

Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship - a new beginning?

It is clear that the present format for the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship is divisive, and may require alteration to make it more representative of the membership profile of Scottish Orienteering.

The competition has existed for many years, and has been attached to several different competitions, as an additional trophy to be won. Until 2021, the results of competitors at the Scottish Individual Championships were tallied, with trophies awarded to the best Large and Small clubs.

The method of determining whether a club is Large or Small was that any club which has had 20 or less entries into the last four Scottish Championships was regarded as being a "Small" club, and any club which has had 20 or more entries in the last four years was a "Large" club. This presented anomalies, including where a club, which was on the border between Large and Small, hosted the championship, turned out its members to compete, and then became a Large club for the next four years.

Additionally, the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship was restricted to "Open" clubs, which excluded University and Services teams from the competition, despite them being full members of Scottish Orienteering.

The destination of the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship, particularly for clubs in the Small category, often depends on form on a single day of the season; absence of a key member through injury or illness, or a disqualification through a mispunch can have serious consequences for the fortunes of many of the smaller clubs.

Proposal

It is proposed to re-align the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship so that it takes into account form through the entire orienteering year, and across a range of disciplines, rather than solely focusing on a single forest-based championship.

This will permit those who prefer Urban or Sprint orienteering to have a say in the destination of the championship title, as well as empowering members who don't compete at championship level. It is hoped this will engender a greater sense of club spirit amongst members, and a feeling that they are "doing their bit" for their club.

Events for inclusion

All events registered with Scottish Orienteering at Regional or National level will be included in the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship. This will include all fixtures in the Compass Point Scottish Orienteering League, the BTO Solicitors Scottish Urban Orienteering League, the South of Scotland Orienteering League, events elsewhere in Scotland which are registered at Regional level, all Scottish Championship events (Individual, Middle, Sprint, Night and Score), the Jamie Stevenson Trophy, the Scottish qualification round of the Compass Sport Cup, the individual competition at the Junior Inter-Areas Championship, and the Scottish Junior Cup.

Events which are not determined for inclusion include any relay competition, even at the requisite level, any local events, any events organised on behalf of British Orienteering or the IOF in Scotland, regardless of their availability to members of Scottish Orienteering, and any other event which is not open to all members of Scottish Orienteering. In order to avoid anomalies in scoring in alternate years, the Scottish Six Days Championship will not be included in the reckoning.

"Large" and "Small" Clubs

For the 2022 season, clubs will be divided into "Large" and "Small" club divisions as follows:

<u>Large Clubs</u>	<u>Small Clubs</u>
CLYDE	AROS
ESOC	AUOC
EUOC	AYROC
FVO	BASOC
GRAMP	ECKO
INT	ELO
INVOC	KFO
MAROC	RR
MOR	SOLWAY
	STAG
	TAY

Any new club formed in 2022 for competition will participate in the first year as a Small club.

There will be no automatic promotion or relegation between the divisions, and Scottish Orienteering reserves the right in future to allocate clubs to a new division, based on their emerging membership profile.

Scoring - how it works

Each Course (not Class) at any eligible event will be considered for scoring in the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship.

Scores will be assigned using the same algorithm as for British Orienteering, with the following exceptions.

1. Members of clubs from outside Scotland will not be included in the calculation
2. Junior competitors receive ranking points
3. Courses with fewer than eight competitors are still ranked.

"Current scores" have been calculated for all members of Scottish Orienteering, based on current BOF ranking, or extrapolated from 2021 results (for SOA-only members and juniors), and adjusted to exclude non SOA members.

Any base score more than 100 points different from an athlete's current ranking will be discarded for the purpose of calculating the standard deviation of scores for an event, as will any score recorded by an independent athlete or an athlete from outside Scotland.

For each qualifying course, at each ranking event, the following quantities are required:

SP is the standard deviation of current scores of the non-outlier runners

MP is the mean of current scores of the non-outlier runners

ST is the standard deviation of times of the non-outlier runners

MT is the mean time of the non-outlier runners

Each athlete will then score points as follows

$$RP = MP + \frac{SP \times (MT - RT)}{ST}$$

In the event of disqualification for mispunch or other reasons, no points will be awarded. to that individual.

Following each event, the Current Score will be rebased to ensure that the mean of all current scores is 1000, and the standard deviation is 200. Only runners with non-zero current scores are used to determine new scores.

Scoring points in the Championship

The points gained by each competitor will be aggregated over the season to produce a club league table. Clubs in the Large division will count the best 20 scorers overall from amongst their members, and clubs in the Small division will count the best 10 scorers overall.

A subsidiary competition for junior competitors (M/W18 and below) will operate alongside the main Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship. Division of clubs into "Large" and "Small" club divisions will be the same as for the main championship, but Large clubs will count their best eight scores by junior competitors over the season, and Small clubs their best four.

Additionally, the performances of all junior competitors will be recorded. Where a Large club has at least 12 juniors with a counting score, or a Small club has at least six, the additional competitors will form a "B" team, which will be scored in the league as normal. Further teams will be added as follows

	<u>Large Clubs</u>	<u>Small Clubs</u>
1 team	1-8 competitors	1-4 competitors
2 teams	12-16 competitors	6-8 competitors
3 teams	20-24 competitors	10-12 competitors
4 teams	28-32 competitors	14-16 competitors

and so on.

Junior competitors will have their scores counted towards the overall Inter-Club Championship, but only those at M/W18 and younger will be counted for the Junior Inter-Club Championship.

The top scorers for each club may be subject to change throughout the season; there is no need for clubs to nominate their scorers, as the results convenor will assess the top scorers as the season develops.

In order to prevent an individual having undue influence on their club's aggregate score by entering multiple events, only the best ten scores achieved by an individual during the season will count towards the club's tally, but these scores may be bettered as the season progresses.

Competitors with multiple club affiliations may score for more than one club in the season, but the club to whom their points are attributed depends on the nomination made at the time of entering an event. In the event of an individual transferring clubs during the season, any points scored prior to the transfer are the property of their former club, and not of the competitor. These will be frozen, and may count towards the team total of their former club, but do not transfer over with the competitor.

Independent competitors (those with no club affiliation) or competitors from clubs outside membership of Scottish Orienteering are not counted in the individual standings for the purposes of points scoring. In the event of an independent competitor joining a club in membership of Scottish Orienteering, or someone transferring in from another federation, any points gained prior to their registration with Scottish Orienteering will not be attributed to their new club.

The Competition year

The competition year will run from 1st January to 31st December, and all eligible events will be included in the standings. There is no requirement on event organisers to register their event as part of the Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship. Similarly, there is no facility to "opt-out" an event from the championship.

Scores will be tallied during the season by the results co-ordinator, and communicated on a regular basis to clubs. The Scottish Inter-Clubs Championship trophy will be presented early in the following season, at an appropriate venue and event.