

**ORIENTEERING VICTORIA  
MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE REVIEW 2014**

*Scheduled for decision at OV October Council meeting.*

**OPTIONS PAPER**

***INTRODUCTION***

This paper follows from the Discussion Paper circulated to clubs in late July 2014. It is not proposed to repeat all the material in that paper which outlined the background to this review together with the directions that the review committee was pursuing.

The main intent is to

- increase OV member numbers by making membership more attractive (lower fees, more transparent event discounts for membership)
- make the membership structure easier to understand: So membership of a club = membership of OV. It is common in other states for all members to be members of both their club and their state association.

Initial discussion suggested that club affiliation fees (to OV) would be reduced. This continues to be an aim, though one of the options presented does not meet this desire.

Overall, the outcome should be cost-neutral to OV in the short term. (In the longer term, increased membership may have other benefits such as increased sponsorship or government grants as well as increased membership income, which will lead to subsequent decisions on the best use of increased income.)

It is recognised therefore, that if income from membership fees is reduced, then there will need to be an increase in event levies to balance the finances.

In addition, there is support for making junior fees (both for membership and event entry) as low as possible to encourage junior membership and participation. Some argue for free junior membership – but it is likely that Constitution/Incorporation Rules require at least some membership fee. But this could be a nominal amount.

Orienteering Australia is currently undertaking its own review on the best ways to raise its money. At this stage there is no expectation that state contributions to OA will increase significantly, so we can continue our planning without waiting for the outcomes of the OA review.

***DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS***

Three options are presented in this paper. All will result in close to the current OV net income level from membership fees (which currently include *Australian Orienteer* subscriptions), regular event levies (ie excluding major carnivals) and club affiliation fees.

All options require ***all ‘participating’ club members*** to also be OV members. The number of potential members used in this modelling is based on club responses to the membership survey in early August: a ‘participating’ member is one who participates in at least one orienteering event in the year.

Options A and B have ***individual memberships*** only and do not have a family member option – there is no significant financial benefit if the *Australian Orienteer* is not an automatic part of the

membership fees. (The review committee is making no recommendation on the continuation or otherwise of family event entry discounts.)

Option A and B have the **Australian Orienteer** as an optional extra – but in the short term we expect that Victoria will be committed to maintain its current order ie 320 copies – so we’ll need to promote this ‘extra’ so that we don’t lose money.

All Options have slightly higher **event levies** across the board, though Option B has a slightly lower increase for Club/PAS events.

**Club Affiliation Fees** – Compared with current rates, Options A and C have considerably lower affiliation fees, Option B has considerably higher. This allows Option B to have a lower membership fee and PAS/Club event levy.

### SUMMARY OF OPTIONS

	<b>OPTION A</b>	<b>OPTION B</b>	<b>OPTION C</b>
<i>Memberships</i>	All participating club members	All participating club members	All participating club members
<i>Membership types</i>	Senior/Junior (no family)	Senior/Junior (no family)	Senior/Junior/Family
<i>Australian Orienteer?</i>	optional extra	optional extra	included.
<i>Senior member fee</i>	\$25	\$20	\$50
<i>Junior member fee</i>	\$5 or nil if part of family	\$5 or nil if part of family	\$30
<i>Family member fee</i>	NA	NA	\$75
<i>Club affil fee</i>	\$100 each club	\$1760; \$550; \$250 using current tiers	\$100 each club
<i>Event levies: champs/State Series</i>	70c inc long champs; \$1.20 inc on Badge/NOL; 40c inc on other champs/SS	same as A	same as A
<i>Event levies: club/PAS</i>	\$3.20 (ie 55c increase)	\$3	same as A

### NOTES

<i>Memberships</i>	Used data from Aug 2014 club survey on number of club members who participate in at least one O event pa.
<i>Current OV member fees</i>	Senior \$74, Junior \$37, Family \$104
<i>Membership types</i>	If family juniors do not need to pay (or who pay, say nominal \$1 to avoid Eventor problems), then there is no advantage to having a separate family rate when magazine is optional. And sign up in Eventor is easier.
<i>Australian Orienteer</i>	OV currently orders 320 magazines. Current cost is \$26.50 pa. Expect we'll need to retain at least this level of orders. Negotiate with OA to retain this level without compulsion for members over that level.
<i>Current senior event levies</i>	Long champs:\$11.30; Badge/NOL: \$8.80; Other champs/SS: \$6.60; Club/PAS: \$2.65
<i>Current Club Affil Fees</i>	\$880 large clubs; \$440 med clubs; \$240 remote clubs.

A separate ***Frequently Asked Questions*** paper will outline some more detail on some aspects.

The Committee generally favoured Option A.

### **LOGISTICS**

- A clear incentive for orienteers to become financial members is the discount available on many events for financial members. It is desirable for this benefit/incentive to be more clearly available for Club/PAS participants. The Committee has discussed ways for this to be done at these events with advertising/signage. And to retain the current honour-system for payment.
- Furthermore the Committee is proposing that the same event levy be charged for both members/non-members for Club/PAS events - with the numbers of entrants, time logistics for these events, and the current self-service registration systems, it is not possible to separate out member/non-member entries and payments.
- The committee has not discussed the logistics of signing up new members. Possibilities include –
  - at an event, complete a paper application and pay money (with the club then doing the Eventor entry and remitting payment to OV), or
  - via an Eventor-connection on ipad or similar for data entry at the event and payment still being received in cash or online, or
  - the new member could be given details of Eventor access for them to complete the transaction at home.
- It is hoped that early in 2015, Eventor membership and event entry data will be linked – so on entering an event via Eventor, the orienteer's membership status will be known and the correct fee will be charged (without the need for separately selecting the member discount via the Service option).

### **WHAT THIS REVIEW IS NOT COVERING**

- Clubs will need to consider what (if any) additional club membership fee they wish to charge.
- It is proposed that it would still be possible for an orienteer chooses to join OV but NOT to join a club. However this should not be a cheaper option. A fee might be struck for 'OV only' that is greater than any 'OV+Club' membership fee.
- The event levies listed are the Senior levy rate. Various Committee members have expressed a desire to eliminate junior event fees/levies. However levies are still payable to OA on junior event entries. This review is not making specific recommendations on the level of Junior levies.
- For OV accounting purposes, it would be easier if there was no separate 'family entry' or 'family levies' for events. This review has not discussed this matter. The OV treasurer may raise these matters at a later stage when the levies are being finalised.
- We have not discussed proposals for expanding the season-ticket structure to other events.

### **FINALLY**

Please discuss these or other issues with 'your local' committee member:

Craig Feuerherdt (chair, BG); Debbie Dodd (PAS rep, DR); Rob Edmonds (OV Membership coordinator, NE); Mark Hennessy (Bush Ctee, CH); Bernie Holloway (BK); Kathy Liley (YV); Blair Trewin (OA, MFR, YV)

If Clubs are in general agreement, these options will be tabled for decision at the OV Council Meeting on 17 October 2014.