

Big Foot Orienteers

3/4 November 2007 – Cessnock

Mountain Bike Orienteering

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS - AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CHALLENGE – WORLD RANKING EVENTS

Welcome

Welcome to the Australian MTBO Championships and ANZ Challenge. For the elite riders the long and middle distance races are also the final two World Ranking Events for 2007. Big Foot Orienteers hopes you enjoy your races and the maps.

Things You Need to Know

There is no water available at the venues. Competitors must be self-sufficient with water on the courses and at other times.

You must visit all the check points in the order shown on the map.

For middle and sprint the finish is a check point only. Punch and proceed at your leisure to the download tent which will be at the assembly area. Your time ends at the finish point, not the download.

You must start at your allocated start time. If you are late the starting officials will start you after the last starter in your class or, if possible, at the next most convenient time (to them, not you). Your time will start as if you started at your allocated time.

Motor bikes (and horses) ride in both the areas we are using. Whilst mapping and course setting we have not had any conflicts, but riders should be aware and courteous to other users of the areas.

Saturday's middle distance race incorporates a MTB cross country area. Some streamers and tapes are still in the forest on the tracks. You should ignore these. In addition both forests are well used by many others and there are lots of various tapes and streamers.

You may not ride, walk or carry your bike off mapped tracks, even if the tracks are very close together with the exception of through areas which are mapped as yellow on the map. All yellow areas on the map may be crossed. Anyone seen crossing 'white' on the map will be disqualified.

Rules

The event will be run under the International Orienteering Federation and Orienteering Australia rules for MTBO races. Some variations to these rules have been made and are specified in the event information. Key rules of the races are emphasised below.

You may not ride, walk or carry your bike off mapped tracks, even if the tracks are very close together with the exception of through areas which are mapped as yellow on the map. All yellow areas on the map may be crossed. Anyone seen crossing 'white' on the map will be disqualified.

Check points must be visited in the order specified on the map. This is not a score event and the SportIdent electronic punching system will recognise check points taken out of order.

Riders can cross any area marked as yellow on the map. This includes open areas, semi-open, rough-open and variants of these which are shown as 'slow-run, good visibility' or 'walk, good visibility'.

SportIdent sticks must be attached to your bike by some means. You cannot carry them only in your hand or pocket (unless they are also attached to your bike).

SportIdent electronic units occasionally fail. Each check point has a pin punch as a back up. Riders must carry a back up punch slip or punch on their map if the SportIdent unit fails. The punch mark must be clearly identifiable as belonging to the check point(s) in question to register a valid finishing time.

All forest tracks west and south of Poppet Head Park is out of bounds

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All forest tracks west of The Boulevard (Killingworth – West Wallsend road) are out of bounds with the exception of the marked route to the start of the current race.

All sealed roads are out of bounds during the race (shown by purple xxx over the tracks) but may be used for warming up (i.e. before you have your map – please be careful of traffic and observe the road rules).

Tracks with purple xxx on them are out of bounds (these are out of bounds as they are property we don't have permission to go on).

Anyone seen out of bounds will be disqualified.

Other Stuff

Give way to faster riders. Do not stop in the middle of tracks – move to the side before you stop. Look out for other riders at junctions.

Keep to the left if you meet an oncoming rider – same as the road rules.

Riders coming downhill give way to riders coming uphill.

Since mapping the long distance area there have been big storms which blew down many trees. We have tried to map all the trees which are on the route choices we think you'll take, but may not have found all of them, especially off the route. Most trees have a small path on which you can ride around them. Again we've tried to show all of the 'ride-arounds' but the small paths are not always mapped.

There is red/white safety tape at the check points as a back up in case any 'disappear'.

Riders are welcome to use GPS units on their bikes. We may offer a prize to anyone who can use a GPS to get around their course faster than they otherwise could.

Sunday's area is a national park. Dogs (and other pets) are not allowed in the forest.

National Parks have advised that Sunday's event may be cancelled in the event of extreme fire danger.

Beware of mine subsidence.

Directions

Saturday – Australian Middle and Sprint Distance Championships. The venue is Killingworth. The access road is off The Boulevard in Killingworth. Turn west off the Wakefield Road onto The Broadway to Killingworth. Turn north onto The Boulevard and drive about 500 metres and turn left onto a rough, dirt road (sign-posted) to the event parking about 300 metres further. Travel time from Sydney is about 75 minutes from the start of the F3 freeway.

Sunday – Australian Long Distance Championships. The venue is Poppet Head Park, Kitchener. This is on Cessnock Street (also known as Quorrobolong Road). Travel time from Sydney is about 90 minutes from the start of the F3 freeway.

Check <http://orienteering.findnearest.com.au/> for maps of how to get there.

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Maps

The maps have been prepared to the IOF standard for MBO maps with the exception that we are using the Australian 2 x 4 track grading system which is shown below.

TRACK GRADING		
	TRACK	PATH
FAST	—————	—————
MODERATE	- - - - -	- - - - -
SLOW	- - - - -	- - - - -
DIFFICULT

Tracks are greater than 1.5 metres wide. Paths are less than 1.5 metres wide. Speeds are mapped on the basis of how fast an elite rider can pass along the tracks. For these races competitors should note we have done our best to make the speed of tracks and paths consistent, i.e. the speed on a long dash track should be the same as the speed on a long dash path. All grading was prepared in dry weather. All tracks will be slower in wet weather. Tracks are graded on the basis of the speed an elite rider.

The basis for the speed of the tracks is:

Fast – little or no restriction to the speed which a rider can proceed.

Moderate – generally good riding with some reduction in speed and a requirement to keep an eye on where you are going to avoid obstacles such as stones, rocks, ruts, etc.

Slow – sufficient obstacles to require the rider to pick lines to avoid obstacles. Consistently rocky, rutted or sandy. Skilled, fit riders should be able to ride almost always. Less skilled and fit riders may have to dismount.

Difficult – a technical track/path which may require the rider to dismount. Skilled, fit riders may be able to ride without dismounting. For this competition, Difficult grade usually means bad ruts, loose and rough surface or deep sand.

The IOF standard has been used for showing the clarity of **track junctions**; where the lines of the two tracks join it means a distinct junction. If the lines of the two tracks do not join each other it means an indistinct track junction.

Start Procedure

2 minutes before your start you will be called up. You should 'clear' and 'check' your SportIdent stick before your call up.

1 minute before your start you will get your map.

Maps will have your course number on the front. Competitors are responsible for taking the right map. Maps will be in boxes with Course number displayed.

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Event details

Middle distance

Map scale is 1:10,000.

First start on Saturday morning will be 10 am, courses close at 2.00 pm

Start about 1 km (flat) from the assembly area.

Finish about 1 km (flat) from the assembly area.

Sprint

Map scale is 1:7,500.

First start on Saturday afternoon will be 3 pm, courses close at 5.00 pm

Start is about 500 m from the assembly area.

Finish is about 500 m from the assembly area.

Long distance

Map scale is 1:15,000.

First start on Sunday morning will be 10 am, courses close at 2.30 pm

Start is about 300 m from the assembly area.

Finish is at the assembly area.

The organisers will start bringing in check points after the courses close. Any rider still out should proceed directly to the finish/assembly area.

Protest Jury

If you have a complaint about your course relating to fairness and/or the result you should take this to the event organiser, Paul Darvodelsky. If your point is not resolved to your satisfaction you can lodge a protest. A protest must be lodged in writing within 1 hour of the final results for the race in question. The protest Jury is Blake Gordon (VIC), Michael Wood (NZ) & Anthony Darr (NSW).

Catering

Catering will be provided at both days by the NSW Junior Squad. Drinks, sausage sandwiches and the like will be available at the assembly area.

Nearest shops are in West Wallsend and Barnsley on Saturday –about 5 km from the event.

Nearest shops on Sunday are Cessnock and across the road from the finish is the Khartoum Hotel, which serves ice cold beer.

Questions?

Contact Paul Darvodelsky on aussmbochamps@psd.net.au or 0407 152 168

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