

1 INTRODUCTION

The South West Orienteering Association constitution states that the objects of the Association shall be to encourage, promote and control the sport of orienteering in the area of Sport England South West. The people in SWOA – the members of its constituent clubs – act on behalf of the Association. Therefore “what SWOA does” is what they, individually or collectively, are prepared to do.

2 INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 Governance

The Association has a written constitution, last revised at the 2012 AGM. This provides for the election of an executive committee (the Committee) with a Chairman, Administrative Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and up to six other members. Each constituent club is entitled to send a representative to committee meetings; these have a vote. The Committee normally meets five or six times a year at a central location.

2.2 Officials

Apart from those in para 2.1, the Committee appoints an Editor for the regional newsletter, a Recorder of Controllers, and a Galoppen Scorer. (For more details of these, see below.) Other officials are the Junior Squad Manager, the Website Editor, the Website Technical Manager and the Secretary of the colour-coded badge scheme.

2.3 Fixtures

The Association provides via its elected Fixtures Secretary the means of registering events for the national fixtures list – necessary both for publicity and insurance cover. The Fixtures Secretary liaises with SWOA clubs and other Associations in order to maintain a sensible calendar of events, and negotiates at national level about the Association’s responsibility for staging major events, such as British Championships and the JK weekend at Easter.

2.4 Finance

The Association funds itself by means of membership fees (fixed annually at the AGM) and a levy on events which is fixed by the Committee.

2.5 Representation at National Level

The Committee appoints representatives to British Orienteering committees and groups having representatives from constituent Associations.

3 TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS

3.1 Controllers

Controllers are the officials responsible for ensuring that events are organised and planned according to British Orienteering (BOF) Rules and Guidelines (the Rules). The Committee is responsible for appointing them to Levels B and C, following a recommendation from their club, and for those applying for Level A, recommending them to BOF. The Association Recorder of Controllers deals with applications, maintains records for individuals, monitors their activities, and helps find controllers for events when asked.

3.2 Rule Changes

The Committee has the power to approve changes in the Rules for Level C events; the event controller must also agree to the change. [ref. Rules 2012, 1.3.9]

3.3 Protests and Appeals

In the case of an appeal against the decision of a jury following a written protest at a Level C events, the Committee is the adjudicating body. Its decision is final. [ref. Rules 2012, 9.4.4]

4 TRAINING

4.1 The Association periodically organises a Technical Conference, when innovations and other matters concerning the staging of events can be aired.

4.2 The Association can organise the training courses required by Grade B and C controllers in order for them to qualify.

4.3 Club Development Conference.

The Association has organised one successful Club Development Conference, and could periodically arrange others.

5 JUNIORS

The Association sponsors the South West Junior Orienteering Squad, which organises training weekends throughout the year, and takes a team to the Junior Inter Regional Championships. Those from 13 years old are welcome (younger with a parent). The Squad provides a pathway to competing in national representative competitions.

6 GRANTS FOR TRAINING AND COMPETITIONS

- 6.1 Junior training: the Association pays one half of the “individual contribution” of those selected for national level training camps and tours, provided that they are under 21 and in full-time education.
- 6.2 First Aid courses: SWOA normally subsidises the fees for licensed coaches and those working to become coaches. The standard grants are £50 for a two-day course and £25 for a one-day course.
- 6.3 Coach training: the current grants for coach training courses are £75 for UKCC Level 1 and £125 for UKCC Level 2.
- 6.4 Competitions: those representing England or Great Britain can claim one third of the individual contribution required. This increases to 50% for those under 21 in full-time education.
- 6.5 The Association will consider other grant applications; each application will be considered on its own merits.
- 6.6 All grant applications must be made to the Association prior to the training or event concerned and are subject to approval by the Committee.

7 COMMUNICATIONS

7.1 Newsletter

The Association has a newsletter *SINS* (the abbreviation comes from Southern Independent News Sheet) which is published six times a year. It carries the fixtures list, official news and contact details, results, event reports and other articles. Individuals are free to express their own views.

7.2 Website

The Association has a website whose pages include contacts for officials, news items, Committee minutes, a list of controllers, Galoppen League results and useful documents. Links are provided to club websites, the British Orienteering website – which includes the fixtures list – and others of interest.

8 LEAGUES and CHAMPIONSHIPS

8.1 Galoppen League

The Galoppen League is an annual series of colour-coded events (usually nine), staged by different clubs, in which points are scored on the different courses. The Committee approves the rules. There is an impressive set of perpetual trophies.

8.2 Summer Relay Series

The Association awards a trophy to the winners of the Summer Relay series, normally six events. The Committee approves the rules.

8.3 Individual Age Group Championships

These are held for three disciplines: Sprint, Middle and Long Distance events. The Long Distance event is normally held in conjunction with the first day of the Caddihoe Chase two-day event in September.

Arthur Vince,
SWOA Secretary