

## GUIDELINES FOR HOC SUMMER EVENING EVENTS (SEE)

### Objectives

1. To enable beginners to plan a low-key event.
2. To provide events during the “off season” which are as high a quality as the summer vegetation and the map will permit.
3. To keep organisation to a minimum.

### Terrain

1. Areas suitable for C3 (Regional events with Badge courses) should not generally be used.
2. Courses should be planned to avoid the worst summer vegetation.
3. Areas across a wide range of HOC's catchment should be chosen by the SEE coordinator.
4. Areas such as the Clent Hills, which have high bracken should be used early in the SEE season (May).

### Courses

1. Yellow, Orange, Green, Blue. Yellow is normally only put on by request, 7 days before the event. This must be made clear in pre-publicity.
2. BOF guidelines for these courses should be followed as far as possible, but should be modified as follows:
  - a) courses should be shorter to reflect fading light and the limited time for search/rescue (if required) and control collection.
  - b) parts of areas with high bracken or impenetrable bramble must be avoided. Experience of these can put off beginners forever.
  - c) more path running than is ideal is to be preferred to get competitors into the parts of the area which are still reasonable in summer.

### Summary of BOF guidelines

1. *Yellow* Follow line features. Short legs. No more than 2 decisions points per leg. No route choice. Controls on line features or raised features close and visible from the line feature. Little climb. Pleasant terrain  
*Orange* Easy, close early controls. Different length legs. Corner cutting on rough compass beneficial. Controls on line features, prominent point and prominent contour features near a line feature attack point.. Catching feature not far beyond control. As little climb as necessary. Avoid 'green' and physical areas  
*Green*. Use as few controls as are necessary. Varied leg lengths. Detailed map reading, accurate compass, distance estimation, contour interpretation. Any fair feature, but not hidden in summer. Relocation should lead to time loss. Avoid long steep climb/descents. Avoid long stretches in areas difficult underfoot.  
*Blue*. As Green but longer and can be more physical.

## Equipment

1. Ideally, traditional banners, without punches, but with a two- letter code written on the banner are to be used. (The competitor is given the first letter and has to record the second.)
2. Until the club acquires the above, use the SEE kites with two- letter code written on them.
3. One master map per course. Two master maps per course if there are 2<sup>nd</sup> master maps.
4. Map corrections. One copy at registration.
5. Maps.
6. Control descriptions, with the first letter for each site given and space for the competitor to record the second.
7. Registraton/timing sheet(s). Name, course, start time, finish time, time taken.
8. Container for entry fees. Float.
9. Container for car keys (if you are prepared to accept this responsibility.)
- 10 Watch with seconds timing.

## Planning Guidelines

No one can be more accurate on a bearing than 5 degrees. This means that from an attack point 100m from the control, even the best Orienteer cannot guarantee to be nearer than about 10m from the control site. BOF Rules stipulate you should see the feature before the kite, but this is clearly impossible given summer vegetation in the Midlands, which often covers features and certainly makes them invisible from 10m or more. **Therefore kites must be hung high (even above head height in the worst vegetation) so that the kite is certain to be seen by an Orienteer getting to within 10 m.**

The planner is strongly recommended to get a friend to help by unofficially controlling the event by checking control placement. As the SEE series should be seen first and foremost as training events, this must not bar the 'controller' from having a late run her/himself.

**It should be made clear that SEE's are really NOT intended/suitable for beginners in any advertising.** There are many reasons for this: a) summer vegetation, b) most areas are mapped for winter use, c) most SEE areas will not be high priority for regular map updates. Beginners must be directed to high quality events which will make them want to take up the sport and summer Orienteering in the Midlands does not satisfy these requirements. One poor quality event can put off people, particularly children, for life.

Beginners could instead be offered help/coaching, e.g. BJH is available after his early run.

Blue Course. It is quite acceptable for Blue to be Green with an extra loop. This helps to cut down on the number of controls and allow **the planner to concentrate on quality.**

### **Longer Term aims**

a) To get all HOC maps on OCAD so that maps can be continuously updated by planners and reasonably up-to-date versions printed for each event.

b) To provide competitors with pre-marked printed maps. (Novice planners should not be put off from volunteering to put on an event, the master map system is still acceptable.)

**Quality.** This is important for the reputation of HOC and to keep people in the sport. While most planners will want to get competitors into the most technical parts of the area, this must not be at the expense of enjoyment and most do not enjoy being ripped by thigh high bramble or hacking their way through head high bracken. Orienteering is a running sport, not hunt the thimble. In summer, most will prefer rather more path running than in 'proper' Orienteering.

## **THE PLANNING SCHEDULE**

### **4 – 8 weeks in advance**

- get area file from Event support officer
- talk to Lester Hartmann if you require over printed courses
- obtain maps (from Mapping officer for master map system, from Lester Hartmann for over-printed courses.
- visit area
- armchair planning
- get courses checked by controller (ideally)
- tape control sites
- send event information to SEE coordinator  
car park grid reference  
courses on offer and start times  
organiser's details

### **at least 2 weeks in advance**

- get SEE equipment from previous SEE event/organiser or the club store
- draw master maps (if required)
- produce control descriptions (better too many than run out)
- produce a map with all the control sites and copy it (to expedite collection)

### **1 week before**

- produce a registration/timing sheet

- bag and mount on boards master maps and map corrections

#### **at event**

- check you have all the equipment (see above)
- put out controls, remove tape
- sell entries (£1 Seniors, 50p Juniors in 2003)
- decide whether to allow competitors to mark map just before starting (recommended in strong rain)
- start competitors at say 3 minutes intervals to reduce pressure a master maps and to eliminate “following”
- check for missing competitors
- get help for above and collecting in controls

#### **afterwards**

- send results to ADHOC editor, Webmaster and to SEE coordinator
- send monies less float and expenses plus simple accounts for the event to the Treasurer.
- hand on or return SEE equipment

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