

Armidale Outdoors Schools Orienteering Championships

26 October 2018

Risk Assessment

Preamble

The Armidale Outdoors Schools Orienteering Championships are run by the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club, several members of which are state-recognised orienteering controllers who understand the risks involved in orienteering and how to minimise them.

The purpose of the event is to introduce students to the sport of orienteering and to develop students' awareness of and interest in a sport that involves both physical and mental activity. It is a sport for participants of all ages and any level of experience.

Beginners (ie those with limited or no previous experience) undertake a one-hour 'score course' in groups of 2 to 4. This course requires each group to find up to 20 controls points located adjacent to large, obvious features, with points awarded for the total number of controls found in the available time. Points are deducted for each minute in excess of one hour.

More experienced students may undertake a 'line course' which requires them to find controls in a specific sequence and use more skill in interpreting the map and matching it to features in the terrain. The easier 'green' course has controls just off tracks and fences, usually near large, obvious features, while the more advanced 'orange' course involves more complex route choices, cross-country running and use of compass bearings, with controls sited on smaller features. The orange course is only available to students with extensive orienteering experience at club level.

1. Access to the Venue

The venue for the 2018 event is the Sunnyside Road TSR. The area is located 15 km north of Armidale on the New England Highway. The assembly area is on Sunnyside Road away from the highway where buses can turn and park to allow children to alight safely.

2. The Venue

The Sunnyside Road TSR is fully fenced, with a small creek and several minor water courses running through it. The creek is currently very low and should not present any significant risks. The vegetation is semi-cleared eucalypt forest with a few scrubby patches. The ground is uneven in parts with some rocky areas and grassy in other areas. There are numerous tracks.

3. Facilities

There will be a pit toilet near the assembly area and some shelter will be provided for protection from the weather if necessary.

4. Child Protection

All school groups are to be accompanied by teachers/school supervisors, with numbers according to school requirements. The orienteering club is not responsible for the supervision or management of students at the venue.

5. Students with Disabilities

Because of the nature of the terrain, the event is not suitable for students with severe physical disabilities (e.g. those using wheelchairs) but students with lesser disabilities (eg sight impairment) may be able to undertake the courses if accompanied and supported by other students in their group. Schools should make the usual provision for students with a medical condition, such as diabetes or asthma.

6. Travel

Schools are responsible for all travel arrangements between the school and the venue and for supervision of their students while travelling.

7. Public Liability Insurance

The Club is covered by a public liability policy held by Orienteering Australia. A copy of the insurance certificate is available on the we site.

8. First aid

Qualified first aid and/or medical practitioners will be on duty at the finish for the duration of the event. A well-equipped First-Aid Kit will be available.

9. Risks and Responses

| Event | Effect | Likelihood | Impact | Management |
|------------------|--|------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Falling/Tripping | Minor abrasions, sprains or fractures. | Moderate | Low to moderate | All students are briefed individually or in small groups on safety issues prior to commencing the event. |
| Snakebite | Poisoning | Very low | Low-high, depending on species | As above. |
| Water | Drowning | Very low | High | As above |
| Exposure | Minor sunburn | Low | Low | Students are advised to wear sun protection. Maximum time on courses is one hour. |
| Getting lost | Distress and anxiety | Low | Low to moderate | The area is bounded by fences, and before starting their course, students will be made aware of these boundaries and what to do if they become lost. Club members will be roaming the course during the event to redirect any students who are seriously off-course. |

Information prepared for Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club by

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