

## ADVICE OF ONSW MANUAL UPDATE RE PETS/DOGS

**Manual No. and Section Title:**

- 4.1 Competitors Rules Foot O;
- 4.2 Competitors Rules MTBO;
- 4.3 Organisers Rules – ALL Orienteering Events;

**Approved by ONSW Board :** 19 March 2024

**Effective date of new policy :** 1 April 2024

**Extent of Manual Update :**

**New paragraph** - 4.1 *Competitors Rules Foot O*, A. General Conduct, 8. Pets/Dogs;

**New paragraph** - 4.2 *Competitors Rules MTBO*, A. General Conduct, 8. Pets/Dogs;

**Amended sentences** - 4.3 *Organisers Rules – ALL Orienteering Events*, C. 2. B. Environmental Code of Practice;

**New paragraph** - 4.3 *Organisers Rules – ALL Orienteering Events*, C. 2. b. v Pets/Dogs

**New sentences** – 4.3 *Organisers Rules – ALL Orienteering Events*, C. 3. d. Competitors Rules (ONSW Manual 4.1 and 4.2)

**Reason for Update :**

ONSW's rules regarding pets (with particular relevance to dogs) are no longer consistent with OA's. Further, there have been multiple instances of dogs being brought to NSW orienteering events in the last 12 months in locations where this is not permitted. The ONSW Board determined that rules on this matter would benefit from updating and refinement.

ONSW rules have been updated to:

1. match the wording in the current OA Environmental Code of Practice;
2. recognise that the location of some events (particularly summer events in public places) may not preclude dogs from being permitted at an event;
3. require organisers to provide a statement regarding whether pets/dogs are permitted in the event information/bulletin for each event;
4. reinforce that where pets/dogs are not permitted at an event, this includes being at the event but secured inside a vehicle or trailer;
5. recognise that the organisers decision regarding dogs being permitted at an event is final;
6. reinforce that it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they familiarise themselves with all information relating to an event prior to attending the event;
7. reinforce that organisers have the ability to disqualify competitors who contravene rules including but not limited to entering out of bounds areas, interfering with control equipment, abuse of officials, bringing a pet to event when not permitted or other rule breaches.