

Northern Schools Orienteering Championship, Friday, March 29th, 2019

Esk Valley Orienteering Club (EVOC) announces that entries are open for their annual Northern Schools Orienteering Championships that along with a statewide Schools Championship and nominated state selection events provide a pathway for young orienteering athletes towards possible selection in the Tasmanian Schools Orienteering team. This year The Tasmanian team will be travelling to NSW to compete in the Australian Schools Championships. All of these events are under the direction, guidelines and rules of Orienteering Tasmania Inc. and Orienteering Australia. The Northern Schools Championships are open to all school aged students from Northern Tasmania.

In addition, as the LSSSA orienteering program is conducted in first term, it has been possible to schedule the Northern School Championships on a Friday which will hopefully facilitate the participation of selected students from the LSSSA program. The scheduled LSSSA program will use the same assembly point as the championships, however there might be some modification to the usual program of courses.

Being a championship, there are several important issues that need to be emphasised:

1. The Northern Schools Championship themselves are not an LSSSA event, but run by Esk Valley Orienteering Club (EVOC) under the auspices of Orienteering Tasmania (OT).
2. Students who compete do so according to OT rules and regulations.
3. Parents of participating students will be required to sign a waiver to allow their child/ren to compete.
4. Students wishing to enter the championships must have demonstrated competency in basic orienteering skills, providing them with the confidence to compete at this level.
5. To compete, students must
 - a. be entered through their school (with parental approval and signed waiver);
 - b. be entered in their appropriate age class;
 - c. pay the required entry fee (\$6.00)
6. The championships allow for separate male and female competition, and with two categories:
 - a. A class for experienced individuals and with the following age classes: Open, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 10 years.
 - b. B class for those less experienced and for students who run in pairs, with the following classes: Primary B (Boys & Girls), Junior B (Grades 7 & 8), Senior B (9 & 10) and Senior B (11 & 12).

Details of these classes and their relative courses can be seen in the attached entry form.

In addition to the individual championship there is an interschool competition for the Sue King Trophy.

7. In selecting students for entry into the championships, the following points need to be carefully noted:
 - a. There will be no assistance on any courses. No parents or teachers will be permitted to go into the competition (course) areas.
 - b. Any assistance on courses either between officials and competitors or between competitors themselves may result in disqualification.
 - c. Where students enter as a pair (in a B class), they must both have demonstrated competency and both are expected to compete as a cooperative team.

- d. There will be no pre briefing except at the start and this will relate only to the start procedure.
 - e. Competitors will not see a map prior to the start. Maps will be face down and will be picked up after logging on at the start.
 - f. Start times are normally at 2 minute intervals. This may be reduced to one minute for some classes depending on entry numbers.
 - g. Several courses will have starts at the same time. Students need to be recognise that they will be starting with others, not to distract them in any way, and to be aware that courses may have different first controls, some controls might be shared between courses and there will be a large number of controls in the terrain.
8. In summary it important to repeat that this is a championship event and students must be selected according to competency.
 9. As this event will be conducted at the same time as an LSSSA event, non LSSSA Schools are asked to compete before 1.00 pm if to spread the students out across the day.
 10. For LSSSA schools, there will be restrictions on the number of entrants that can compete in the limited time available during the LSSSA Friday sport program. Therefore, please notify the club as soon as practicable, the potential number of entrants for the championships from your school and the earliest time that your school can make their students available.
 11. Our certificate of currency can be found on the Orienteering Australia website <https://orienteering.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/OA-CofC-PL-Policy-incl-Interested-Parties-2017-18.pdf>
 12. Risk Management Form and Parent Waiver for Championships Event attached.

How will it work on the day?

Courses will be available for starts from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. (Courses must be completed by 3:30pm)

Schools are asked to advise when they expect to be attending.

Only students (together with their teachers and parents) entered in the championship event will be permitted to enter the championship start area.

For those schools involved in the LSSSA program, the assembly point for both LSSSA and the Northern Schools Championships will be in the same area.

LSSSA students who are not competing in the championships will be directed to their own area and proceed as usual with a briefing, then on to their courses.

The LSSSA program is likely to be reduced to just two courses - assuming numbers will be lower and also the area is somewhat limited for easy navigation courses.

Club volunteers will be spread across the two events. Consequently teachers can expect to be asked for more direct assistance (e.g. at the start) for the LSSSA events.

Ideally schools should provide for extra adult assistance on the day to accompany championship entrants to their starts.

For senior athletes, Year 11 and 12, an option is available for participating on Thursday evening, the 28th March with prior arrangement. Please contact Sussan Best sussanravani@hotmail.com to arrange a suitable time.