

Urban Orienteering Committee for June 2016 Council meeting

1. SVRP work plan – access to PAS for vision impaired

The SVRP work plan vision document outlines “Meet with Blind Sports Victoria to plan and implement access to Park and Street Orienteering for vision impaired” as an objective.

This was raised at the last UOC meeting and the committee voted not to endorse this initiative.

Park and Street Orienteering is not a suitable environment for vision impaired, and to make it so would mean an additional workload on the organisers, plus would impact the course setting (most probably to the detriment of other competitors).

UOC requests a reassessment of this objective.

(Note even if a visually impaired runner had a sighted buddy, it would still take time to fully educate the partner on the rules and techniques of PAS. In addition there would be an increased requirement to outline the hazards for each individual course. The first point could be addressed by a separate instructor outside the usual preparation & running of the event. The second point would increase the burden on the setter / organiser of each event plus add a heightened sense of risk and responsibility, which the committee is not willing to place on our volunteers.)

2. Coaches in residence

It would be good if both the UOC and clubs were given a bit more clear information this year about what the options are to engage the coaches in residence, what costs might be involved etc.

3. Park Street Promotion & Participation

- OV has advertised for a project manager, whose position description includes the social media project, among other duties. It is not clear what the priority would be for the social media project and if this will cover PAS.

- PAS needs targeted and continual promotion, focusing specifically on Summer Series, to replace the current ad hoc approach to external promotion. This is best done by a dedicated marketing coordinator, rather than current organisers.

- The “meeter greeter” role has worked very well at MelBushO and should be provided at Summer Series events. Is it possible to extend this role to PAS.

4. Removal of conflicts in Orienteering program

Last year it has been noted that there were a number of conflicts in the overall orienteering program. The conflicts included:

- a) Coaches in residence sprint training on Wednesday nights in summer – conflicting with the PAS Summer series.

UOC members also noted that there are conflicts between MTBO and other MTB events. This has a high impact in building the open grades within MTBO (Also a potential X promotional opportunity)

5. Communication between OV Board and its Sub Committees

The inclusion of “Park and Street orienteering for the visually impaired” in the SVRP work plan vision document has highlighted the need for better communication channels from the OV Board to its sub committees.

The UOC requests that the OV Board provides more active communication to its sub committees on a regular basis.