

***NORTHERN IRELAND ARMY ORIENTEERING
ASSOCIATION***



ARMY

***LEAGUE AND CHAMPIONSHIP RULES
2011/12 EDITION***

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INTRODUCTION

The Northern Ireland Army Orienteering Association (NIAOA) is responsible for the administration of the NI Army Orienteering League, Night Championships and Championships.

SECTION 1 - NIAOA

1. **Composition.** The composition of the NIAOA is as follows:

a. Committee:

Chairman
Secretary
Results and Fixtures Secretary
Treasurer
Equipment Manager

b. Members:

Regular Army Units / Individuals
TA Units / Individuals
Other Services Units / Individuals (League only)

Civilians may enter League and Championship events as guests

2. **AGM.** The committee is to hold the AGM prior to the start of the season in September. Representatives of all Regular Army and TA in NI, and other Services will be invited to attend.

3. **Disputes and complaints.** The Chairman will be consulted to resolve disputes and complaints. In the event of the Chairman being unable to find a solution, President AOA will be consulted.

SECTION 2 - ORIENTEERING

Orienteering in the Army is classified as normal military training and is a distinct form of navigation training, which is now reflected in the new Military Annual Training Test (MATT 5 – Land Navigation), which is an annual test for all Army personnel. Orienteering is also a fun sport, which allows a competitor to test their cross country navigation skills aided only by a map and compass. Orienteering is neither an Army recognised sport, nor an approved sport, but is a sport officially classified by the Army as individual / collective military training, in the same way as shooting.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY

1. The rules for team eligibility are as contained in Games and Sport for the Army (Army Code 61021) or TA Sports Board Rule and General Information 1996 (Army Code 62467), but subject to AOA revision if necessary.

2. **Classification.** Team members must be on the posted strength of a unit or part of a unit based in Northern Ireland, and may include civilian personnel. TA teams may include up to 50% regular personnel *or* other services *or* civilian attached who are on the strength of that unit, and vice versa. Individuals run as regular or TA regardless of the unit to which they are attached. FTRS and NRPS personnel are classed as TA. Females running on male League teams must declare this at the start of the season, and may not run on both male and female teams.

3. **Individuals and Minor Detachments.** Where individuals or minor detachments cannot enter as a Unit team (ie they are troop size or less), they should seek clarification from the Secretary and be attached for NI Orienteering League and Championship purposes to their local Bde HQ.

4. **Other Services and Civilians.** Other services are eligible to enter teams and individuals into the NI Orienteering League. Teams must consist of individuals from one unit, location or area only, and will be classed as Other Services. Other Services may enter championship events as guests. Civilians may enter League and championship events as guests unless otherwise stated. Guests are not eligible for prizes.

Useful links:

AOA Handbook

http://www.baoc.org.uk/docs/aoa/AOA_Handbook_v1_010808.pdf

Authoritative Orienteering DIN

http://www.baoc.org.uk/docs/aoa/1205_2009DIN07-075.pdf

SECTION 4 – THE NI ARMY ORIENTEERING LEAGUE

1. The aim of the NI Army Orienteering League is to offer regular orienteering competitions and training to all military personnel in Northern Ireland. Events can be used as military training and be used to conduct MATT 5. League events are open to civilian competitors unless otherwise stated.

2. The League will operate from Sep 11 – Apr 12, and will culminate with the NI Army Orienteering Championships in Apr 12. Events will normally be held on Wednesday afternoons and weekends throughout the season. Event information is to be forwarded to the Results and Fixtures Secretary for distribution via the contacts list and the BAOC Website.

3. The format and rules of the League will remain unchanged throughout the Season as set out below. Units or individuals seeking clarification should in the first instance contact the NIAOA Secretary.

LEAGUE COMPOSITION

4. **Quantity of events and allocation of points.** It is hoped to have between 10 and 12 League events per season. There is no limit to the number of runners per team, and the scores of the best 3 runners will count. Individual and Team points will be based on the best 50% of events held (plus one if uneven number). A minimum of 50% (plus one if uneven number) of the events must be held at weekends to ensure personnel unable to attend on weekdays can compete. If an individual or team completes less than 50%(+1) events, the total score of those completed will count.

5. **Type and standard of events.** It is essential to ensure that all League events conform to the following parameters:

a. **A Courses.** Normally between 5.5 – 8.5 km in length depending on terrain and climb. Physical Difficulty 4 - 5 and Technical Difficulty 4 - 5. Expected completion time for most competitors to be between 50 and 90 minutes. (Green standard).

b. **B Course.** Normally between 3 and 4.5 km in length depending on terrain and climb. Physical Difficulty 3 – 4 and Technical Difficulty 3. Some route choice but plenty of handrails with greater number of controls on line features initially and a few contour features close to line features and occasionally larger point features close to line features. (Orange standard).

c. **Score event.** Normally planned so that the optimum route is no greater than between 7 – 9 km depending on terrain. This should be that only the very best orienteers on the day may be close to completing the course. Ten points will be deducted per min or part thereof over the target time of 60 mins. Controls can be 10 points per control or a scale for more difficult controls or those further away from the start/finish.

Some of Autumn Trophy and Spring Trophy events run by the Lagan Valley Orienteers (civilian club) will be used as League events throughout the season. Competitors must enter either the Green (A) or Orange (B) course as a civilian runner – *absolutely no military information is to be given, and no military clothing is to be worn.* The Results and Fixtures secretary should be informed that you have entered so that results can be calculated. Emit and Sport Ident electronic punching will be used for military and civilian events respectively.

6. **Maximum individual points scored.** The maximum points scored will be 100 points for the winner on the A Course and 50 points scored on the B Course. If a Score event is used, points are calculated into a percentage.

7. **Team points.** Team points will be awarded for the top 3 orienteers who have scored at each event. Teams may enter as many personnel as they wish on each course. Should any unit or club be unable to field a full team, then the maximum points gained will be that obtained from the runners attending. If a unit has more than one team (eg sub unit / male / female) it is important to identify runners correctly, and by the same team name as registered. Runners may not transfer teams mid season unless posted to another unit.

8. **Officials points scoring.** Organisers, Planners and Controllers will each be awarded points for putting on an event. Up to 3 nominated organisers (**can be from different units**) are each awarded their personal best score at the end of the season. These points will go forward to the League Team and Individual Points totals. Units and individuals can gain organiser points for one event only during the season unless permission is obtained from the Chairman.

9. **Scoring methods.**

a. **A Course.**

First runner on A Course gets 100 points.

Each runner after that gets 1 point deducted from 100 for each minute or part of minute longer than fastest runner on that course.

b. **B Course.**

First runner on B Course gets 50 points.

Each runner after that gets 1 point deducted from 50 for each minute or part of minute longer than fastest runner on that course.

c. **Score events.**

All scores will be calculated into a percentage.

10. The organising unit is ultimately responsible for producing a full set of results in order of position, by course, showing each competitor's name, rank/ title, unit/ club, class and run time to the Results and Fixtures Secretary within 7 days.

11. **League entry fee.** £40 per team payable at the start of the season, and a £2.50 charge per competitor. LVO events are £5 plus £1 dibber hire.

12. **Prizes.** Prizes are as follows, but may be adjusted in accordance with numbers entered.

Ser (a)	Category (b)	Prize (c)
1	Regular Army Team Runners Up	Medals
2	Regular Army Team Winners	Cup Medals
3	TA Team Runners Up	Medals
4	TA Team Winners	Cup Medals
5	Female Team Runners Up	Medals
6	Female Team Winners	Cup Medals
7	Regular Army Individual Runner Up	Medal
8	Regular Army Individual Champion	Cup Medal
9	TA Individual Runner Up	Medal

10	TA Individual Champion	Cup Medal
11	Female Individual Runner Up	Medal
12	Female Individual Champion	Cup Medal

SECTION 5 – THE NI ARMY ORIENTEERING NIGHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The format of the Night Championships is a Harris Relay. Units may enter as many teams of three as they wish. There is no individual competition. The competition is normally held in February.

2. **Harris Relay.** The Harris Relay is a solely military event and requires that the team successfully plans and executes a strategy for collecting all of the controls on the map. The concept is that all of the team members must collect all of the mandatory spine controls in any order. The spine will normally be between 7 and 12 controls in a circular route from the start back to the finish. There will be another 20-30 controls placed at varying distances from the spine. The rest of these controls are allocated amongst the team members as part of the planning process after the start but before departing the start area. Stronger orienteers will collect more controls and the less competent orienteer will only collect the spine controls and a few more that are close to the spine.

3. **Scoring.** Any missed control will incur a 15 mins penalty, if two people miss the same spine control they will both be penalised 15 minutes. A team's time for the Harris Relay will therefore be determined by the time of their last runner across the finish line, plus any subsequent 15 minute penalties for missing controls.

4. **Entry fee.** Entry fee is £5 per competitor or £15 per team.

5. **Prizes.** Prizes are as follows, but may be adjusted in accordance with numbers entered.

Ser (a)	Category (b)	Prize (c)
1	Regular Army Team Runners Up	Medals
2	Regular Army Team Winners	Cup Medals
3	TA Team Runners Up	Medals
4	TA Team Winners	Cup Medals
5	Female Team Runners Up	Medals
6	Female Team Winners	Cup Medals

SECTION 6 – THE NI ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. The NI Orienteering Championships will normally take place in April, after the end of the League, and before the National Championships.

2. **Entry.** Pre entry is required to facilitate a timely prize giving event.

3. **Format.** The Championships will follow the normal cross country format, and will include team and individual competitions. Teams will normally consist of three runners as follows – male teams 2 x A course and 1 x B course, female teams 1 x A course and 2 x B course.

4. **Scoring.** All times will count towards the final team score and individual scores.

5. **Entry fee.** Entry fee is £5 per competitor or £15 per team.

5. **Prizes.** Prizes are as follows, but may be adjusted in accordance with numbers entered.

Ser (a)	Category (b)	Prize (c)
1	Regular Army Team Runners Up	Medals
2	Regular Army Team Winners	Cup Medals
3	TA Team Runners Up	Medals
4	TA Team Winners	Cup Medals
5	Female Team Runners Up	Medals
6	Female Team Winners	Cup Medals
7	Male Individual Runner Up Long Course	Medal
8	Male Individual Champion Long Course	Cup Medal
9	Female Individual Runner Up Long Course	Medal
10	Female Individual Champion Long Course	Cup Medal
11	Male Individual Runner Up Short Course	Medal
12	Male Individual Winner Short Course	Medal
13	Female Individual Runner Up Short Course	Medal
14	Female Individual Winner Short Course	Medal