

Armidale Outdoors Schools Orienteering Championship

28 October 2011

Risk Assessment

Preamble

The *Armidale Outdoors* Schools Orienteering Championships are run by the Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club, several members of which are state-recognised orienteering controllers who understand the risks involved in orienteering and how to minimise them.

The purpose of the event is to introduce students to the sport of orienteering and to develop students' awareness of and interest in a sport that involves both physical and mental activity. It is a sport for participants of all ages and any level of experience.

Beginners (ie those with limited or no previous experience) undertake a one-hour 'score course' in groups of 2 to 4. This course requires each group to find up to 20 controls points located adjacent to large, obvious features, with points awarded for the total number of controls found in the available time. Points are deducted for each minute in excess of one hour.

More experienced students may undertake a 'line course' which requires them to find controls in a specific sequence and use more skill in interpreting the map and matching it to features in the terrain. The easier 'blue' and 'green' courses have controls just off tracks and fences, usually near large, obvious features, while the more advanced 'orange' course involves more complex route choices, cross-country running and use of compass bearings, with controls sited on smaller features. The orange course is only available to students with extensive orienteering experience at club level.

1. Access to the Venue

The venue for the 2011 event is Dumaresq Dam located 10 km northwest of Armidale. The assembly area is at the picnic area where buses can turn and park to allow children to alight safely.

2. The Venue

The area for the event surrounds the dam and is bounded by fences on all sides. Apart from the dam itself, there are two minor watercourses but no other significant bodies of water. Students should take care not to go too close to the dam.

The vegetation varies from cleared grazing land to open eucalypt forest with very little scrub. The ground is generally runnable and clear of obstacles apart from some rocky ground in parts.

3. Facilities

Toilets and shelter are available at the picnic area. Some shelter will also be provided at the assembly/start area if necessary for protection from the weather.

4. Child Protection

All school groups are to be accompanied by teachers/school supervisors, with numbers according to school requirements. The orienteering club is not responsible for the supervision or management of students at the venue.

5. Students with Disabilities

Because of the nature of the terrain, the event is not suitable for students with severe physical disabilities (e.g. those using wheelchairs) but students with lesser disabilities (eg sight impairment) may be able to undertake the courses if accompanied and supported by other students in their group. Schools should make the usual provision for students with a medical condition, such as diabetes or asthma.

6. Travel

Schools are responsible for all travel arrangements between the school and the venue and for supervision of their students while travelling.

7. Public Liability Insurance

A copy of the Club's insurance certificate is available.

8. First aid

Qualified first aid and/or medical practitioners will be on duty at the finish for the duration of the event. A well-equipped First-Aid Kit will be available.

9. Risks and Responses

Event	Effect	Likelihood	Impact	Management
Falling/Tripping	Minor abrasions, sprains or fractures.	Moderate	Low to moderate	All students are briefed individually or in small groups on safety issues prior to commencing the event.
Snakebite	Poisoning	Very low	Low-high, depending on species	As above.
Water	Drowning	Very low	High	As above
Exposure	Minor sunburn	Low	Low	Students are advised to wear sun protection. Maximum time on courses is one hour.
Getting lost	Distress and anxiety	Low	Low to moderate	The area is bounded by fences, and before starting their course, students will be made aware of these boundaries and what to do if they become lost. Club members will be roaming the course during the event to re-direct any students who are seriously off-course.

Information prepared for Northern Tablelands Orienteering Club by

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