

## **Competition Rules P: British Schools Score Championships**

### **1. General Information**

#### **1.1 Nature of event**

1.1.1 The British Schools Score Championships (BSSC) was originated by the British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA) to give schools an opportunity to take part in a different type of orienteering competition.

1.1.2 The BSSC is held annually and is aimed at school teams comprised of junior orienteers of all standards.

1.1.3 The BSSC is a Level B event.

1.1.4 The event is overseen by the BSOA who are the ruling body for this event.

#### **1.2 Eligibility**

1.2.1 Any School may enter a team in the British Schools Score Championships.

1.2.2 School categories

Primary: Years 5 and 6

Middle/Prep: Years 5 to 8

Lower Secondary: Years 7 to 9

Upper Secondary: Years 10 to 13

(Schools with competitors up to and including year 8 are counted as Middle/Prep schools.)

1.2.3 All competitors must attend the school / college for which they are competing.

1.2.4 The competition is for school years 5 to 13. Younger competitors may take part at the discretion of the school if they are technically capable of completing a White course, but please note that shadowing of competitors is not allowed.

1.2.5 Pairs may compete in years 5 to 8.

- If a pair contains two different age categories then they compete in the older age category
- If a pair contains a boy and a girl then they compete in the Boys category in the age class of the oldest of the pair

1.2.6 All entries must be made via the school and require a head teacher's or governor's signature on the entry form.

### **2. Organisational Requirements**

#### **2.1 Date of Fixture**

2.1.1 The British Schools Score Championships usually takes place on the second Saturday in October.

2.1.2 The date and location of the event is determined by Fixtures Group after consultation with the British Schools Orienteering Association.

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### **2.2 Responsibility for the event**

2.2.1 Individual clubs may offer to host the championships through their Association representative on Fixtures Group.

### **2.3 Location, Parking and Assembly Area requirements**

2.3.1 If possible the event should be close to major road networks.

2.3.2 Parking should be as near to the assembly area as possible so that competitors can easily move backwards and forwards without danger. Ideally coaches should also be accommodated in the same area or very near to it.

### **2.4 Safety**

This event has very specific and different safety risks, because of the relative inexperience and young age of the competitors and should conform to British Orienteering 'O' Safe and Good Practice guidelines. It is imperative that a safety officer is appointed for the whole weekend. Issues that he/she will need to be responsible for, or otherwise consider, will include the following:

- provision of adequate first aid support
- the preparation of, and if necessary implementation of, a search plan to locate missing competitors
- the provision of "ask me" helpers in the area, to assist competitors. Such adults must be readily identified by competitors, so that there is no risk of them engaging with members of the public. It is also a British Orienteering requirement that such helpers be CRB checked.

## **3. Planning Requirements**

### **3.1 Terrain**

3.1.1 The area needs to be suitable for children, either forest or parkland/forest with a good track and path network. Open fell or moorland areas are not suitable for this event.

3.1.2 Once an area is identified the normal British Orienteering Rules and Guidelines should apply with regard to use of the area for other events, specifically in relation to juniors competing.

### **3.2 Course details**

3.2.1 A normal score event format with approximately 30 controls but with the following provisos:

- a) Controls 1 to 8, 9 or 10 should form a loop equivalent to a white course on the British Orienteering Colour Coded system.
- b) The remaining controls should give a mixture of yellow, orange, light green and green standard control sites / legs.

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c) There should be an obvious final control which all competitors would visit and punch. However, anyone accidentally failing to punch at this control should not be disqualified.

d) Where a road crossing is required, and there are any concerns over safety, a manned control should be sited at the crossing point.

### **3.3 Start and Finish requirements**

3.3.1 It is useful to have the start fairly close to the Assembly Area, although the start area itself should not be accessible by teachers, parents, etc.

3.3.2 The assembly area should be designed to give a good run in from the final control and to make the event feel 'special'.

## **4. Competition**

### **4.1 Rules for scoring**

4.1.1 All competitors use the same control sites.

4.1.2 The time limit is 45 minutes for all competitors.

4.1.3 Ten points are scored for each different control visited.

4.1.3 Five points are deducted for each minute or part minute late.

4.1.4 No competitor may register a negative score. If the points deducted exceed the points scored then the competitor will be given a score of zero.

4.1.5 In the event of a tie on points the shortest time will decide the result.

### **4.2 Individual Awards**

4.2.1 Years 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 each compete in separate year classes.

4.2.2 Years 10 & 11, and Years 12 & 13 are each combined into two-year age classes.

4.2.3 Boys and girls compete in separate classes.

4.2.4 Awards, preferably medals and a certificate, will be given to the first three competitors (or pairs) in each of the 7 boys' and 7 girls' age classes.

4.2.5 Each competitor should receive a certificate and if possible some form of memento.

4.2.6 Spot prizes can also be presented at the finish.

### **4.3 Team Trophies**

4.3.1 BSSC is primarily aimed at school team competition.

4.3.2 Team trophies

Primary Boys (Years 5 & 6)

Best 4 scores to count.

Primary Girls (Years 5 & 6)

Best 4 scores to count.

Middle / Prep Boys (Years 5-8)

Best 4 scores to count from at least 2 years

Middle / Prep Girls (Years 5-8)

Best 4 scores to count from at least 2 years

Lower Secondary Boys (Y7-9)

Best 6 scores to count from at least 2 years

Lower Secondary Girls (Y7-9)

Best 6 scores to count from at least 2 years

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- Upper Secondary Boys (Y10-13) Best 6 scores to count.  
Upper Secondary Girls (Y10-13) Best 6 scores to count.
- 4.3.3 In the event of a tie on points the shortest total time of the scorers will count.
- 4.3.4 Incomplete teams will count after complete teams. Hence all complete teams, with 4 or 6 competitors as appropriate, will be placed higher than an incomplete team even if their total scores are lower.
- 4.3.5 It is up to the individual organisers whether or not they then give medals to the winning team members, but it is preferred if budget allows.

## **5. Other Information**

### **5.1 Officials**

- 5.1.1 The officials for the event shall meet the requirements set out for a Level B event in the British Orienteering Rules, Appendix C: Event Officials.
- 5.1.2 The British School Score Championships requires a Planner who is experienced at planning good Junior courses.

### **5.2 Entries information**

- 5.2.1 Flyers should be produced as early as possible to advertise the event. Publicity should be sent to all junior publications.
- 5.2.2 Entry forms should be produced in electronic and hard copy format and should be published on the BSOA web site, with links from the British Orienteering and organising club web sites. In the previous summer term these can also be sent to previously competing schools by the British Orienteering National Office. (Arrangements via the BSOA co-ordinator).
- 5.2.3 There should be no entries on the day - fix a closing date, and take late entries at the organising club's discretion. On the original entry form schools do not need to enter names, just the numbers of entries in each year group with boy/girl and pair information. Relevant numbers of start times per year groups should be posted to schools with final details.
- 5.2.4 Schools return the start form with added names, to the entries secretary, before the competition.

### **5.3 Electronic punching**

- 5.3.1 Electronic punching should be used, either SI or EMIT. This helps in producing the final results quickly and enables a prompt prizegiving.
- 5.3.2 The e-cards should be supplied for all competitors, and only issued in the start lanes. (British Orienteering / BSOA have 300 SI e-cards that can be borrowed free of charge). Traditionally Clubs/Regions have also been willing to lend extra SI / EMIT cards free of charge, (excluding postage and loss).
- 5.3.3 When using electronic punching, backup systems shall be provided at each control; i.e. backup card for EMIT, standard pin punch for SI.

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### **5.4 Start times**

5.4.1 The start period is normally two hours

5.4.2 Start times should be at 1 minute intervals.

5.4.3 Competitors should be spread throughout the start period so that a similar number start at each minute interval.

5.4.4 Only one competitor from an age group should start at any one start time.

5.4.5 Wherever possible keep competitors from each school 4 minutes apart. If this is difficult because of the number of entries the interval can be reduced to 2 minutes, but still keeping to 4 minute intervals within each class.

### **5.5 Map**

5.5.1 The map scale should not be greater than 1:10,000.

5.5.2 A copy of the map of the area (not just an extract) should be sent to the schools entering so that they are familiar with the type of terrain before they come to the event. This can either be an old one with the “health warning” ‘this map is being updated’, or a copy of the new map.

5.5.3 If using SI electronic controls there should be appropriate boxes on the map for the use of back up punches.

5.5.4 Maps should be collected at the finish and only handed back after the last start time.

### **5.6 Prize giving**

5.6.1 Juniors like a good presentation ceremony. A podium or raised ground is advisable. The area should be fenced off.

5.6.2 A PA system should be used.

5.6.3 If possible a local dignitary and/or young British elite athlete should be asked to present the prizes.

### **5.7 Photographs**

5.7.1 Written permission must be obtained from the schools to take photographs of competitors that may be used on BSOA/ British Orienteering /Club web sites - follow British Orienteering guidelines

### **5.8 Finance**

5.8.1 Endeavours should be made to keep the entry cost as low as possible whilst still maintaining the quality of the event,

5.8.2 There should be a reduced cost of entry for BSOA member schools.

5.8.3 The Event Organiser may be able to obtain support for the event from British Orienteering as there is a fund available which is used to help to provide enhancements for Junior events. Full details can be found on the British Orienteering web site, or contact the National Office for further information.

5.8.4 The Dave Birkett fund administered by the BSOA will provide help with financing for the team trophies. Contact the BSSOA secretary for details.

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5.8.5 The organiser should apply to British Orienteering for exemption from the BOF levy as this is a Junior only competition.

### **5.9 Support**

5.9.1 The British Schools Orienteering Association provides mentoring support for this event. Contact the BSOA secretary for contact details of the BSSC co-ordinator.