

Changes to the NZOF Competition Rules and other technical matters

At its meeting on 9 September the NZOF Council endorsed some changes to the NZOF Competition Rules plus procedures for controller accreditation, while holding over rule changes for further discussion/feedback.

This document presents the changes endorsed and those for which further feedback is invited. See the relevant section below for what issues to provide feedback on and how.

The following changes recommended by the Technical Committee were endorsed by the NZOF Council and are to take effect from 1 January 2007.

National Inter-Club Relays

NZOF Competition Rules 5.7 and 5.8 concerning the national inter-club relays are changed with regard to both structure of the relay and eligibility for certain legs, as follows:.

- a) All teams must include at least one female;
- b) W21Es are permitted to run on leg 3 of the Mixed Long
- c) The expected winning times for all legs of the Mixed Long become 30 minutes; that for leg 1 of the Mixed Short is reduced to 25 minutes.
- d) Clubs with 30 or less members that form composite teams with another club from the same region will be official.

The full rationale for the changes is appended as Appendix 1.

Event reporting

NZOF Competition Rules Appendix 5, Procedures for Events, is amended under "As soon as possible after the event" such that the obligation to send a short report to the NZOF Technical Committee within four weeks of the event becomes that of the event controller rather than the event coordinator.

Controller accreditation

Also endorsed was a change to the procedures for controller accreditation. Attendance at controller's clinics will no longer be a mandatory requirement for grading. Instead B grade or ungraded controllers who wish to upgrade should assist higher graded Controllers during a "Major Event" and carry out all the functions with that Controller (i.e. buddy system).

The full criteria for the new procedures is appended as Appendix 2

The following changes recommended by the Technical Committee were held over for further discussion. Final decisions on these changes will be made by the NZOF Council at its meeting on 2 December and if endorsed they too will take effect from 1 January 2007.

Additional course

NZOF Competition Rules Appendix 4, Recommended Course/Class Combinations, to take account of a separate course for men 80 and over and women 70 and over. The course combinations for 13 and 12 courses, respectively, each be increased by one to accommodate a separate course for the following classes: M80+, W70+, being course 9 in the new 14-course format and course 8 in the 13-course format. This was endorsed in principle but is held over until the matter of expected winning times, see next item, is resolved.

Expected winning times

NZOF Competition Rule 16.11, target times in single-day events. That the target time for M21E be reduced from 105 minutes to 90 minutes and that in Appendix 4, Recommended Course/Class Combinations, the calculation for other classes in relation to this be specified as actual times and not as percentages. Refer Appendix 2.

The NZOF Council did not endorse this change but instead invites comment, either by way of the [Your Feedback](#) facility on this website, or by emailing the [General Manager](#).

APPENDIX 1

NZ INTERCLUB RELAY CHAMPIONSHIP: NEW STRUCTURE

We feel that the short comings in the present system could be overcome by making some changes to the leg eligibility criteria.

Leg	Restrictions	Win time	Difficulty
<i>Mixed Long</i>			
1	Open	30 mins	Orange
2	No E classes, No M18A - 50A,	30 mins	Orange
3	No M21E, No M20A - 35A	30 mins	Orange
<i>Mixed Short</i>			
1	No E classes, No M16A- M55A	25 mins	Orange
2	No M14A or above, No W14A or above, all C Classes	15 mins	White
3	No E classes, No M16A –60A, No W16A –50A	20 mins	Yellow

All relay teams must include at least one female

Small clubs with 30 or less members may combine with another club from the same region to form a composite team. The combined team will be an official entry in the New Zealand relay.

Rationale for suggestions:

Reducing the EWT for ML Leg 1 lessens the importance of this leg on the overall relay in comparison to the other legs. A club that doesn't have a strong leg 1 runner is not able to capitalise on any strengths in legs 2 & 3, simply because these legs are a smaller proportion of the total relay. Allow all women (except elite) to compete on ML leg 2. We doubt whether top competitors in the W20A – 35A range, who are currently excluded, are significantly better than the best M16 or M55 who are eligible to compete on this leg.

Allowing W21E to compete on ML Leg 3 against M18 and M40 should give this class the opportunity to have a real impact on a club team.

The MS relay could cater better for the older age classes and women by further restricting the age criteria for men and also reducing the EWT on leg 1. Reducing this EWT also reduces the importance of leg 1 on the overall relay.

Presently M/W14B and C (*long distance yellow*) classes are excluded from MS, leg 2. The suggested correction would correct this.

The present restrictions on MS leg 3 also need to be tightened to only allow M65+ and W55+ in the older age groups.

The suggestions in the above table produce leg eligibility as follows:

Classes	Eligible Legs
M21E, M20, M21A, M35	ML1
M18, M40, M45, M50, W21E	ML1, ML3
M16, M55, (M21AS)	ML1, ML2, ML3
M60, (M40AS), W16 – W20, W21A – W50	ML1, ML2, ML3, MS1
M/W14, M65+, W55+, (W21AS), (W40AS), M/W16B+	ML1, ML2, ML3, MS1, MS3
M/W10, M/W12, M/W14B, M/W12B, all C classes	All legs

The criteria that are used to determine eligibility for legs of the relay also need to be incorporated into the rules. The issues that are presently missing from the rules and which need to be addressed are:

- 1) Determining the eligible age class of a competitor. Suggestion is:
The actual age class of the competitor. For example, a 43 year old who runs as an M21E in the long distance championship, will be eligible to run as an M40A in the relay.
- 2) Determining what class a competitor qualifies for. My suggestion is:
The class (that is, E, A, AS, A, B or C) that was entered for the long distance championship.
 - i) *Any competitor who runs in an A class (including AS, ie A Short) will not be eligible to run as a B class runner in the relays.*
 - ii) *Based on the 13 course combination tables in the current NZOF Competition Rules, the equivalence of AS runners for leg eligibility will be:
M21AS = M55A, M40AS = M60A, W21AS = W55A, W40AS = W55A*

APPENDIX 2

CONTROLLER CRITERIA: NEW APPLICATIONS AND UPGRADING

New applications for controllers and applications for upgrading will only be accepted through the individual's club. These applications will be approved on an individual basis by the Technical Committee and ratified by the NZOF Council.

1. Anyone wishing to be included in the NZOF Controllers List must complete an application form available from the NZOF Technical Committee or from the NZOF website. The person will be temporarily classified as A or B depending on past experience as a Controller.
2. B grade or Ungraded Controllers who wish to upgrade should assist higher graded Controllers during a "Major Event" and carry out all the functions with that Controller (i.e. buddy system). An application can then be made to the NZOF Technical Committee who will then submit the names of successful candidates to the NZOF Council to approve certification.
3. To be a Controller, the person must be recognised as having course setting ability, mapping ability, and have organised major orienteering events. Mapping skills are not mandatory, but if there are none, then they must have considerable orienteering experience.
4. As an indication of experience required, anyone wishing to be an A grade Controller or to be upgraded from B grade status should have successfully controlled 2 events of OY standard within the last 3-4 years. Anyone wishing to be considered as a B grade Controller should have successfully controlled two Club events within the last 3-4 years
5. "*Major events*" must be controlled by A grade Controllers who may be assisted by B grade Controllers on a buddy system. A "*Major Event*" is defined in *NZOF Rules* and includes Badge Events. Some international events (eg World Ranking Events for classes M21E and W21E) require a certificated IOF Event Advisor.
6. Controllers of each "*Major Event*" are to be assessed, where possible, on their performance (see note 8 below). The Controller could be upgraded or downgraded on their performance. They would need to have performed quite badly to be downgraded. The assessment should be the responsibility of the NZOF Technical Committee.
7. **Upgrading from B or Ungraded to A** is to be based on the buddy system with exceptional work reported by an A grade buddy.
Downgrading is to be based on particularly poor performance, or no recent experience as a Controller in the last 5 years.
Poor performance would be classified as a number of errors related to the technical aspects of the event. For example:
 - very poor map - only applies if the Controller is involved in overseeing the fieldwork/cartography
 - very poor courses - ie courses which do not meet the requirements of *NZOF Rules* or IOF Guidelines for Course Setting. Note: this is a matter of opinion and would need to be particularly bad to qualify as a fault

controls misplaced
controls incorrectly named or numbered
poor printing of courses on maps
poor handling of complaints/protests etc.

More than two of the above would be necessary for downgrading and only then on the recommendation of a jury.

8. The Controller would have a right of appeal against downgrading and would be heard by the NZOF Council.
9. The Controller need not be a registered member of the NZOF if they are from overseas, but they must be a recognised Controller by their National Federation
- 10 To keep up to date with the latest developments in our sport it is highly recommended that all controllers (regardless of grade) attend educational forums run by the NZOF Technical committee.

APPENDIX 3 ([Feedback invited](#))

RECOMMENDED COURSE/CLASS COMBINATIONS

These recommendations are put forward as a guide for Clubs and are strongly recommended but not mandatory.

The course/class combinations are:

14 Course format for between 350 and 500 competitors.

13 Course format for between 200 and 350 competitors; if more are expected, see the 14 course format

10 Course format for up to 200 competitors; if more are expected, see the 13 course format

7 Course format. (The Technical Committee recognizes that there are many differences between regions, and this will only ever be a model to start from).

How to use the Tables

Calculate the course length (this will depend on the terrain) and guide lines are give on previous results. Only you can do that as you know the terrain. Look at km-rates for a variety of other events, and decide where your terrain fits in.

Check the likely numbers on each course if there is a large number on a course you might need to create a parallel course possibly by dividing male/female. The female with less climb.

Note that in the new older age classes (course 9 in the 14-course format and course 8 in the 13-course format) care must be taken in avoiding climb, fences and rough terrain.

The course lengths set out below are designed to reflect the current relative strengths of the competitors in the various A Classes, and an assessment of where less experienced members of the classes would be if they were to run a properly constructed B course instead of being outclassed by more experienced runners who return to their correct

classes for (e.g.) trials and National and major Regional Championships. The relatively small competing population in NZ means that these combinations will need to be altered further over time, as cohorts of competitors move through the classes, altering the balance and strengths of different age-groups.

14 Course Format (events 350-500 people)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Approx Win time	Difficulty
1	M21E (Open)		11k	90min	Red
2	M20A, M21A (Open) M35A	W21E (Open)	8k	70min	
3	M18A, M40A, M45A		7k	60min	
4	M50A	W20A, W21A (Open) W35A	6k	55min	
5	M55A, M21AS (Open), M16A	W40A, W45A	5.5k	50min	
6	M60A, M40AS	W18A, W50A	5k	45min	
7	M65A	W55A, W21AS (Open), W40AS, W16A	4.5	45min	
8	M70A, M75A,	W60A, W65A	3k	45min	
9	M80A, M85A	W70A, W75A	3k	45min	
10	M18B, M21B (open) M20B, M40B	W20B, W21B, (open)	4.5k	45min	Orange
11	M14A, M16B M50B	W18B, W40B	4k	45min	
12		W14A, W16B, W50B	2.5-4km	40min	Yellow
13	M12A, M14B M21C (open)	W12A, W14B W21C (open)	2.5 -4k	35min medium	
14	M10, M12B	W10, W12B	2-3k	35min medium	White

13 Course Format (events 200-350 people)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Approx Win time	Difficulty
1	M21E		11k	90min	Red
2	M20A, M21A, M35A	W21E	8k	70min	
3	M18A, M40A, M45A		7k	60min	
4	M50A, M21AS,	W20A, W21A, W35A, W40A	5.5k	55min	
5	M55A, M60A, M40AS M16A	W18A, W45A, W50A	5k	45min	
6	M65A	W55A, W21AS, W16A	4.5k	45min	
7	M70A, M75A	W60A, W65A, W40AS	3k	45min	
8	M80A, M85A	W70A, W75A	3k	45min	
9	M18B, M21B,		4.5k	45min	Orange
10	M14A, M16B, M40B	W18B, W21B,	4k	45min	
11	M50B	W14A, W16B, W40B W50B	3.5k	40min	
12	M12A, M14B, M21C	W12, W14B, W21C	3km	35min medium	Yellow
13	M10, M12B	W10, W12B	2-3k	35min medium	White

10 Course Format (events under 200 people)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Approx win time	Difficulty
1	M21E		11k	90min	Red
2	M20A, M21A	W21E	8k	70min	
3	M18A, M40A		7k	60min	
4	M16A, M50A, M21AS	W18A, W20A, W21A, W40A	4.5k	45min	
5	M60A, M40AS	W16A, W50A, W21AS	3k	45min	
6	M70A	W60A, W40AS	3k	45min	
7	M18B, M21B, M14A		3.5k	45min	Orange
8	M40B	W21B, W40B, W14A, W18B	3k	40min	
9	M12A, M14B, M21C	W12A, W14B, W21C	2--3k	35med	Yellow
10	M10, M12B	W10, W12B	1.5-2.5km	35med	White

7 Course Combination (no elites)

Course	Men	Women	Relative Length	Approx win time	Difficulty
1	M-18A M21A (open) M40-A		7k	60min	Red
2	M50-A M21AS (open)	W-18A W21A (open) W40-A	5k	50min	Red
3	M60-A M40AS	W50-A W60-A W21AS W40-AS	4.5k	45min	Red
4	M-16A M21B (open)		4k	45min	Orange
5	M40-B	W-16A W21B W40-B	3.5k	45min	Orange
6	M-14A M-16B M21C (open)	W-14A W-16B W21C (open)	3k	45min	Yellow
7	M-12 M-14B	W-12 W-14B	2.5k	35medium	White