## SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING EVENT RISK ASSESSMENT

# **Preamble**

This event is to be managed by an ONSW-appointed officer. This representative has been chosen as they have been involved in the setting and conduct as well as participation in orienteering events for a number of years.

The objective of the session is to familiarise students with orienteering and to develop students' awareness of and interest in a sport that involves physical and mental challenges.

## **General Risk Warning**

Competing in an orienteering event is subject to risks. These include death, serious injury or illness due to:

- rough terrain and obstacles;
- overexertion;
- heat, cold or other adverse weather conditions;
- plant and animal life; and
- accidents with vehicles, other competitors or pedestrians.

There are also risks:

- that access to medical, evacuation or search services might be slow; and
- of damage to, or loss of, your personal property.

## **Participant details**

Number of students: up to 400

Age range: 12-18 years of age

Physical or mental limitations that may impact on the participants' ability to engage in orienteering: none known

## **Activity**

The students will be participating in orienteering. They will be given a map and will need to navigate their way around a course. Orienteering is an individual sport.

Event format: Guided group map walk

Individual or paired course

Team relay

Compass use: Not needed, school may provide. Students will be coached

on reading the terrain.

# **Risks**

## 1. Transport to venue

Transport to and from the venue will be the responsibility of the school or the student.

#### 2. The venue

The terrain can range from school grounds to parkland to runnable forest well-bounded by distinct features such as fences, roads and watercourses.

#### 3. Facilities

Shelter: Minimal Toilets: Yes

Water: At assembly

# 4. Child protection

The school group will accompanied and supervised by a teacher and/or school-appointed supervisor with numbers according to school requirements. ONSW or the host club is not responsible for the supervision or management of students.

All representatives of ONSW will have completed their Working With Children Check requirements.

#### 5. Students with Disabilities

Because of the nature of the terrain, the event is usually not suitable for students with severe physical disabilities (eg those using wheelchairs) but students with lesser disabilities (eg sight impairment) may be able to undertake the courses if accompanied and supported by appropriate aide. Schools should make appropriate provision for students with medical conditions such as diabetes or asthma.

## 6. Public Liability Insurance

Events run by ONSW are covered by an insurance policy that has \$20 million public liability and \$2 million professional indemnity cover.

# 7. First Aid

First aid will be the responsibility of the school.

## 8. Medical Plan

Closest hospital: TBA

Emergency contact number: TBA Local police contact number: TBA

Closest appropriate helicopter landing place: TBA

Information prepared by:

Lyn Malmgron, ONSW Development Officer

Date: 22 November 2016

# 9. Risks and responses

Incident	Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Minimisation of Risk
Falling/tripping	Minor abrasions, sprains or fractures.	Low	Low to moderate	All students are briefed on this risk and the need to take care prior to undertaking a course.
Eye damage	Loss or impairment of eyesight.	Very low	High	All students are briefed on this risk and the need to take care prior to undertaking a course. Students may wear glasses.
Collision	Head bump, bleeding nose, bruising, minor abrasions.	Low to moderate	Low to moderate	All students are briefed on this risk and the need to take care prior to undertaking a course.
Snake bite	Poisoning	Very low	Low to high depending upon species and season.	As regional schools championships are held in winter, the chance of seeing a snake is very low. All students are briefed on this risk and the need to take care prior to undertaking a course.
Exposure	Minor sunburn	Low	Low	Students are on their courses for a limited amount of time. Schools are responsible for sun protection (hat, lotion, water etc).
Stranger danger	Anxiety, physical and emotional abuse.	Low	Low to high depending upon situation.	Adult supervision will be available within the event area however students may out of eyesight at times. For events held in forests, few people not associated with the event are likely to be in the vicinity.  Coaches and organisers will blow notify students of course closure and check that all students have returned. If not a search party will be sent out.
Collision with a vehicle / bike.	Minor to major abrasions and fractures.	Low	Low to high depending upon situation.	Courses will be set to avoid all major roads. Cyclists may use the site, and students will be briefed on this risk.
Dehydration	Minor dehydration.	Low	Low	Students will be advised to be well hydrated before embarking on their course and will have the opportunity to take drink bottles with them.  A time limit will be set for the students to complete their course.
Medical condition	Asthma, diabetes, heart condition etc	Low to moderate	Low to high depending upon situation.	The school has been requested to note pre-existing conditions and at-risk students should be excluded or appropriate action plans developed by the school eg.  Asthmatics will be recommended to take their puffers. Schools are responsible for first aid.
Getting lost	Distress and anxiety	Low	Low to moderate	The event area has obvious boundaries. Coaches patrol these areas and courses are set to avoid students going off the map. Students are advised of a course closure time. A search party will be organised to look for students not returned. Students sometimes feel they are 'lost', but are just unsure of their location on the map. They can ask coaches in the field for help in relocating.