

Auckland Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships

Qualification Guidelines 2018

Auckland Secondary School Orienteering Championships (AKSSOC)

AKSSOC is recognised by Orienteering NZ, College Sport, and New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council as the Auckland regional inter-school/individual Championship event for Orienteering.

AKSSOC is held annually, hosted in rotation by Auckland Orienteering Club, Counties Manukau Orienteering Club, and North West Orienteering Club.

New Qualification Guidelines:

These guidelines introduce new qualification criteria for the Championship grade at AKSSOC with the following objectives:

- a) Improve health and safety by ensuring students do not compete on courses too difficult for their skill-level.
- b) Enable Championship grade courses to be set to the maximum allowable difficulty levels for the age grade, in accordance with Orienteering NZ guidelines.
- c) Provide opportunities for students to gain important skills for forest/farmland orienteering, to become more confident and competitive, and have a more fulfilling time during their competitions.
- d) Over time, improve the quality and depth of competition in Championship grades.

Age grades and difficulty levels

AKSSOC competitors are divided into grades based on gender and current school year level.

Each grade is further divided by technical difficulty levels as set out in the following table. In each age grade is split into Championship and Standard levels, as well as a Novice level for Seniors/Year 12-13. The Championship level is the most difficult level for each age grade.

Age	Difficulty		
Grade/School year	Championship	Standard	Novice
Senior/Year 12-13	Red	Orange	Yellow
Intermediate/Year 10-11	Orange	Yellow	N/A
Junior/Year 9	Yellow	White	N/A
Year 7/8	Yellow	White	N/A

In accordance with Orienteering NZ rules there are four levels of difficulty (White, Yellow, Orange, and Red). White being the least difficult and Red being the most difficult.

White: White courses follow strong linear features such as tracks, fences, and rivers. Control points are stationed on linear features (e.g track corner, fence junction, river corner) and at every point where the competitor needs to make a major decision (e.g track junction or fence junction).

Yellow: Yellow courses follow strong linear features. However, unlike white courses, yellow courses allow control points to be off linear features (within 50m). This means competitors will also need to identify basic land features on the map, such as a hill, depression, or boulder. Yellow courses also require competitors to be able to identify and use attack points. An attack point is a feature that lets you know when to leave a linear feature and indicates that your control is nearby (e.g your control

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may be on a small hill 20m from a track junction. The attack point would be the track junction). Yellow courses do not need controls at every decision point and therefore offer route choice. For example, if control points can be separated by multiple decision points, the competitor could have an option to cut across through the forest between two tracks, instead of following the track around the whole way.

Orange:

Orange courses involve more complex navigation by requiring competitors to regularly navigate using large non-linear features (e.g ridges and large gulleys) right up until the control point. While linear features (e.g tracks) may be available to use, the courses are set in such a way that the best route choice will involve using non-linear features. For example, there may be an option to follow a track for a large percentage of the distance between two control points, however the best option would be to run cross country. This therefore requires competitors to have an understanding of simple to semi-complex contour detail, and a confidence to navigate far off linear features for large portions of the course. Orange courses have strong attack points that lead into the control, however these features are non-linear features, such as large hills or obvious vegetation changes. Orange courses often have obvious and clear back stops behind each control point that competitors can use to relocate from if needed.

Red:

Red courses offer the most difficult navigation level. Controls can be placed as far away from linear features as deemed appropriate by course setters. Courses are set so that linear features (e.g tracks) are often not favourable options. This requires competitors to have a strong grasp on complex contour, rock, and vegetation navigation. Red courses do not require having strong back stops to help competitors relocate if they are disorientated. Land features/map detail available to use for navigation do not need to be obvious or big, forcing competitors to use small and intricate details. In some cases, fences are taken off the map to make it more challenging for competitors. A competitor competent for red courses has usually had at least 3 years of experience orienteering in forest/farmland terrain.

Qualification for Championship Grade

All competitors aiming to compete in a Championship grade at AKSSOC should demonstrate they have met the following qualification criteria.

Definition – “*within a reasonable time*”: In this criteria we define ‘*within a reasonable time*’ as a competitor completing the appropriate course within 50% of the winning time for that course. For example, if someone wins the Yellow course in 25mins, a competitor aiming to qualify for AKSSOC Championship level in their age grade must complete the course within 37.5mins. A competitor over this time cut off, cannot qualify with this result.

- 1) Results from previous forest/farmland orienteering events that indicate the competitor has the navigational ability sufficient for the Championship course for their age grade; that is:
 - a) Having completed courses of corresponding difficulty within a reasonable time (as decided by AKSSOC organisers) at any forest/farmland orienteering event.
For example, previous AKSSOC events, Auckland Orienteering Series Club events, National Club events, North Island Secondary Schools Individuals, National Secondary School Individuals.

**Results from AKSS Sprint Series are not applicable.

OR

- 2) Competitors who have not met the requirements in (1), must complete at least 2 School Forest Series races on the corresponding course difficulties of their grade within a reasonable time (as decided by AKSS organisers):
 - a) Initially, newcomers are required to complete a course at the difficulty of their age grades standard level. This aims at introducing inexperienced competitors to forest/farmland navigation. It will also give competitors an idea of what is expected of them for their age grades standard level, and ultimately will help them gauge their navigational competency regarding their age grades Championship difficulty.
 - b) Competitors must then complete at least 1 course at their age grades Championship level within a reasonable time (as decided by the AKSS organisers).

Competitors are encouraged to complete more than 1 race at their age grades Championship level. This will help solidify the decision made by AKSSOC organisers if their first result is close to the cut off time of being in the Championship grade. It also means that competitors get more practice at this difficulty level.

At the School Forest series there is only 1 White and Yellow course, 2 different length Orange courses, and 3 different length Red courses available. This means year 7/8 and year 9 competitors aiming to compete in their Championship grade (Yellow) will need to go to more than 1 event if they want to complete 2 yellow courses.

Individuals who do not meet the criteria set out in points (1) and (2) should be entered in Standard for their age grade. A Senior/Year 12-13 who has not completed any qualification race or has performed very poorly, as decided by AKSSOC organisers, on an Orange course (Senior/Year 12-13 Standard difficulty) will be entered in Novice.

All decisions on entry and qualification are at sole discretion of AKSSOC organisers.

Example:

John wants to qualify for the Intermediate Boys Championship Grade (Orange level difficulty). As John has does not met the criteria set out in (1), he is firstly required to complete a course that corresponds to the Intermediate Standard level (Yellow). After completing this, John can then complete an Orange course. He must then show that he can complete the Orange course within a reasonable time (as decided by AKSS organisers). If John struggles with his first Orange course, he is welcome to complete the other Orange course at the event, and/or an Orange course at another School Forest Series event. If he completes his 2nd Orange course within a reasonable time, he will be eligible for Intermediate Boys Championships. If he does not, it will be suggested that he enter Intermediate Boys Standard.