

Competition Rule 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 These Competition Rules are owned by the British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA), which is the ruling body for this event.

1.1.5 Latest review was in January 2024.

1.1.6 Any questions regarding these Rules should be emailed to: rules@bsoa.org.

1.2 Date of Fixture

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

1.2.2 The date and location of the event is determined by British Orienteering Event and Scheduling Group after consultation with the British Schools Orienteering Association. It will rotate around the country on a Regional basis.

1.3 Eligibility

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

1.3.2 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 pupils only up to and including year 8 on their school roll are counted as Middle/Prep schools.)

No competitor may take part who is older than 18 by the 31st August of the academic year of the competition.

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

1.3.4 Home educated children are allowed to compete.

1.3.5 The competition is for school years 5 to 13. All children entered should be able to read an orienteering map competently and be confident in using basic navigation techniques. 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.

1.3.6 Pairs may compete in years 5 to 8.

- They must stay together and cross the finishing line together.
- 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.

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1.3.7 If any child with 'special needs' wishes to compete in the BSSC a signed written statement from a senior member of staff at the pupil's school should be sent to the organiser as soon as possible detailing any extra special arrangement the school would like considered to enable the child to take part within the existing framework of the event. The organiser, in consultation with the BSOA Committee, will consider appropriate arrangements to enable the child to take part. They will look at both the health and safety issues and the interests of all participants.

1.4 Entries

1.4.1 Flyers will be produced as early as possible to advertise the event. Publicity should be sent to all junior publications.

1.4.2 Entry forms should be produced in electronic format and will be published on the BSOA web site, with links from British Orienteering and organising club web sites. In the previous summer term these will be emailed by the BSOA to schools that are members of BSOA.

1.4.3 Ideally all entries should be made via the school.

1.4.4 The name and contact details of either the member of staff or responsible adult who will be supervising the children from the school in question at the competition, and acting as a contact before and after the event, must be given on the entry form. They are expected to be responsible for their team members before, during and after the event and to help with any emergencies involving their children. Teachers and/or adults in charge of a school team may not enter the competition area (anywhere between the start and finish) whilst the course is open without the permission of the organiser of the event.

1.4.5 There should be a fixed closing date, late entries taken at the organising club's discretion, and no entries on the day. 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 emailed to schools with final details.

1.4.6 Schools return the start form with competitors names added to the entries secretary, before the competition.

1.4.7 Due to the unpredictability of school teams, name changes are permitted on the day.

2. Organisational Requirements

2.1 Location, Parking and Assembly Area requirements

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

2.1.2 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.

2.2 Safety

2.2.1 This event has very specific and different safety risks, because of the relative inexperience and young age of the competitors and must conform to British Orienteering 'O' Safe and Good Practice guidelines. It is imperative that a safety

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officer is appointed for the event. Issues that he/she will need to be responsible for, or otherwise consider, will include the following:

- Competitors must be clothed in a manner to suit the conditions on the day:
 - Full leg cover (O trousers, tracksuit trousers or similar) is required. Not shorts.
 - Arm cover over at least the shoulders must be worn. Not running vests. Anyone not wearing the appropriate clothing must not be allowed to start.
- Whistles are compulsory for all competitors (BSOA are able to loan some).
- 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.

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 The area needs to be large enough such that no competitor should quite be able to get all of the controls within the 45 minute time limit. Typically this will require an A4 size map at 1:10,000 scale. (Note that using the same map but planning two parts to the course with a map exchange leads to unfairness and is not acceptable.)

3.1.3 Once an area is identified the normal British Orienteering Rules and Guidelines apply with regard to use of the area for other events, specifically in relation to juniors competing. This means that all parts of the competition area are out of bounds to all members of school teams entering the event, as well as staff and parents. This applies up to the date of the competition from 12 calendar months beforehand, or from the date on which the venue is published (whichever is shorter). Infringement of this or other rules of the competition renders any team concerned liable for disqualification.

3.2 Map

3.2.1 The map scale for the event should be 1:10,000 or 1:7,500.

3.2.2 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.

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

3.2.4 One map is provided for each runner including both members of a pair.

3.2.5 Maps must be collected at the finish and only handed back after the last start time.

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3.3 Control Descriptions

3.3.1 Control descriptions must be given in words and include any basic safety instructions.

3.3.2 Control Descriptions must be printed on the map.

3.3.3 Loose descriptions should not be made available - many children do not have a means of carrying these which has led to litter problems in the past.

3.4 Course details

3.4.1 A normal score event format with approximately 30 (or less) 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.

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

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

3.5 Start and Finish requirements

3.5.1 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.

3.5.2 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: - medals 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 blank participation certificate on which to enter their name.

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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
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 Complete teams, with 4 or 6 competitors as appropriate, will be placed higher than an incomplete team even if their total scores are lower. Incomplete teams (of two or more competitors) will be placed in descending order of number of competitors.

4.3.5 Schools with only one competitor are not eligible for any team awards.

5. Race Information

5.1 Start times

5.1.1 The start period is normally two hours

5.1.2 Start times should be at 1 minute intervals.

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

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

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 Competitors names and start times must not be published on the internet before the event.

5.2 Electronic punching

5.2.1 Electronic punching must be used, either SI or EMIT.

5.2.2 One e-card is required per individual or pair.

5.2.3 Competitors may use their own e-cards.

5.2.4 The e-cards should be supplied for all other competitors at no additional cost, and issued in the start lanes. (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).

5.2.5 In the interests of fairness, contactless punching must be switched off unless all competitors are supplied with contactless cards.

5.2.6 Backup systems must be provided at each control; i.e. backup card for EMIT, standard pin punch for SI.

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6. Other Information

6.1 Responsibility for the event

6.1.1 Individual clubs may offer to host the championships through their Regional Association representative on the British Orienteering Event Scheduling Group.

6.1.2 Any application to deviate from these rules must be made to the BSOA.

6.2 Officials

6.2.1 The officials for the event must meet the requirements set out for a Level B event in the British Orienteering Rules, Appendix C: Event Officials.

6.2.2 The British School Score Championships requires a Planner who is experienced at planning good junior courses.

6.2.3 A Jury of appropriately qualified officials will be provided by the BSOA.

6.3 Prize giving

6.3.1 Juniors like a good presentation ceremony. The area should be fenced off.

6.3.2 A PA system should be used.

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

6.4 Finance

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

6.4.2 The BSOA will provide all the required medals for the event.

6.4.3 The Event Organiser may be able to obtain support for the event from the O Foundation. Full details can be found on the British Orienteering web site, or contact the National Office for further information.

6.5 Support

6.5.1 The British Schools Orienteering Association provides mentoring support for this event. Contact the BSOA secretary for details.

6.6 Photographs

6.6.1 The BSOA appointed photographer will be present and take photographs in accordance with British Orienteering's O Safe Guidelines. These may be used on the BSOA/British Orienteering/Club websites.

Agreed by BSOA Committee: 1st January 2024