



## STORCA COMPETITION RULES & GUIDELINES V1 October 2019

### 1. Introduction

STORCA (School Teams Orienteering Relay Competition Albany) is school-based orienteering conducted as a mini-series of team competitions. STORCA is aligned to a Swedish orienteering concept designed to support and encourage more primary school students to enjoy the sport of Orienteering.

The proposed program for the annual mini-series STORCA competition (autumn and spring):

STAGE	Autumn – March	Spring – Oct & Nov
#1	First Weds in March	Third Weds in October (Wk 2)
#2	Second Weds in March	Fourth Weds in October (Wk 3)
#3	Third Weds in March	First Weds in November (Wk 4)
#4	Fourth Weds in March	Second Weds in November (Wk 5)

Presentations – immediately after final stage.

#### 1.1 Aims of STORCA:

To:

- Increase engagement with orienteering through a relay team competition;
- Offer primary school orienteers in the Albany region an opportunity to compete in a relay-based competition with their school friends;
- Attract new primary school students to experience orienteering in a safe and supported school-based team challenge;
- Provide opportunities to showcase orienteering to Albany primary schools, students and teachers.

## 1.2 Brief Background

In March 2015, a first pilot series was established in the ACT to test interest in an interschool format. Interest in the concept was positive and the pilot competition was accepted for inclusion on the ACT School Sport Community Calendar for 2015 and has since continued.

## 1.3 Definitions

STORCA: School orienteering for individuals as part of a four-person team comprising 2 girls and 2 boys from year 3, 4, 5 and 6 competing in a relay competition.

STORCA Series: The identified series of STORCA orienteering events.

STORCA Event: A relay competition/race held as part of STORCA.

## 1.4 Coordinator – STORCA

ADHOC will appoint a coordinator for STORCA who is the contact for schools, competitors and other interested members of the community.

This person's duties include:

- Liaison with ADHOC Committee to ensure that the aims of STORCA are met;
- Updating these guidelines when required;
- Identifying the locations of events and other key matters pertaining to STORCA activities;
- Ensuring courses are set and control placing and collecting are attended to;
- Coordinate results and points allocation after every event;
- Coordinate the awarding of prizes etc.;
- Arrange media coverage, publicity of event, etc.

Some of these duties are provided with assistance from ADHOC volunteers and parent volunteers.

## 1.5 The Event and competitors

All events will take place in an area considered a 'known area'. That is, a school environment or public urban parkland. There will be no bush orienteering as part of this competition.

The key features of the events and the overall competition are that:

- Each team will comprise 2 boys and 2 girls;
- The running order will be **girl, boy, boy, girl**;
- Each runner will run between 500 to 900 metres – total team distance to be around 3km;
- All events will be conducted on school grounds or in urban parkland;
- Complete competition time will be approximately 30 minutes;
- Each competitor will be randomly allotted to run a different course of the same level of difficulty and almost identical in distance;
- Each team will end up running the same total course, though not necessarily in the same order;
- There will be at least one forked control on each of the courses to offer some navigational challenge for the participants and reduce following;
- Forked controls mean the courses split at that control, so some courses go to one control, others to the other, usually done at the first control.

## **2 Rules – STORCA**

The conduct of STORCA events is governed by the Competition Rules for Orienteering Australia Foot Orienteering Events (Operational Manual 2nd Ed Leaflet 2.1). These guidelines are supplemental to those Rules and are intended to provide additional details to facilitate the smooth organisation of the STORCA events and series competition. Where possible, pointers to the relevant rules are included below.

### **2.1 Participation**

STORCA events are open to all primary school students in the Great Southern as a team-based competition. Teams comprise of 2 girls and 2 boys ideally from the same school, except where a school has been unable to form a full team within their own schools. Such teams may invite students into their team from any other primary school. At the discretion of the organiser, girls may replace boys within a team.

The students should be in years 3, 4, 5 or 6. Younger students can participate if they have previous experience and have approval of the Coordinator.

### **2.2 Start Time**

Unless otherwise designated in final instructions supplementary to these guidelines, the race start time is 7:45 am. The competition will commence with a mass start, like a running race, with all first leg relay runners starting together. 2nd, 3rd and 4th leg relay runners will commence once their previous runner returns. If some teams are slow to complete, a mass start for all remaining runners will be called at 8:10am (or at any time determined by the organiser on the day).

### **2.3 Competition**

There are no divisions in this competition, all teams regardless of the year group of the team members, are competing in the same competition.

- ❖ Each relay leg will have between 6 and 9 controls (check points);
- ❖ Teams are encouraged to compete in all events in the series;
- ❖ Teams that compete in fewer than 3 events will not be eligible for a top 3 final placings.

### **2.5 Point Scoring System STORC**

- Teams are encouraged to compete in all series events to maximise the opportunity to improve their score;
- Results will be taken from the best 3 results.

## 2.5.1 Placing Points Awarded per Team

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	100	7th	36	13th	20	19th	11	25th	5
2nd	80	8th	32	14th	18	20th	10	26th	5
3rd	60	9th	29	15th	16	21st	9	27th	5
4th	50	10th	26	16th	14	22nd	8	28th	5
5th	45	11th	24	17th	13	23rd	7	29th	5
6th	40	12th	22	18th	12	24th	6	30th +	1

After each event points are awarded to teams.

Throughout the series, the points are added progressively to give the series score.

The cumulative score of the best 3 events is used to decide overall placings for the series.

### Additional Notes:

Where a runner misses one or more individual controls (Missed Punch - MP) they will incur a time penalty for each control missed. For every single control missed the time penalty will be 2 minutes. Where more than four controls are missed an additional time penalty of 5 minutes will be imposed in addition to the 2-minute penalty per control.

Runners are NOT to intentionally miss controls.

At the point where the final results are determined, where 2 or more teams have equal highest scores, the team with the fewest missed punches will rank highest. In the event that there are 2 or more teams with equal points and equal missed punches (including zero) the team that finished fastest on the final event will be declared the winner.

Where one or more team members are unable to attend an event, the team may:

- allow another team member of the same gender to compete in the place of that runner, thereby resulting in one runner completing 2 courses. In such a case, when calculating this team's time, this runner's second time will not be used if it is faster than their first time (as they will have already been out on the map and have gained some advantage). In this case their first time will be counted twice;

OR

- substitute the absent runner with a replacement student of the same gender for that event.

Where 2 runners of the same gender are unable to attend, and substitute runners of that gender cannot be found, the team may enter the event with whatever team compilation it can but it may not be eligible for points. If two or more teams are tied in an event, they shall each be awarded the points for the place for which they are tied.

## 2.6 Ceremonies

After the final race of the season the STORC Coordinator shall organise a presentation ceremony to be completed by 8.45 am.