

Environmental Code of Practice Summary

Orienteering Australia has an Environmental Code of Practice (Appendix 7 of the Regulations). It is intended to serve as a guide to organisers and competitors to ensure that our activities have minimal impact on the environment. It also provides a means by which both private and public land owners and managers can be informed of the steps that we take to avoid adverse impacts resulting from our sport.

Four key areas of responsibility for the event

Organiser, planner and controller are:

Area selection

Access and parking

Area management

Course planning

In particular course planning should take into account the following:

- When setting courses in sensitive areas thought must be given to numbers of competitors passing or visiting a specific point. Control sites are an obvious example where care must be taken to minimise impacts but other areas to be considered include obvious crossing points at fences or creeks, open marshes, mossy surface rock and soft earth embankments.
- In some cases, after consultation with land managers it may be necessary to declare areas as 'out of bounds' because of management, security or privacy factors. An area may be undergoing regeneration or seasonal factors may dictate that the area should be avoided to prevent any risk of damage. Such restrictions need to be clearly communicated to competitors.
- On property containing stock or crops, owners must be consulted to determine what, if any, measures must be taken to avoid disturbance. Appropriate measures must be clearly communicated to competitors if courses pass to such areas. Out of bounds areas must be clearly shown on each competitor's map.
- If the area contains known sites of natural or cultural significance, which may be disturbed by the movement of orienteers, avoid placing controls on or near these sites or setting legs, which would concentrate the movement of orienteers through them. (It may be counter-productive to mark such areas as out of bounds as this can attract undue attention to the sites).
- The property owner's requirements in regard to fence crossing must be communicated to competitors. In some cases it may be necessary to create and identify specific crossing points.
- If the area contains animals, which flee rather than hide when disturbed (kangaroos, wallabies, sheep, wild pigs), endeavor to plan courses with a view to reducing continual disturbance to these animals. This may be done by having all courses follow the same general direction or by leaving parts of the area free of controls or obvious route choices.
- Some areas may contain sensitive surface rock that would be subject to damage by spiked shoes. If required by the relevant land managers, pre-event advice must be given to competitors that such shoes cannot be used. (Extract from Appendix 7 referred to above)