

Recommendations

To facilitate students into mainstream orienteering it is recommended that Orienteering Victoria research across Australia successful mechanisms for obtaining continued participation of students into mainstream orienteering. This project found that to facilitate students into mainstream orienteering a planned strategy should involve families, consideration of cost, timing of commencement of events and location of events. The 2015 events were considered appropriately priced for family participation and the pricing structure should be retained. Further to the feedback from the project the Park and Street Orienteering events should continue to start at 7pm. Melbourne Bush Orienteering could consider piloting an afternoon commencement and review if an afternoon time assists students and families increase around other sports. Due to families undertaking multiple sports and orienteering not being the only sport which most families undertake, a location nearby to the majority of participant's residences is important. Many of the Melbourne Bush Orienteering events could be held at locations which do not require extensive travel from Melbourne.

To assist with promotion of students and families into orienteering, providing information and training the students, it is recommended that there be a schools table where students can meet to find pairs, wait for parents pick-up, discuss training and orienteering results. It is recommended that enthusiastic females are present at the table prior to orienteering events to increase participation of more females.

To assist with students getting to events around parents work commitments or responsibilities driving other children to sport it is recommended that a review be undertaken across Australia to review what car pooling mechanisms are offered. Car pooling could be organised by the Junior Transition Officer creating and maintaining a list of those interested, providing a table at events to provide a location for those requiring and offering car pooling to record and meet other prospective car pooling participants at events, piloted and if successful Eventor may be an appropriate mechanism for recording car pooling.

To facilitate involvement of those students who may not feel confident to undertake orienteering on their own or want to undertake orienteering with another student, it is recommended that a register be established of those seeking to form an orienteering pair. This register could also be a list of seeking pairs and those experienced orienteers willing to pair with another less experienced orienteering. The register could be held at a student meeting table and facilitated by the Junior Transition Officer and/or the event organiser. It is envisaged that this may be particularly useful to encourage female students into orienteering. Following the piloting of the register, if successful the register could be expanded and managed through Eventor or a central contact at events.

As earlier stated it is recommended that a review be undertaken across Australia to identify what mechanisms may increase participation of students into orienteering. The current Park and Street Orienteering School series in mainstream orienteering should be continued and considered for expansion for female students and mainstream orienteering participation. It is recommended that a Park and Street Orienteering School Eastern series of best eight events and a Park and Street Orienteering Female School Eastern Series be trialled in summer. This could provide pathways into mainstream orienteering and into the Victorian Primary School Orienteering Championships (VPSOC) and the Victorian Secondary School Orienteering Championships (VSSOC)

Further to the suggestion of one of the families wanting time to consider which club they join, mentoring families without persuasion to join clubs is important combined with a strategy to distribute future families across the various clubs to ensure they are spread throughout the clubs for the longevity of orienteering and that some families are not isolated in clubs which have fewer families.

It is recommended that mentoring be undertaken for female only small groups. Park and Street orienteering is the most appropriate for mentoring of small groups of girls. Melbourne Bush Orienteering is the most appropriate orienteering event for mentoring students in bush orienteering and preparing the students for the Australian School Orienteering Championships.

Following up the suggestion of orienteering being brought to scouts it is recommended that Orienteering Victoria connects with Scouts and Girl Guides associations to introduce orienteering and the Orienteering Victoria program. A badge system for orienteering could promote children into orienteering. The Scouts and Girl Guides who are high achievers at orienteering could be invited to participate in Victorian Primary School Orienteering Championships (VPSOC) and the Victorian Secondary School Orienteering Championships (VSSOC). The scouts and guides could be a ready pathway into school and mainstream orienteering.

It is recommended that disability access be considered in each and every orienteering event. It is recommended that every orienteering event ranks the wheelchair/pram-friendliness. A small number of larger A3 maps could be provided. While coloured maps may be expensive and difficult to produce, subject to the outcome of the consultation of necessary requirements through Blind Sports Victoria and Vision Australia it may be possible to produce a small number of maps with key features highlighted with a text to assist. Park and Street Orienteering organisers could also consider the locations of events in Winter to ensure that the locations are suitable for those with reduced vision or unsteady on their feet.