

**RISK ASSESSMENT METROLEAGUE ORIENTEERING EVENT
DOONSIDE – SUNDAY 24 MAY 2009**

Orienteering is a forest sport in which competitors complete a course alone visiting control points in a fixed order. They find their way using a specially prepared map with the aid of a compass. Most courses are completed in less than two hours.

RISKS TO COMPETITORS

HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURES
Injury	<p>Minor injuries such as cuts and sprained ankles are common, but orienteers wear protective clothing and, if susceptible to sprained ankles, ankle guards or tape.</p> <p>More significant injuries are relatively rare. Competitors are expected to carry a whistle. Other competitors must abandon their course and give aid if they hear six blasts of the whistle.</p> <p>The organisers have a first aid kit. If more serious injury is sustained an ambulance would be called or the competitor would be driven to medical centre/hospital.</p>
Traffic accident	<p>The course crosses some roads in Nurrangingy reserve. The speed limit is low in the reserve and pedestrians are present. Risk likelihood is very low.</p> <p>Crossing Eastern Road will be facilitated by orienteers crossing under the road bridge over Eastern Creek - eastern side of creek.</p> <p>There is also a cycle track in Western Sydney Parkland/</p> <p>Competitors will be warned at start about these hazards.</p>
Flood	<p>Event would be shortened to avoid flooded areas or cancelled if flood was very bad.</p>
Competitors not returning from their course.	<p>All competitors are checked off at the start and at the finish. A time limit for the event is published, at which time a search protocol will be instituted. Risk likelihood in this area is very low.</p>
Inexperienced competitors / children competing	<p>A range of courses of differing lengths and degree of difficulty are always provided. There are always easy courses available for novices and children.</p>

RISKS TO LAND OWNERS

HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURES
Tracking	<p>This will occur in areas with long grass. Most tracking would occur in Western Sydney Parkland and Rooty Hill Reserve – we are not planning to hold another orienteering in these areas until 2010 and, more likely, 2011. So, tracking is unlikely to be permanent, unless other people decide to follow the tracks.</p>

	As the long grass appears to be exotic and common varieties, tracking is not considered to be a significant problem.
Plantings	There are lots of plants which have been planted in recent years. These are thriving and more than a metre tall; orienteers will run around such plants. There are some small half dead plants, with bamboo sticks, hidden in long grass - it is possible that orienteers might damage these.
Damange to infrastructure	Occasionally orienteers can damage fences, eg where farm fences are rickety. This is not considered a significant issue in this area.
Toilets	Orienteers will use Nurragingy public toilets.
All	Land owners are covered by Orienteering Australia public liability policy.

RISKS TO BIG FOOT ORIENTEERS INC

HAZARD	CONTROL MEASURES
Risk that landowners will rescind approval	The production of orienteering maps involves considerable time and expense. Land owners revoking approval is therefore undesirable. Permission has been obtained from Blacktown Council and Western Sydney Parkland Trust for both the map and this event. Andrew Lumsden has dealt extensively with Victoria Townsend of the latter organisation.
Landowner fees	Permission obtained from Orienteering NSW to have a \$2 surcharge on fees to cover WSPT application fee.