

SI Subcommittee Report – October 2011

Orienteering Victoria Council Meeting

Decisions Required

NONE

OVERALL STATUS

Business as usual

ACTIVITIES & PLANS

1. All SI gear was checked and most of it used at the Victorian Oceania events. Apart from the red control stands (start, finish, clear, check) the gear is in good condition and survived the very wet conditions.
2. An Excel “database” of all Orienteering Victoria SI control units has been developed to record details of the status of each control unit following the start of a battery replacement program. Orienteering Victoria has 133 controls (including “admin” and spare units), 50 with new batteries and 83 with their original batteries. Some of the oldest controls are nearing the end of their battery life and will need replacing in the next year or two. All controls are currently operational and running the latest firmware, however they are not all set to the same time (some are on daylight saving time whilst others are not).
3. The current location of the Orienteering Victoria SI gear is now listed on the website at <http://www.vicorienteering.asn.au/admin/organising/>. Whilst most of the gear is stored at Ian Chennell’s, at least one laptop will usually be kept in Melbourne for setting up coming events by Melbourne based organisers. Course setters can also check this page to ensure the control numbers they are using in Condes actually represent existing controls (e.g. there are no 161 or 191 controls).

HIGHLIGHTS

4. As more clubs acquire SI controls and gear it is anticipated that Orienteering Victoria may not need to significantly increase its spending in this area.
5. Some competition has developed in the area of software available to run/use SI gear. The developers of OE (SportsSoftware) have released a new version that will need to be assessed against other evolving options. Some states have already started using the new version but this does not require Victoria to follow suit as compatibility remains providing all states stick with the SportIdent brand of hardware and sticks.

ISSUES, CONCERNS & RISKS

6. The red control stands (last fixed by Jim Russell in 2009) are in poor repair with most of the control holders broken. Orienteering Victoria has a supply of

over 40 "slimline" holders (see image below) which could be used in any repair of the stands if a qualified volunteer can be found. (Currently the stands are in the trailer with Leigh Privett in Beechworth whilst the slimline holders are in my garage.)

7. Prior to battery replacements, some of the unlabelled/unnumbered spares were used to replace non-working control units. Some controls were also relabelled/renumbered for specific events. All these "temporary" labels have now been removed, some taking a *lot* of effort (and metho) to remove. *Anyone using temporary labels in future is requested to not use copious quantities of sticky or duct tape.* Some past efforts were *completely* over the top for a temporary label and damaged the underlying permanent labels or even covered the led display underneath the control!
8. Any controls or other gear found non-operational are to be reported to Ian Chennell or myself (not just stuck back in the box with a note saying it doesn't work) so that appropriate action can be taken.

Ian Dodd
SI Subcommittee Chair
17/10/2011



Slimline holders:

Thanks to Ian Chennell for help with maintaining SI gear.