs, the gaffling is likely to be a multiple of three. In this case six

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teams should be seeded. Ranks 1 and 4 on gaffle A for the first lap, ranks 2 and 5 on gaffle B and ranks 3 and 6 on gaffle C. Subsequent laps should be arranged such that teams on the same gaffle on lap 1 are on different gaffles for laps 2, 3 etc.

3.7.4 The number of seeds should be a minimum of three and a maximum of ten.

3.8 Starts

3.8.1 In order to increase the number of people racing together, even if they are competing in different classes, all classes running the same course should start at the same time. The table in section 4 shows the class to course allocation. The recommended start order and times are:

Class	Call-up	Mass Start
Mini Relay (M/W12-)	09:45	10:00
Men's Premier	09:55	10:10
Women's Premier	10:05	10:20
M40	10:05	10:20
M14	10:15	10:30
W14	10:15	10:30
Mixed Ad Hoc	10:25	10:40
Junior Ad Hoc	10:25	10:40
Men's Short	10:35	10:50
W40	10:35	10:50
M60	10:35	10:50
M18	10:35	10:50
Women's Short	10:45	11:00
W50	10:45	11:00
W60	10:45	11:00
W18	10:45	11:00
M50	10:55	11:10

3.9 Mini-mass Starts

3.9.1 Competitors awaiting previous lap runners who are long overdue should be started in a mini-mass start to avoid the competition going on too long. Arrangements for mini-mass Starts must be publicised in the Event Details. The planning and organisation should be such as to minimise the numbers of competitors likely to be involved. Exceptionally a mini-mass start may be delayed.

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3.9.2 Those involved in mini-mass starts must have their team numbers recorded by an official. The starter must record the actual time of start manually as well as through their e-card.

3.9.3 Participation in a mini-mass start shall not disqualify a team unless previous notice has been given that this will be the case.

3.10 Finish and Timing

3.10.1 Since relays are decided by finishing order only, timing is of secondary importance. However at least 'race time' should be displayed along with team positions on the day, with individual times appearing in the printed results.

3.11 Results display

3.11.1 Sturdy (triangular?) and weatherproof stands at head height are recommended. Frequent up-date of team positions is essential. Make use of the fact that hundreds of pairs of eyes will check everything displayed.

3.11.2 It is particularly important to allow time and opportunity for appeals against disqualifications to be considered and resolved well before the prize-giving.

3.12 Prize-giving

3.12.1 There should be an area which gives good visibility for a prize-giving. A separate official should be responsible for producing a prize list, which involves monitoring the leading teams in each class; confirming eligibility; and checking that what is displayed agrees with the prize list!

3.13 Trophies and Medals

3.13.1 **British Relay Championship Trophies shall be presented to the winning competitive team representing a British club in each class.**

3.13.2 **British Championship medals shall be awarded to members of the first, second and third placed teams in classes A to Q, which satisfy the Eligibility Rule in 1.4.2.**

3.13.3 **Mementoes shall be awarded to members of the first, second and third placed teams in the Ad -Hoc classes R and S, and to ineligible teams which win other classes**

3.13.4 **Non British teams or those containing non British Citizens are not eligible for medals or trophies and shall not form part of the prizegiving even if their result places them in the top three. However they may be given a memento or small token of recognition at the discretion of the Event Organiser.**

3.14 Published results

3.14.1 As well as team times and positions, the published results should show individual times and details of the course variants run.

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4. Course Planning

4.1 Classes

4.1.1 Classes for competition shall be provided as follows:

Class	Title	Recommended winning time per lap (mins)	Suggested race numbers	TD
A	Men's Premier	32	1 - 99	5
B	Women's Premier	32	101 - 199	5
C	Men's Short	length approx two thirds of Men's Premier	201 - 299	5
D	Women's Short	length approx two thirds of Women's Premier	301 - 399	5
E	M40	32	4001 - 4060	5
F	W40	32	4099 - 4061	5
G	M50	32	5001 - 5060	5
H	W50	32	5099 - 5061	5
J	M60	32	6001 - 6060	5
K	W60	32	6099 - 6061	5
L	M18	25	1801 - 1860	5
M	W18	25	1899 - 1861	5
N	M14	18	1401 - 1460	3
P	W14	22	1499 - 1461	3
Q	M/W12 (Mini Relay)	12	1201 - 1299	2
R	Mixed Ad Hoc		401 - 499	5/5/3
S	Junior Ad Hoc (M/W 18-)		601 - 699	5/3/2

4.2 Notes

4.2.1 To be competitive in classes A to Q all runners must be in the same club, except in classes A and B where the UK Relay League Neighbouring Clubs Alliances guideline applies.

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4.2.2 Classes R and S, Mixed Ad Hoc and Junior Ad Hoc, are open to teams (M and/or W) made up from members of different clubs.

4.2.3 Laps will be run in the order shown except for classes R and S (Mixed Ad Hoc and Junior Ad Hoc) which will have lap lengths jumbled up. For this class, the running order will be shown on the Team Declaration Form so that team members will be able to select the lap appropriate to them.

4.3 Courses to be Planned

4.3.1 It is not necessary to plan separate courses for each class as the table overleaf shows how the different classes can be combined onto nine courses :

Course		a	b	c	d	e	f	g
TD		5	5	5	5	5	3	2
Course length ratio		1•00	0•82	0•74	0•66	0•56	approx 2.5km	approx 2•0km
Course								
1	A	1, 2, 3						
2	B, E		1, 2, 3					
3	C, F, J, L				1, 2, 3			
4	D, H, K, M					1, 2, 3		
5	G			1, 2, 3				
6	N, P						1, 2, 3	
7	Q							1, 2, 3
8	R			long		medium	short	
9	S					long	medium	short

4.4 Planning notes

4.4.1 The course length ratios are based on a 32 minute fastest lap time for an elite competitor running in the Men's Premier class.

4.4.2 Planners should note that course length ratios refer to course lengths which are "corrected" for height climb (by adding 0.1 km for every 10m of climb).

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4.4.3 The number of variants of a particular course, and how to use gaffling, is a decision to be made by the planner. This should take into account the likely number of teams running.

4.4.4 It is preferable that all courses, including the Mini Relay, are gaffled to some extent to avoid following. However gaffling should be fair, and in particular should not try and 'trick' juniors into mis-punching.

4.4.5 It must be remembered that whatever method of gaffling is employed, in order for the race to be fair it is essential that by the end of the race each team must have run precisely the same legs. It is not sufficient that they have just visited the same controls.

4.4.6 The fair siting of controls is even more important in relays than in individual competitions. Anything which gives an unfair disadvantage to those leading must be avoided at all cost. In particular any hint of a 'bingo control' (pits in bracken for example) will result in a hard earned lead being lost whilst a pack forms for a control hunting exercise. Similarly, dog-legs give an advantage to those behind.

4.4.7 Although groups of controls are often used it is not good planning to have them too close together, or visible from one another. A competitor who arrives at the wrong control should be penalised for it. Grouped controls should also be on unambiguous features and have very different control codes. The planner should not be trying to trick people - the fewer people disqualified for mis-punching the better.

4.5 Control Descriptions

4.5.1 See Appendix A

5. Further information

5.1 Other Information

5.1.1 Appendices B (Course Planning), E (Event Safety), and G (Protests, Juries and Appeals). Event Guideline F (Relays)

5.1.2 If you cannot find the answer to a question within the published Rules, Appendices and Guidelines then please contact the Chairman of Rules Group via the British Orienteering National Office.