

4 Tier Event Structure

The Board, in implementing the 4 Tier Event Structure proposal adopted at the 2010 AGM, wishes to ensure that the 4 levels of event are defined in a manner that is inclusive of the various types of events that take place. For instance it should be possible for a cross country sprint, urban sprint or middle distance to be placed at any level in the structure. Similarly the Competition Review which has been widely consulted on is currently at the stage of recommendations being drafted and the Event Structure should have the potential to be aligned with any recommendations that are adopted.

The definitions of the 4 levels are **primarily** based on the purpose of an event. Once the purpose is confirmed the authority to schedule is clear and the quality of the event that participants experience, and should expect, can be determined using 'quality standards'. An attempt to define these is laid out below. The Board sought recommendations from Events Committee to clarify certain aspects of the 4 Tier Structure and has adopted the 'authority to schedule' recommendation as a prime aspect of the definition. However the Board also recognised that the membership would wish event quality to be a part of the definitions and hence meaningful to members, rather than purely an administrative/management function such as the authority to schedule.

The Board is also aware of some confusion that currently exists, with levels of coaching award¹ and technical difficulty being numbered from level 1 upwards. To resolve this issue it has been agreed that the 4 Event Levels will be named as Level A, B, C and D with Level A being the major events and Level D being events at a local level, solely under the jurisdiction of a club.

Level	Purpose	Authority to Schedule
Level D	To provide opportunities for participants to orienteer at a venue near to them and at relatively low cost; events will be aimed at providing local competition and increasing participation.	Clubs
Level C	To provide opportunities for participants seeking competition at a wider variety of venues and against a varied group of competitors but without wishing to travel great distances.	Associations
Level B	To provide opportunities for more experienced competitors seeking a wider variety of terrain, challenging courses and competition, and who are prepared to travel longer distances for this.	British Orienteering Fixtures Group
Level A	British Orienteering's Major Events providing opportunities for competitors to take part in the ultimate orienteering challenges in the UK.	British Orienteering Major Events Group advised by Fixtures Group

Developmentally, all events and particularly Level D events should be staged in a manner that is friendly and at the highest quality that is feasible and practical. The quality standards outlined below should be considered to be **minimum** standards. This will help to ensure that newcomers to the sport receive a positive and consistent experience and that more experienced orienteers are satisfied with their regular orienteering experience.

¹ The coach awards are an external accreditation under the Qualification & Credit Framework and the naming of the level of award is pre-determined.

By default, Level A major events are scheduled by invitation and all other events commence as Level D events. For an event to be 'upgraded' it will need to meet the needs of a wider group of orienteers and greater minimum quality standards. Upgrading of such events will require the agreement of either the Association or British Orienteering. During the transition phase to the 4 Tier Structure, Association fixtures secretaries will determine the events scheduled as Level C and the National Fixtures Group the events at Level B. Once the system is up and running the event registration system will be modified to contain the following criteria:

Terrain: It is recognised that the technical experience that participants receive at an event is determined by a combination of terrain, map and course planning. Bodies considering staging an event above Level D will be required to specify the terrain to be used to the body with authority for scheduling the event. This will then be confirmed as being appropriate *prior* to the event being publicised on the British Orienteering website. For a known area of terrain this process will usually be straightforward. This quality control process should help ensure the starting point in organising an event is appropriate.

The terrain required for an event is determined by the discipline (i.e. Foot O, Trail-O, Mountain Bike O) of the event that is to be staged, the length of the courses required and the type and difficulty of terrain required, for instance cross country or urban. There are expectations of technical difficulty used to assess the suitability of terrain for a particular discipline and competition.

Maps: Maps also depend on the discipline, length and type of terrain they are to be used for. Mappers will be encouraged to use the IOF International Specifications for all maps but they will be mandatory at level C and above. All maps are expected to be up to date, but this is particularly required at Level C and above. Events at Level A will be required to use the British Orienteering map template. A modified British Orienteering Rules Appendix H will be made available which will cover the scales at which maps should be printed and the method of printing to be used. Level B and A events will be expected to use an accredited printer and a process to accredit printers will be introduced once the 4 Tier Structure is up and running.

Event Officials: It is recognised that the quality of an event is also dependent on the competence of the event officials involved. In the short term, current practices will continue although it should be noted that the updated training for new organisers will be commencing in 2011. Over time a register of organisers and planner will be developed to sit alongside the register of controllers. In the first instance and to speed up the process, those people who have organised or planned at events above Local level during the last 10 years will be recognised and automatically added to the registers.

Safety: Events have to meet a prescribed level of safety in order to meet participant expectation/needs and to meet Health & Safety and insurance requirements.

Event Facilities: For Level D events, clubs should feel free to provide supporting facilities that meet the needs of the participants and are practical, although clubs are encouraged to make them as friendly as possible. Level C events will require a minimum of toilets, basic start and finish areas; Level B as Level C but with the additional minimum of an assembly area and traders invited (where permissions allow this); Level A as Level B but with an arena whose features will be specified in the partnership agreement.

Event Systems: Defines the type of IT support that will be required as a minimum at each level.

Publicity: The type of publicity material made available to market the event sets the scene for the quality of event and for the participants being targeted. Consequently this criterion considers the minimum levels of promotional materials such as flyers, websites, and news that are associated with the level of event.

The NOTs

It is also useful to understand what is NOT included in the Event Quality Standards and why:

Activities: the 4 tier structure in no way constrains the staging of orienteering activities registered as such with British Orienteering. Activities that are covered by British Orienteering insurance must still adhere to normal risk assessment, safety and 1st aid requirements but fall outside the scope of the other criteria covered by the levels' structure.

Map scales: the printing scale for maps will be determined by individual competition rules rather than by the quality of the event. The JK exemplifies why this is necessary with different map scales potentially being used for different competitions/days within the JK.

Embargo: will be determined by individual competition rules rather than by the quality of the event. In this way the JK and BOCs can have different lengths of embargo if that is appropriate whilst being at the same event level.

Scheduling of events: is not a measure of quality; it is recognised that a club wishing to stage an event above Level D will need to decide which of two approaches to adopt:

- i) To decide to use terrain for an event that is targeted at attracting increased regional or UK wide participation, in which case they will negotiate the scheduled date with the appropriate authority, Association Fixtures Group for Level C, National Fixtures Group at Level B, and Major Events Group advised by National Fixtures Group at Level A.
or
- ii) To determine a date for an event and then identify the level and terrain etc that is appropriate, followed by seeking approval from the Association or British Orienteering as appropriate.

Courses: the courses staged at an event will be determined by the discipline of the event, any competitions to be staged at the event and the number of participants expected. None of these will dictate the purpose, authority to schedule or quality that an event is to be staged at. Consequently an urban or middle event can be at any event level and with any number of courses provided the purpose and Event Quality Standards are appropriate.

Ranking: Although the ranking scheme is not directly linked to the quality of event, the Board has confirmed as an interim measure, that event levels A, B and C will be submitted to the ranking scheme for appropriate types of competition. This is in principle as recommended by the Ranking Workgroup.

Event Quality Standard: Draft 3

Please note that these are **minimum** standards; organisers should be working to deliver as good an experience as is reasonable to participants at all levels

	Level D	Level C	Level B	Level A	Notes
Purpose	To provide opportunities for participants to orienteer at a venue near to them and at relatively low cost; events will be aimed at providing local competition and increasing participation.	To provide opportunities for participants seeking competition at a wider variety of venues and against a varied group of competitors but without wishing to travel great distances	To provide opportunities for more experienced competitors seeking a wider variety of terrain, challenging courses and competition, and who are prepared to travel longer distances for this.	British Orienteering's Major Events providing opportunities for competitors to take part in the ultimate orienteering challenges in the UK.	
Terrain	Club to determine suitability.	Association assesses the suitability of the terrain for the event.	National body assesses the suitability of the terrain for the event.	National body assesses suitability of the terrain for the event.	
Map	Club to determine standard that meets the needs of participants; this will normally be to use the appropriate IOF Standards.	IOF International Standard for the discipline is used.	IOF International Standard for the discipline is used.	IOF International Standard for the discipline and the British Orienteering map template are used. Map submitted for assessment.	British Orienteering template is available
Event Officials	Club to use experienced officials or to use novice officials with an experienced mentor for support.	Associations to require experienced officials and to assess the competency of any unknown volunteer officials. Grade 3 Controller or above.	Established, experienced officials used at this level and the competency of any unknown volunteer officials assessed. Grade 2 Controller or above.	British Orienteering to establish list of experienced officials at this level/discipline and to assess the competency of any unknown volunteer officials. Grade 1 Controller appointed by Major Events Group.	Registers of known, competent event officials to be gradually established
Safety	Organiser or Event Director to ensure the risk assessment has been completed and checked by a qualified person. (In the short term this will normally be a Controller or Coach; during 2011/12 there will be safety workshops to provide training and accreditation.) 1 st Aid provision is appropriate to the size of event.	Organiser or Event Director to ensure the risk assessment has been completed and checked by a qualified person. (In the short term this will normally be a Controller or Coach; during 2011/12 there will be safety workshops to provide training and accreditation.) 1 st Aid provision is appropriate to the size of event.	Organiser or Event Director to ensure the risk assessment has been completed and checked by a qualified person. (In the short term this will normally be a Controller or Coach; during 2011/12 there will be safety workshops to provide training and accreditation.) 1 st Aid provision is appropriate to the size of event.	Safety Officer appointed for the event. 1 st Aid provision to be covered within the Partnership Agreement.	A safety workshop to be offered by British Orienteering. 1 st Aid provision to be specified
Facilities	As determined by the club.	Toilets, basic start and finish areas.	Toilets, start and finish areas, assembly area, traders.	Toilets, start and finish areas, arena, traders.	Detail to be developed
Systems	As determined by the club.	EOD with pre-entry where appropriate Electronic punching Results published on a website by next day and on the British Orienteering website within 7 days	Pre-entry EOD for non-competition/recreation courses Electronic punching Results published at the event and on a website by the next day offering post event analysis Results published on the British Orienteering website within 7 days	Pre-entry EOD for non-competition/recreation courses Electronic punching Commentary, radio controls and spectator control Results published at the event and on a website by the next day offering post event analysis Results published on the British Orienteering website within 7 days	
Publicity	British Orienteering fixture list; Club website.	British Orienteering fixture list; Association website; advertising flyer.	British Orienteering fixture list; promotional page on British Orienteering website; advertising flyer.	British Orienteering fixture list; dedicated pages on British Orienteering website; advertising flyer.	Support to be developed