

<b>Defence Instructions and Notices</b> (Not to be communicated to anyone outside HM Service without authority)	
<b>Title:</b>	Authority for Army Orienteering 2017 – 18
<b>Audience:</b>	All Army Personnel
<b>Applies:</b>	Immediately
<b>Expires:</b>	When rescinded or replaced
<b>Replaces:</b>	2016DIN07-124
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>2017DIN07-091</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Current</b>
<b>Released:</b>	September 2017
<b>Channel:</b>	07 - Training and Education
<b>Content:</b>	General authority for all Army orienteering related activities including events linked to Military Annual Training Test (MATT) 5 - Navigation and ASPT Orienteering courses
<b>Sponsor:</b>	Army Orienteering Association
<b>Contact:</b>	Maj Andy Johnson; <a href="mailto:andrew.johnson966@mod.uk">andrew.johnson966@mod.uk</a>
<b>Keywords:</b>	Orienteering; Orienteering Authority; Land Navigation; Individual Military Training
<b>Local Keywords:</b>	
<b>Supplements:</b> (Please click on the links to access >>>> )	N/A
<b>Related Info:</b>	<a href="#">British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) internet website (www)</a>
<b>Classification:</b>	OFFICIAL

## **AUTHORITY FOR ARMY ORIENTEERING 2017 – 2018**

- A. [JSP 907](#) – Use of the Defence Training and Evaluation Estate Parts 1 and 2.
- B. [British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering 2016](#) Version 3.6 Effective 06 December 2016.
- C. [Army General Administrative Instruction \(AGAI\) Volume 1 Chapter 5](#) - Sport.
- D. [Army Corporate Standard 10 \(ACS10\)](#) – Insurance dated Apr 17.
- E. [JSP 765](#) – Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.
- F. [JSP 375](#) – Management of Health and Safety in Defence, Part 2, Volume 1, Chapter 40 – Military Training for Land Systems.
- G. [2014DIN01-099](#) Status of Sports in the Services.
- H. [2014DIN07-028](#) Authority to Conduct Physical Development (PD) Activities and Duty Status Applicability.
- I. [JSP 660](#) - Sport in the UK Armed Forces.

1. **Status of Orienteering in the Army.** A number of sports contribute directly to the development of military skills. They improve the level of individual expertise in the military skill involved and play an important role in both encouraging interest in the skill and developing a cadre of subject matter experts and instructors. In many ways they can produce ‘role models’ to demonstrate the level of skill achievable and the benefits to

military capability that are produced. The sports which directly produce this benefit are<sup>1</sup>; Target Shooting, Motor Sports, Orienteering<sup>2</sup> Nordic Skiing and Parachuting.

a. Orienteering is a sport in which competitors navigate independently through challenging terrain visiting a defined number of control points marked on the ground by a kite, usually in the shortest possible time, aided in navigation by map and compass only. There are four official orienteering disciplines currently recognised by the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). The discipline in which the Army participates and which is sponsored by the Army Orienteering Association (AOA), is Foot Orienteering (Foot O), which requires the competitor to travel on foot through the terrain.

b. Orienteering [training or competitive] in the Army up to and including Army Team and Individual championships is classified as participating in 'Individual Military Training'; a distinct form of navigation training, usually taking place in rural areas (although camps are also now mapped) where it is possible to navigate freely between control points on foot ie not limited to tracks and paths. It can be used as a component of Military Annual Training Test (MATT) 5 – Navigation, a mandatory annual competence test for Army personnel. Army orienteers who compete at higher competitive levels, such as Inter Services (Army v Navy v RAF) and UK Armed Forces (UK Armed Forces team v Police/ University) matches are classified as participating in a Category 2 Sport

2. **Governance and Supporting Policy.** The AOA provides governance over orienteering in the Army by sponsoring events at Army level, delegating the delivery of the military leagues to geographically based League Secretaries and supporting MATT 5 (Navigation) activities upon request. The AOA uses British Orienteering rules as the foundation upon which all events take place by means of a 'comply or mitigate' philosophy<sup>3</sup>. Army orienteering takes place under the following governance:

a. **British Orienteering (BO).** In order to comply with Army policy at Ref C, the requirement is that activity is conducted in accordance with National Governing Body (NGB) rules, policies and regulations for the conduct of the sport in the United Kingdom. [British Orienteering](#) (BO) provides comprehensive rules<sup>4</sup> on the conduct of foot orienteering.

b. **Army Orienteering Association (AOA).** The Army Orienteering Association (AOA), through an Executive Committee of nominated officials acting in secondary roles, oversees orienteering in the Army. Governance is delivered by the committee, which consists of; Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Technical Director, Coaching Officer and Secretary. The AOA sponsors three annual Army level competitions: Inter Unit Championships (usually June); the Inter Corps Championships (usually November); and the Army Individual Championships (usually January). In addition, it co-sponsors Inter Service and Combined Service events on a rotational basis. AOA events are delivered in accordance with BO rules, with events recorded on the BAOC website<sup>5</sup>, and insurance levies<sup>6</sup> are paid when non-entitled civilians participate.

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<sup>1</sup> 5.006 e. – (Ref C).

<sup>2</sup> Direct benefit to MATT 5 (Navigation), together with considerable benefits to MATT 2 (Fitness).

<sup>3</sup> That policies are complied with or appropriate mitigation is in place to reduce the risk to as low as practicably possible.

<sup>4</sup> Version 2.2 Effective 1st January 2014 British Orienteering Rules of Orienteering 2014.

<sup>5</sup> At [www.baoc.info](http://www.baoc.info)

<sup>6</sup> Third Party Liability Insurance is purchased annually by the AOA.

(1) **Governance.** The AOA Governance structure can be seen at Annex A to this DIN. The AOA Secretary is:

Maj Andy Johnson [andrew.johnson966@mod.uk](mailto:andrew.johnson966@mod.uk)

(2) **Communications Strategy.** The AOA's communications strategy can also be found at Annex A.

(3) **AOA Sponsored Competitions.** The responsibility for organising the AOA sponsored major Army orienteering competitions is allocated to regional leagues and Arms/Corps Orienteering secretaries in order to spread the burden and ensure a variety of competition areas.

(a) Annex B allocates the responsibilities.

(b) Annex C the authority for the Inter Unit Orienteering Championships.

(c) Annex D the authority for the Inter Corps Orienteering Championships and the Army Reserve and Officer Training Corps (OTCs) Inter Unit Orienteering Competition.

(d) Annex E the authority for the Army Individual Orienteering Championships.

(e) Annex F the authority to participate in the Scottish 6 Days Orienteering Festival.

(4) **AOA Executive Committee Meetings.** The AOA Executive Committee meetings will take place biannually as directed by the Vice Chairman. Expected attendance is the AOA Committee and others by invitation.

(5) **AOA Annual General Meeting.** The AOA AGM should take place annually during the Inter Corps Championships. Attendance (where available) at these meetings is to include the chairmen or secretaries from the Military Leagues, Reserve Forces and Arms/Corps Secs and those responsible for running AOA-sponsored teams or competitions. Meetings will be coordinated by the AOA Secretary.

(6) **DIO National Licence Arrangements for Non-Entitled Civilians.** Annex G outlines the agreement between the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the AOA on the enduring national licensing arrangements for AOA sponsored Army orienteering events on the Defence Estate that include the participation of non-entitled persons (civilians).

c. **Military Leagues (MLs).** There are four geographically focussed MLs in the UK and two abroad, which provide the basis for military (and civilian) competitors to participate in quality orienteering events close to their unit location. The MLs are governed by a chairman and league secretary and events are delivered in accordance with BO rules, registered on the BAOC website and levies<sup>7</sup> (UK only) paid when non-entitled civilians participate. MLs have published rules on the BAOC website that complement BO rules, covering additional military specific requirements

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

and local levies. The Germany and Cyprus league arrangements are bespoke to country and the responsibility of the League Secretary.

d. **Military Training.** This DIN is the authority for Army service personnel participating in AOA sponsored events and competitions to be classified as Individual Military Training. It is recognised that physical training is an integral part of service life and is essential for military effectiveness; technically difficult and physically demanding orienteering plays a key role in this military output.

e. **Military Training MATT 5 (Navigation).** Head Training (Hd Trg) sponsors the requirements for Military Annual Training Test (MATT), to deliver trained soldiers at readiness. Specifically MATT 5 is constructed by ACOS Plans Joint Force Intelligence Group. The activity is governed by the Commanding Officer of the unit conducting the activity; it is common for units to participate in orienteering events to fulfil some of the requirements of MATT5.

f. **Civilian Orienteering.**

(1) **Benefit – Maps.** The AOA's relationship with civilian orienteering clubs is on a local individual basis and is primarily driven by the requirement to benefit from the use of areas off the training estate that provide high quality, technically demanding maps; where civilian clubs own the intellectual property rights to the orienteering maps; but not the right of access. Military events then take place on the civilian estate IAW Training on Private Land policy (TOPL)<sup>8</sup>.

(2) **Benefit – Officials & Events.** Civilian clubs also occasionally deliver military events in association with service personnel. It is also not unusual for civilians to act in an official BO technical capacity when no Suitably Qualified & Experienced Person(s) (SQEP) available from the military fraternity. It is also common practice for a few very large scale civilian events to agree that AOA sponsored competitions can be run simultaneously, thereby benefiting from the civilian event's administration and orienteering map.

(3) **British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC).** The British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) is a civilian club under BO governance whose membership is limited to serving and retired Army personnel and their dependants. It provides a non-geographically based civilian club structure of likeminded Army personnel which enables them to participate as an individual or team in civilian orienteering events. The club has a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Mapping Coordinator. BAOC is the civilian arm of the AOA and its governance structure can be seen at Annex A.

### 3. Risk Management.

a. **Competitors' Own Ability.** Competitors are responsible for their own personal safety and for assessing their own abilities to complete the course. However, organisers must have made reasonable risk management arrangements, through the provision of an Exercise Action and Safety Plan (EASP) to mitigate the hazards about which a competitor might reasonably be unaware.

b. **Responsible Persons.** In accordance with BO Rules, the organiser, planner and controller have responsibility for identifying and managing risks that the

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<sup>8</sup> JSP 362 - Volume 2 Leaflet 6 (Training Over Private Land in the United Kingdom).

participant would not usually expect to encounter – such as armoured vehicles, exercising troops, road crossings<sup>9</sup>; forestry operations, deep pits, mine shafts, missing manhole covers, deep water, high-tension power cables, military wire obstacles, very high cliffs, etc. Appropriately planned courses aim to provide competitors with a physically and navigationally challenging course, whilst keeping the risk to life as low as reasonably practicable. Competitors are to be informed that: *they should enter a course that is appropriate to their technical experience and physical ability.*

c. **Non-Entitled Participants below the age of 16 years.** A parent or guardian is not permitted to sign a disclaimer in order to allow a junior under the age of 16 to compete where the courses have any routes that require competitors to cross roads with significant traffic unless appropriate traffic management arrangements have been put in place.

4. **Liability Insurance.** Liability insurance for AOA sponsored orienteering events follows the guidance given in the Army Corporate Standard 10 ([ACS10](#)) dated Apr 17 and [2014DIN07-028](#) Authority to Conduct Physical Development (PD) Activities and Duty Status Applicability.

a. **Civilians.** When civilians participate in military competitions, the AOA purchased insurance covers them for third party liability when participating in or acting in a position of responsibility. It does not cover personal accident insurance and civilian participants take part at their own risk in this regard, as they would whenever a civilian registered event is held. The event flyers should contain the following information:

For civilians participating in Army orienteering, Public Liability Insurance is provided by Towergate; individuals are advised to have their own private accident insurance. This event is conducted iaw BOF 2016 Rules and land booked iaw JSP 907.

b. For Cyprus and Germany leagues, it is the League Secretaries' responsibility to ensure that when civilians participate, appropriate third party liability insurance has been purchased by that league.

c. **Service Personnel.** When service personnel are formally authorised by the chain of command to participate in recognised<sup>10</sup> orienteering activities, they do so 'On Duty'<sup>11</sup>. Under these circumstances, third party liability/public liability protection is provided by the MOD so long as the activity is conducted in accordance with the Safe Systems Approach to Training<sup>12</sup>. Duty status is not linked to the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS); compensation is paid when "*the claimant shows that the balance of probabilities is such that their injury is more likely than not to have been caused by service.*" Factors that may mean an injury was more likely to be caused by service include: "*participation in service-approved and recognised sport.*"<sup>13</sup> Service personnel participating in AOA events are therefore covered by the provisions of the AFCS.

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<sup>9</sup> Participants under the age of 16 years old, must not be allowed to compete in courses that include a busy road crossing.

<sup>10</sup> Events listed in this DIN, on the BAOC website under the events tab or authorised by the Commanding Officer.

<sup>11</sup> [2014DIN07-028](#) refers.

<sup>12</sup> Safe Persons, Safe Equipment, Safe Place, Safe Practice; see JSP 375 and specifically [Part 2, Volume 1, Chapter 40](#).

<sup>13</sup> [JSP 765](#) Armed Forces Compensation Scheme Statement of Policy, Ch 2, para 2.32 refers.

5. **Participation in Events and Competitions.** All Army orienteering competitions are open to Regular, Reserve personnel and civilians (IAW event instructions). Whilst men and women do compete in separate competitive classes where appropriate, women are eligible to run in any team.

a. **Service Competition Formats.** Are on foot only and may take the form of:

(1) Long (Classic) orienteering usually takes place in forest terrain. The emphasis is on route choice to test a competitor's ability to use a variety of navigational techniques. All controls on the course are to be visited in a set order.

(2) Middle distance orienteering usually takes place in forest terrain. The emphasis is on continuous map reading, there are a high number of controls and frequent changes in direction. All controls on the course are to be visited in a set order.

(3) Sprint distance orienteering usually takes place in runnable semi urban terrain, subject to suitable arrangements with regard to traffic. The high rate of decision-making speed of map reading, map interpretation and route choice make up the challenge.

(4) Ultra-long orienteering is over very long distances with few controls. Terrain is usually predominantly forest but may be a mixture of semi urban and forest. All controls on the course are to be visited in a set order.

(5) Urban orienteering usually takes place in urban terrain, predominantly towns or city centres, using public open spaces, pedestrian and trafficked streets as well as parks. All controls on the course are to be visited in a set order.

(6) Score orienteering may take place in any type of terrain. The challenge for a competitor is to gain the greatest score in a pre-defined running time. The controls may be visited in any order and need not all be visited.

(7) Relay orienteering event with a team of 3 or 4 individuals competing one after the other on shortened cross country courses as fast as possible. All controls on the course are to be visited in a set order.

(8) Harris Relay is a team event which requires planning and coordination under time pressure, originating in Germany and introduced to the UK in the late 1980's by the then chairman of Army Orienteering, Lt Col Steve Harris. Despite the *relay* in the name, all team members receive identical maps and run simultaneously. It is a score event, with two sets of controls. 'Spine' controls must be visited by each and every team member. The other controls need be visited by only one team member. The team's time is that of the last member to reach the finish, multiplied by the number of team members. Failure to collectively punch each control or individually punch each spine control will be penalised, by a hefty time penalty.

b. **Exercise TECHNICAL CHALLENGE (Ex TC).** The Inter-Services Orienteering Match usually takes place in the autumn. The competition is physically and technically challenging and the Army Team will only be selected from individuals who

have proven themselves able to cope with such conditions. In order to help Team Managers identify these individuals, Ex TC is run throughout the previous year. Ex TC is a series of races, in conjunction with civilian orienteering events that will allow individuals to demonstrate ability and identify where improvement is necessary. Note that none of the Military Leagues provide suitable technical challenges to justify selection for the Army Team in their own right. The Exercise author includes over 10 national level competitions in the programme of events.

c. **Exercise RUNNING COMPASS.** This exercise adheres to the principles of sporting excellence, with the Army team participating in the higher levels of competition. Selected participants will be very active orienteers who could be expected to benefit and develop from training in terrain of a very high technical standard. Seven men and three women will be selected. Interested personnel should contact the AOA secretary for the contact details of the Army team captains.

d. **Exercise RUNNING DEER.** This exercise is an Army Development Squad exercise and comprises of a series of training exercises for younger (usually under 25 years old) soldiers and officers both male and female, normally based around the major civilian championships, with a final concentrated week of training hosted at a major championship in the UK or abroad. Participants will have demonstrated an aptitude and keenness for orienteering at regional league events.

e. **Exercise SMART RUNNER.** The AOA sponsored Army Inter Unit orienteering championships, usually taking place in June. The competition is usually organised outwith civilian events. See Annex C.

f. **Exercise CUNNING RUNNER.** The AOA sponsored Army Inter Corps orienteering championships and the Army Reserve and Officer Training Corps (OTCs) Inter Unit Orienteering Competition, usually taking place in November. The competition is usually organised within a major civilian night and day cross country event. See Annex D.

g. **Exercise ASTUTE RUNNER.** The AOA sponsored Army Individual orienteering championships, usually taking place in February. Entry details are promulgated on a flyer published on the BAOC website, with the competition taking place within a civilian event. See Annex E.

h. **Exercise DYNAMIC RUNNER.** An AOA sponsored authority to participate in the Scottish Six Days (S6Ds) orienteering festival as individual military training and placing participating soldiers 'on duty'. See Annex F.

i. **Civilian Competitions and Events.**

(1) **Co-hosting or 'Piggy-Back' Civilian Competitions.** Organisers or responsible service persons may wish to collaborate with civilian clubs to either co-host or entirely 'piggy-back' on the event's organisation and orienteering competition. This is often the most cost effective method of training small groups or running/hosting unit competitions, especially in isolated areas or where mapped military estate is limited. This is an authorised method of participating in civilian orienteering with the requirement that it must be conducted IAW British Orienteering Rules. It is the Commanding Officer's responsibility to ensure that this is the case before authorising permission; and budget authority must be agreed prior to spending public money.

(2) **Non-British Orienteering Events and Competitions.** There are a growing number of multi-day type challenge pursuit competitions that take place outwith the remit of British Orienteering. Commanding Officers may deem that these events/competitions contribute further to the Unit's individual or collective military training outputs; particularly navigation skills; when those planning to participate have suitable experience to safely take part when conducted as individual military training<sup>14</sup>. Such events include the Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) and the Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon (LAMM). It is the Commanding Officer's responsibility to ensure that an Exercise and Administrative Instruction is written, with participants' names published on Part 1 Orders and that a risk assessment has been made. This DIN has no authority should the activity take place abroad, when the organiser must seek additional advice from the Chain of Command.

6. **Training.** The AOA run Orienteering Skills (Basic, Intermediate & Advanced) and Orienteering Planners courses at the AOA Centre of Excellence at Longmoor Trg Area. Course dates can be obtained from the Courses Clerk at ASPT and from the BAOC/AOA website at [www.baoc.info](http://www.baoc.info)

a. **Coaching Officer.** Anyone interested in attending the OCAD mapping course, a coaching course, instructing/helping on a skills/planners course, or with queries about the content/standard of any of the above courses, should contact the AOA Coaching Officer:

Mr Phill Batts, AOA Coaching Officer  
[coaching@armyorienteeing.com](mailto:coaching@armyorienteeing.com)

b. **Course Aims.** Courses are predominantly for service personnel, although civilians are also welcome to attend.

(1) **Basic Skills Course.** 'Ideal for novices up to Light Green course' – to develop the basic orienteering skills necessary to complete a regional league event successfully and accurately. Training is ideal for novices and those on competition courses up to Light Green standard. All military personnel are recommended to start their training at this level, irrespective of previous experience, IOT a firm baseline is established and errors minimised.

(2) **Intermediate Skills Course.** 'Progress through the Green to the Brown course' – to enable individuals to improve their technical skills and progress through the Blue and Brown competition courses. Attendees will learn how to continually develop their personal orienteering skills and will receive guidance on training unit teams.

(3) **Advanced Skills Course.** 'Learn to be consistent and win' – to enable individuals to improve their technical skills and progress through the Blue and Brown competition courses. Attendees will learn how to continually develop their personal orienteering skills and will receive guidance on training unit teams.

(4) **Planners Course.** 'Plan challenging and fair courses IAW British Orienteering rules' – to provide students who are already proficient orienteers

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<sup>14</sup> Individuals may participate in such events as a civilian and be considered off duty.



with the necessary knowledge to enable them to plan challenging and fair courses for regional league events and also to develop as controllers.

(5) **OCAD Users' Course.** 'How to get the most from OCAD' – the courses are designed to develop computer & basic mapping skills to turn a simple mapping survey into a specialised orienteering map using the OCAD programme. The course planning tool is also taught to enable users to produce overprinted courses. Qualified instructors will be used and the costs will be funded via the AOA Budget.

(6) **Coaching.** Due to the need for highly qualified instructors in this specialist area, it has been agreed with British Orienteering that the AOA will host courses of all levels at the Army Centre of Orienteering Excellence at Longmoor and be granted vacancies on each course. This arrangement will allow the Army to train personnel to a high standard at minimal cost. The course is the "1st 4 Sport" Level 2 course which provides a national qualification. Full details will appear on the BAOC/AOA website.

c. **Course Dates.** Course dates are published on the [Events page of the BAOC website](#).

d. **Course Booking.** The application process to attend AOA sponsored courses is available at a link beside the advertised courses on the [Events page of the BAOC website](#).

7. **Allowances.** Properly authorised events are classified as individual military training and participants are entitled to the normal duty allowances detailed in JSP 752. This includes the appropriate rates of LOA and subsistence allowance for those selected to represent the Army abroad. Service transport may be used subject to the normal rules for military training and charged to Purpose of Travel Code 13 (POT 13). All charges against Public Funds incurred by individuals, or units, are to be charged against the appropriate unit training budget with prior authority of the budget manager.

8. **Public and Non-Public Funds.** The AOA Secretary controls the central budget used to fund the organisation of, but not unit participation in, AOA sponsored events/activities. As orienteering in the Army is classed as individual military training, essential training aids such as control equipment, map survey and printing, and skills and officials courses are eligible for public funding. Public funding cannot be used for prizes and as such organisers may charge an entry fee to cover these costs. Units or individuals are to ensure that such entry fees are paid from non-public sources. Both funds are presented annually to the AOA Executive Committee for audit and scrutiny.

9. **Branding.** The AOA badge can be found at Annex H.

#### **Annexes:**

- A. Army Orienteering Governance and Communications Strategy.
- B. Allocation of Major Competitions.
- C. Ex SMART RUNNER – Army Inter Unit Orienteering Championships.
- D. Ex CUNNING RUNNER – Army Inter Corps Orienteering Championships and the Army Reserve and Officer Training Corps (OTCs) Inter Unit Orienteering Competition.
- E. Ex ASTUTE RUNNER – Army Individual Orienteering Championships.

- F. Ex DYNAMIC RUNNER – Authority to participate in the Scottish Six Days (S6Ds) as individual military training.
- G. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) National Licence – Access Agreement for Non-entitled Persons.
- H. AOA Branding.

**ARMY ORIENTEERING – GOVERNANCE**

1. The military governance structure is:

Ser	Appointment	Name	Experience / Qualifications
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
<b>Army Orienteering Association (AOA)</b>			
1.	President	Brig James Woodham	
2.	Chairman	Lt Col Chris Huthwaite	Grade B Controller
3.	Technical Advisor	Maj (Retd) Allan Farrington	Grade B Controller
4.	Men’s Team Captain	Capt Emmit Andrews	
5.	Women’s Team Captain	Col Lucy Giles	
6.	Development Manager	Maj Ali Lea	
7.	Coaching Officer	WO2 Phil Batts	BO Coaching L4
8.	Public Budget	WO1 John Leddy	ACMA, CGMA & CPFA
9.	Non-Public Budget	Maj Andy Johnson	
10.	Secretary	Maj Andy Johnson	
<b>Military Leagues (ML)</b>			
11.	ML North	Chair – TBC	
12.		Secretary – Capt Al Mathers	
13.	ML Centre	Chair – Vacant	
14.		Secretary – Maj Andy Johnson (u Sep 17)	
15.	ML South	Chair – Lt Col Al Oates	
16.		Secretary – SSgt Jamie Ranson (u Sep 17)	
17.	ML Northern Ireland	Chair – Vacant	
18.		Secretary – WO2 Mark Philpott (38x CTT)	
19.	ML Cyprus	Chair – Vacant	
20.		Secretary – WO2 Gareth Osborne <sup>15</sup>	
21.	ML Germany	Chair – Vacant	
22.		Secretary – WO2 Ian Page TBC	

<sup>15</sup> [bfc-dhk-hcso-uwo@mod.uk](mailto:bfc-dhk-hcso-uwo@mod.uk)

2. The civilian governance structure for the British Army civilian orienteering club is:

<b>British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC)</b>			
23.	Chairman	Lt Col Paul L'Estrange	
24.	Secretary	Lt Col Charles Bromley Gardner	Grade C Controller
25.	Treasurer	Maj (Retd) Allan Farrington	
26.	Webmaster	Mr Tim Booth	
27.	Mapping Coordinator	Maj (Retd) Colin Dickson	Grade B Controller

## **ARMY ORIENTEERING – COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

### 3. **Methods.**

- a. **Army Briefing Note (ABN).** Annually in January.
- b. **World Orienteering Day.** Annually in May, where the day coincides with an Army orienteering event.
- c. **Soldier Magazine.** Annually in July.
- d. **Defence Information Note (DIN).** Annually in September.
- e. **Prize Giving.** At all Army level competitions, a 2\* officer should be invited to attend, present prizes and recognise the value of orienteering in the Army.

4. **Message.** The message regarding the benefits of orienteering as an individual military training activity is described below.

*At its most demanding, orienteering provides the challenge of navigating over complex and rough terrain whilst running at speed; combining navigational skill and aerobic fitness. To be competitive at this level, an orienteer must train regularly, not only to build up physical speed and stamina, but also to improve their 'mental' skill. The skills required of a good soldier are very similar to that of an orienteer: the use of a compass, the ability to estimate distance and interpret the ground, whilst continually making multiple decisions.*

*During an orienteering event a soldier must be confident in their ability, maintain concentration, make decisions under pressure, and sustain a single-minded determination to overcome any setbacks and mistakes. Soldiers taking part in orienteering benefit from:*

*An improved cardiovascular fitness and stamina;*

*An increased self-confidence and self-awareness;*

*An improved ability to make rapid decisions whilst under physical duress;*

*Superior map reading skill: learning to 'read' the terrain and 'feel' their movement through it;*

*And a further developed sense of team cohesion.*

*Orienteering can be used to develop many of the qualities that are essential in a good soldier.*

**ALLOCATION OF MAJOR COMPETITIONS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Inter Unit Orienteering Championships</b>	<b>Inter Corps Orienteering Championships</b>
<b>2014</b>	ML(C) / REME	RE
<b>2015</b>	ML(S) / RAPTC/AAC	RLC
<b>2016</b>	ML(N) / INF	RA
<b>2017</b>	ML(C) / AGC	R Sigs
<b>2018</b>	ML(N) / RE	REME
<b>2019</b>	ML(S) / RAPTC/AAC	RLC
<b>2020</b>	ML(C) / REME	RA
<b>2021</b>	MLS(N) / INF	R Sigs
<b>2022</b>	MLS(S) / RA	RE

## ARMY INTER UNIT ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS – EX SMART RUNNER

1. **General.** Ex SMART RUNNER is the name given to the Army Inter Unit Team Orienteering Championships and is open to Regular and Reserve Army units. The outline for Ex SMART RUNNER is:
  - a. **Day 1.** Cross-country orienteering race.
  - b. **Day 2.** Harris Team orienteering race.
2. **Team Declaration.** Team Captains will declare teams for both days prior to the start of the competition in accordance with the event instructions. This is an open competition – units & HQs can enter whichever Class they deem appropriate to fit their team(s) abilities. All Class results standalone; and, teams are declared at the outset. This revised format is designed to be simple and accessible for all abilities.
3. **Attendance.** The Championships are open to Regular and Reserve Army units; there is no requirement to qualify through respective formation or regional championships. Civilians may be invited to participate as guests though this is largely dependent upon land access restrictions and, the decision lies with the organiser.
4. **Missed Controls.** The Day 1 and 2 event controller(s) will penalise missed punching or missing control(s, which will result in a 15 min time penalty per control rather than disqualification.
5. **Demo Map.** A small demo map will be available with pre-placed training controls on Day 1 near Assembly.
6. **Coaching.** The AOA Coaching Officer will organise training for the morning of day 1.

### DAY 1 – CLASSIC CROSS-COUNTRY

7. **Outline.** A classic long cross-country orienteering race run by individual competitors between controls in a pre-set order.
8. **Event Times for Day 1.** The start will not open before 1200 hrs; and courses should not close before 1600 hrs.
9. **Event Planning.** The map scale will be 1:10,000 for all courses, with exact course lengths dependent upon terrain and climb, and within the following margins, ideally:

Course	Length	Technical Difficulty (TD)
Blue	5.5 to 7.5 km	TD 5
Light Green	3 to 4 km	TD 4
Long Orange	5 to 7 km	TD 3

*Table 1 – Classic Cross-Country Course Planner.*

10. **Course Allocation.** Competitors will run courses in accordance with the Class their unit enters; Table 3 provides these details.

**DAY 2 – HARRIS TEAM**

11. **Outline.** A Harris Team race is run by a team of four competitors who start together and run simultaneously. The team’s result is based on the time of their last runner in.

12. **Event Times for Day 2.** The start should open no later than 1000 hrs; and, the course should close before 1300 hrs. Prize giving should be planned to take place NLT 1400 hrs.

13. **Event Planning.** The map scale will be 1:10,000 for the course, with the exact course length dependent upon terrain and climb, and within the following margins:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Length <i>not to exceed</i></b>	<b>Number of controls <i>Not to exceed</i></b>	<b>Technical Difficulty (TD)</b>
<b>Long</b>	Spine	3 km	<9	TD3
	Other Controls	Control distribution dependent upon terrain and climb	<31	TD3 & TD4
<b>Short</b>	Spine	2.5 km	<6	TD2
	Other Controls	Control distribution dependent upon terrain and climb	<24	TD2 & TD3

*Table 2 – Harris Course planner.*

14. **Course Allocation.** All competitors will run the same Harris Team course; Table 3 provides these details. There will be start waves as detailed in the event instructions.

**ENTRIES**

15. **Class Description and Results.** Teams are to be declared at the outset for both Days 1 and 2 and must be made up of runners on the posted strength of the unit on the day of the competition.

16. **Unit Entry Examples.** Any unit, major or minor, may enter any number of teams in any or all of the classes. Prizes will be awarded in each class. The champion Army unit will be the winners of the Long and Female Classes. A guest team can enter whichever class they deem appropriate to their runners’ competencies.

<b>Day 1 – Classic Cross Country orienteering race</b>	<b>Day 2 – Harris Team orienteering race</b>
<i>All runners times count</i>	<i>The last runner's time counts; then times x 4 per team</i>
<b>Winner is the team with lowest cumulative time over two days</b>	
<b>Long Class</b> <i>Team of eight runners</i>	
Blue x 4 Light Green x 4	Harris Long Harris Short
<b>Masters Class</b> <i>Team of four runners all over 40 years old on the day of the competition</i>	
Blue x 4	Harris Long
<b>Short Class</b> <i>Team of four runners</i>	
Light Green x 4	Harris Short
<b>Female Class</b> <i>Team of four female runners</i>	
Long Orange x 4	Harris Short
<b>Under 25 Class</b> <i>Team of four runners under 25 years old on the day of the competition</i>	
Long Orange x 4	Harris Short

*Table 3 – Day 1 and 2 Class Summary and Results.*

17. **What is a Harris Team Event?** This is a team event which requires planning and coordination under time pressure, originating in Germany and introduced to the UK in the late 1980's by the then chairman of Army Orienteering, Lt Col Steve Harris. All team members receive identical maps and run simultaneously. It is a score event, with two sets of controls;

- a. 'Spine' controls, which must be visited by each and every team member, in any order.
- b. Other controls, which must be visited by at least one team member, again in any order.

18. The team's time is that of the last team member to reach the finish<sup>16</sup>. Failure to collectively punch each control or individually punch each spine control will be penalised by a 15 min time penalty per missed control.

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<sup>16</sup> To balance Day 1 against Day 2 times, the last runner's time from the Harris will be multiplied by four.



**ARMY INTER CORPS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS – Ex CUNNING RUNNER**

1. **Background.** After a three year trial the Army Orienteering Association (AOA) has decided to remove the Army Reserve (AR) and University Officer Training Corps (UOTCs) competitions from the Inter Corps Orienteering Championship weekend. The Inter Corps Championships will revert back to its historical format and focus on providing an environment for the Corps to compete against each other exploiting world-class UK based civilian events. This decision was based upon a number of issues that have arisen over recent years. The removed competitions will now reside as follows:

- a. **AR Competition.** Within the Army Inter Unit Orienteering Championships, Ex SMART RUNNER; where AR units will compete as ‘one-Army’ with no distinction between Regular and Reserve units. This is a credible option as the format in use is an open competition, enabling units to enter the class that fits their teams’ ability.
- b. **UOTC Competition:** Within the Queen’s Challenge Cup (QCC) which provides a credible option for hosting UOTC Orienteering Championships.

2. **General.** Ex CUNNING RUNNER is the name given to the Army Inter Corps Orienteering Championships. The event usually takes place in November and is usually organised within a major civilian night and day cross country event. The outline for Ex CUNNING RUNNER is:

- a. **Day 1:** Night cross-country orienteering race.
- b. **Day 2:** Day cross-country orienteering race.

3. **Class and Course Details.** Competitors will compete on the following courses:

Time	Colour Coded Course	Teams	Army Individual Night Classes
<b>Inter Corps Senior Long</b> Teams of 6			
Night	Blue	Best 4 to count	M21L, M35L, M40L, M45L & M50+
Day	Brown	Best 5 to count	n/a
<b>Inter Corps Senior Short &amp; Women</b> Teams of 4			
Night	Green	Best 2 to count	W21L, W35L & W40L+ M21S, M35S, M40S, M45S & M50S
Day	Blue	Best 3 to count	
<b>U25 Competition</b> Teams of 6			

Night	Long Orange*	n/a	W21S, W35S, MU25 & WU25
Day	Long Orange	Best 3 to count	

\*or equivalent TD3 course for night event

4. **Request for comments.** Corps Secretaries have been given the opportunity to comment on the format of the competition.

## **EX ASTUTE RUNNER – THE ARMY INDIVIDUAL ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. **Introduction.** Exercise ASTUTE RUNNER is the Army Orienteering Association (AOA) sponsored Army Individual Orienteering Championships, usually taking place in February within a weekend civilian event. Entry details are promulgated on a flyer published on the British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC) website.
  
2. **Purpose of Ex ASTUTE RUNNER.** The purpose of Ex ASTUTE RUNNER is to:
  - a. Establish the best male and female orienteer in the Army annually;
  - b. Expose competitors to:
    - (1) high quality orienteering maps and planning;
    - (2) technically demanding and physically challenging orienteering;
    - (3) large scale civilian orienteering competition organisation;
  - c. Expose the civilian orienteering community to the best of the Army competitors; IOT support community engagement, recruitment and develop orienteering as a military skill.
  
3. **Event Criteria.** The selected event should be a British Orienteering registered Level A or B competition. The event should move geographically round the UK. It will not take place overseas.
  
4. **Competition Format.** Level A and B competitions are structured using Age Groups and are not Colour Coded. Army competitors will compete in Age Groups as determined below:

<b>Class</b>	<b>Age Group Course</b>	<b>Prizes</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Men's Army Individual Champion – Men's Open Class	M21L	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Male competitors in age groups M35+ will be expected to run up; M21L is Brown/Black equivalent
Women's Army Individual Champion – Women's Open Class	W35L	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> place	Female competitors in age group W21 will be expected to run down; whilst competitors W40+ will be expected to run up; W35L is Blue/Short Brown equivalent

Men's Short Class	M40S	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Male competitors will mostly run out of age group; M40S is Blue equivalent
Women's Short Class	W45S	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Female competitors will mostly run out of age group; W45S is Short Green equivalent
Junior / Novice Men's Class	M14	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Juniors / Novices will all run out of age group; M14 & W14 courses are Light Green (TD4) equivalent
Junior / Novice Women's Class	W14	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	

5. **Attendance.** Attendance is voluntary and there is no pre-entry requirement, but competitors are responsible for their own personal safety and for assessing their own abilities to complete the selected course.

6. **Communications Plan.** The event will be published on the BAOC website and the CoC informed by an Army Briefing Note (ABN).

7. **Prizes.** The Men's and Women's individual 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will be presented with the appropriate cup / plate and for all classes less Junior / Novice will be medals or equivalent. Junior / Novices will be awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> place £50 and 2<sup>nd</sup> place £25 voucher for Ultrasport.

8. **Entries.** Competitors will be expected to enter the Army Individual Orienteering Championships [Exercise ASTUTE RUNNER] via the appropriate civilian competition website, details of which will be clearly articulated in the event flyer.

9. **Entry Fees.** Individual competitors should make a request to their unit budget manager to allocate public or non-public funds, such as PRI, to pay for entry fees.

10. **Allowances and Service Transport.** This is an authorised exercise and participants are entitled to the normal duty allowances detailed in JSP 752. Service transport may be used subject to the normal rules for military training and charged to Purpose of Travel Code 13 (POT 13). All charges against Public Funds incurred by individuals, or units, are to be charged against their appropriate unit training budget with prior authority of the budget manager.

11. **Authority.** The annually published DIN, Authority for Army Orienteering, is the authority for Army service personnel participating in AOA sponsored events and competitions to be classified as official individual military training. It is recognised that physical training is an integral part of service life and is essential for military effectiveness; technically difficult and physically demanding orienteering plays a key role in this military output.

## **EX DYNAMIC RUNNER – AUTHORITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SCOTTISH SIX DAYS ORIENTEERING FESTIVAL**

12. **Introduction.** In order to promote further participation in competitive orienteering, as individual military training, the Army Orienteering Association (AOA) is introducing on a biennial basis Exercise DYNAMIC RUNNER. This is the AOA's authority to participate in the Scottish Six Days (S6Ds) orienteering festival as individual military training and places participating soldiers 'on duty'.

13. **Purpose of Ex DYNAMIC RUNNER.** The purpose of Ex DYNAMIC RUNNER is to:

- a. Increase Army participation in multi-day orienteering events;
- b. Expose Army competitors to:
  - (1) high quality orienteering maps and planning;
  - (2) technically demanding and physically challenging orienteering;
  - (3) the organisation of a large scale orienteering competition;
- c. Expose the civilian orienteering community to Army competitors;

IOT maintain the Army in the public eye, support community engagement and recruitment, and develop orienteering as a military skill.

14. **Orienteering as Individual Military Training.** At its most demanding, orienteering provides the challenge of navigating over complex and rough terrain whilst running at speed; combining navigational skill and aerobic fitness. To be competitive at this level, an orienteer must train regularly, not only to build up physical speed and stamina, but also to improve their 'mental' skill. The skills required of a good soldier are very similar to that of an orienteer: the use of a compass, the ability to estimate distance and interpret the ground, whilst continually making multiple decisions. During an orienteering event a soldier must be confident in their ability, maintain concentration, make decisions under pressure, and sustain a single-minded determination to overcome any setbacks and mistakes. Soldiers taking part in orienteering benefit from:

- a. An improved cardiovascular fitness and stamina;
- b. An increased self-confidence and self-awareness;
- c. An improved ability to make rapid decisions whilst under physical duress;
- d. Superior map reading skill: learning to 'read' the terrain and 'feel' their movement through it;
- e. And a further developed sense of team cohesion.

Orienteering can be used to develop many of the qualities that are essential in a good soldier.

15. **Unit Instructions.** The publication of this DIN does not remove the requirement for units to publish an exercise administration instruction with an accurate list of participants.

16. **Risk Management.** Competitors are responsible for their own personal safety and for assessing their own abilities to complete their selected course. In Scotland the terrain is often very steep, marshes can frequently be extremely wet and areas of thick forest can reduce running speed. In addition, controls tend to be 'very' technically difficult (TD5\*) and the challenge of competing at speed reduced. As a result, novice competitors are recommended to take a critical and honest view of their ability and enter an appropriate course.

17. **Event Officials.** Soldiers who volunteer to act as officials at either the S6Ds or World Orienteering Championships events in the UK are considered 'on duty' when their appointment is listed with the appropriate organiser and their employment is beneficial to the further development of orienteering in the Army.

18. **Entries.** Competitors are expected to enter the S6Ds via the appropriate civilian competition website. To comply with the requirement to participate under the authority of Ex DYNAMIC RUNNER, all entries should be made with soldiers listed as members of the British Army Orienteering Club (BAOC). Unit titles must not be used under any circumstances. Organisers should make a request to their unit budget manager to allocate non-public funds, such as PRI to pay for entry fees.

19. **Allowances and Service Transport.** This is an authorised exercise and participants are entitled to the normal duty allowances detailed in JSP 752. Service transport may be used subject to the normal rules for military training and charged to Purpose of Travel Code 13 (POT 13). All charges against Public Funds incurred by individuals, or units, are to be charged against their appropriate unit training budget with prior authority of the budget manager.

20. **Accommodation.** The use of hotels is not authorised for this exercise. Participants are encouraged to use the closest service accommodation or a suitable campsite.

21. **Authority.** The annually published DIN, Authority for Army Orienteering, is the authority for Army service personnel participating in AOA sponsored events and competitions to be classified as official individual military training. It is recognised that physical training is an integral part of service life and is essential for military effectiveness; technically difficult and physically demanding orienteering plays a key role in this military output.

22. **Communications Plan.** The authority to participate in the S6Ds under the banner of Ex DYNAMIC RUNNER will be published on the BAOB website and the CoC informed by a Defence Information Note (DIN).

23. **Point of Contact.**

Secretary – Army Orienteering Association  
Maj Andy Johnson  
[andrew.johnson966@mod.uk](mailto:andrew.johnson966@mod.uk)

**DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION (DIO)  
NATIONAL LICENCE – ACCESS AGREEMENT FOR NON-ENTITLED PERSONS**

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Annex is to outline the agreement between the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and the Army Orienteering Association (AOA) on the enduring national licensing arrangements for AOA sponsored Army orienteering events on the Defence Estate that include the participation of non-entitled persons (civilians).
2. **Agreement.** In order to allow non-entitled persons access to the MOD Estate the governance arrangements are described below to comply with the DIO National Licence:
  - a. **Governance.** The Licence Holder will be the Vice Chairman of the Army Orienteering Association (AOA). The day-to-day management of the DIO National Licence will be delegated to the AOA Secretary, who will communicate with the four UK Military League (ML) Secretaries: ML North, ML Centre, ML South and ML Northern Ireland. The ML Secretaries in turn, will need to liaise with their Regional DIO offices to demonstrate compliance and ensure understanding.
  - b. **Compliance.** The AOA is responsible for ML Secretaries compliance with the National DIO Licence and the AOA will hold an Annual meeting with the ML Secretaries. The Licence will be published on the BAOC website at [www.baoc.info](http://www.baoc.info) under the event organisation tab. The revised Military League Rules will explain the event methodology and DIO National Licence requirements, in order that organisers, planners and controllers know their roles and responsibilities.
  - c. **Duration of Licence.** For the first licence, the duration was for one year at the cost of £130. It was formally reviewed in 2015 by the AOA and DIO LMS and revised accordingly. It is requested that the subsequent licence be for 3 years.
  - d. **Levy.** The four UK ML Secretaries will be responsible for paying the £1.50 levy per civilian participant<sup>17</sup> to the AOA and the AOA in turn will then centrally pay DIO LMS<sup>18</sup>. This will reduce effort and provide an efficient and enduring solution.
  - e. **Booking Procedures.** The National DIO Licence requires that the booking of the MOD Estate be in accordance with JSP907 and that organisers comply with Range Standing Orders.
  - f. **Number of Events/Competitions.** The National DIO Licence does not place a constraint on the number or duration of orienteering events/competitions.
  - g. **Senior Responsible Officer (SRO).** Generally, the Event Organiser will be a Service Person (SP) and will therefore be the SRO. Should all the responsible persons [organiser, planner & controller] delivering the event / competition be civilian, then the sponsoring unit must nominate a SP to act as the SRO. This SP is mandated to ensure that: the event is planned and conducted according to the rules

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<sup>17</sup> Cost to be recovered from civilian participants

<sup>18</sup> Regions – MLS includes DIO Regions SE and SW; MLC includes DIO Wales, DIO WM & DIO EM; MLN includes DIO NE, DIO NW and DIO Scot; ML NI includes DIO NI.

and policies laid down for that activity; that an appropriate First Aid Action Plan is in place; that Range Standing Orders are adhered to; and is responsible for stopping the activity should it be identified prior to or during the event that unmanageable risk(s) have been identified or have occurred.

h. **Exercise Instructions.** The Organiser / SRO is responsible for ensuring that there is a written exercise instruction to include: Risk Assessment; First Aid Action Plan; Third Party Liability Insurance Certificate and any additional specific requirements articulated by Range Standing Orders.

i. **Retail Traders and Caterers.** This National DIO Licence for the AOA does not cover the attendance of bespoke orienteering retailer<sup>19</sup> and or caterer<sup>20</sup>. Under current rules DIO LMS require traders to establish their own Licence with their respective Regional DIO office.

3. **Summary.** The AOA Committee recognises the requirement to ensure that non-entitled civilians who conduct activities on the MOD Estate do so with the appropriate legal indemnities and insurance cover. It is with respect that this letter demonstrates that the governance of orienteering by the AOA follows the National Governing Body's requirements and that an enduring National DIO Licence, managed on a day-to-day basis by the ML Secretaries, therefore conforms with statutory requirements and DIO policy.

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<sup>19</sup> Purpose being to enable soldiers to equip themselves appropriately with technical orienteering equipment

<sup>20</sup> Purpose to provide adequate feeding requirements



## **ARMY ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION (AOA) – BRANDING**

1. The AOA formalised its branding, which was endorsed by the AOA Executive Committee in Jul 14. The AOA badge has not been included in the Army Design Library as it is controlled by the AOA Executive Committee. The AOA badge is as follows:



Figure H-1: AOA badge

2. The badge is available in two formats upon request from the AOA Secretary:
  - a. ArmyOrienteeringAssociation\_grad.png;
  - b. ArmyOrienteeringAssociation\_flat.png;