



## **THE VICTORIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS (VSSOC) 2025**

**Friday 16 May 10:30 am  
Woodlands, Greenvale, VIC**

Orienteering is an outdoor adventure sport which exercises mind and body. It appeals to everyone, as satisfaction comes with every checkpoint (control) found! All year 7-12 students are invited to participate in VSSOC 2025, whether they are experienced orienteers, top cross-country runners who want to try their hand at navigating, or bush walkers.

**LOCATION:** Woodlands Historic Park (access via main gate Somerton Rd, Greenvale)

**START TIMES:** Students will start at 1 - 2 minute intervals. First start at 10:30 am.

**FINISH TIME:** Courses will close at 12:45 pm-1:00 pm, at this time, all students still in the field will be directed to the finish.

**PRESENTATIONS:** The award presentation will be held at approximately 1:30 pm and aim to be completed by 2 pm.

**FINAL EVENT BULLETIN:** Further information including car and coach parking information, individual start times (if needed) and course notes will be sent out in early May after the entries have closed.

**ENTRY CATEGORIES:** There will be a separate age category for each year level for competition classes. For state selection purposes, junior year levels (7, 8 and 9) and senior year levels (10, 11 and 12) will run the same course. The expected winning time for each course will be 25 min. Beginner classes will be combined, year 7 and 8, year 9 and 10, year 11 and 12.

For each age group there are two categories: 'beginner' and 'competition'.

1. **Beginner courses** will all be set at an 'easy navigation' difficulty and can be completed by those

who have never experienced orienteering. Controls are located on very easily distinguished landmarks. Two students from the same school may start at the same time as a pair.

2. **Competition courses** will be set at a ‘**moderate navigation**’ difficulty for both junior and senior categories. Courses are set along handrails such as tracks and fences but include the option to navigate ‘across country’. **Participants may need to choose from a range of possible routes between controls.** Controls are located either on or adjacent to easily distinguished landmarks. These courses can be completed by students who know how to read maps, even those who have never done orienteering.

<b>ENTRY CATEGORIES</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
<b><i>Junior Competition</i></b> <i>Year 7, 8 and 9</i>	Approx. 3.0 km Moderate navigation	Approx. 3.5 km Moderate navigation
<b><i>Junior Beginner category</i></b> <i>(Solo/Pair)</i> <i>Year 7 and 8, 9 and 10</i>	Approx. 2.5 km Easy navigation	Approx. 3.0 km Easy navigation
<b><i>Senior Competition</i></b> <i>Year 10, 11 and 12</i>	Approx. 4.0 km Moderate navigation	Approx. 4.5 km Moderate navigation
<b><i>Senior Beginner</i></b> <i>(Solo/Pair)</i> <i>Year 11 and 12</i>	Approx. 3.5 km Easy navigation	Approx. 4.0 km Easy navigation

**ENTRIES:** To register for the event, please complete the separate entry form (xlsx file) attached. Once your entry list is received, each school will be contacted individually to complete the entry process.

**Entries close on Monday May 5th.**

**To complete the entry form** (xlsx spreadsheet) there are different instructions depending on whether students compete as individuals or as pairs. In both cases, first two columns need to be filled, see below.

**For individual entries**, enter individual students’ names in each row and select the entry category from the dropdown list. For each student, **type the student’s first name in the first column, and their surname in the second column.** Please do not copy-and-drag to fill multiple cells.

**For pairs entries**, enter the **first student’s full name** (first name and surname) in the **first column**. Enter the **second student’s full name** in the **second column**.

Once your entry has been confirmed, an invoice will be provided for payment of entry fees. The entry fee is \$15 per individual (including GST). **Please process payment promptly once invoiced. All changes to entries (e.g. change of course) must be provided BEFORE the event. Ensure you choose suitable courses for each student when submitting entries. There will be no changes between beginner and competition classes on the day. Students are encouraged to enter competition classes as navigation is going to be moderate, not hard, and only those doing competition courses can score points for their school.**

#### **CHAMPION SCHOOL SCORING, AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES:**

- The top 10 finishers in each **competition** age category can score points towards the ‘Champion

School' competition: 1<sup>st</sup> place 10 pt, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 pt, etc.

- A maximum of 5 finishers from a school may score points in each **competition** age category (only the top 5 finishers from each school are counted).
- The Champion School will be the school with the highest total score.
- The **top 3 finishers in each competition** age category will be recognised.
- The **winners of beginner** classes will receive certificates.

### **VICTORIAN TEAM SELECTION for the Australian Schools Orienteering Championships (ASOC)**

Orienteering Victoria (OV) supports a full team of both junior and senior secondary school students to compete at ASOC. The team will comprise of up to six competitors in each of four age categories, up to a maximum of 20 students. The four categories are:

- Junior girls and boys: 15 or younger at 31 Dec 2025.
- Senior girls and boys: 16 or older at 31 Dec 2025.

**The 2025 Victorian Secondary Schools Championships is one of the selection races for this team. More information about nominations for the team and how to get involved will be available at the event for all students.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **'What happens on the day?'**

After arriving and organising your group in a comfortable part of the event arena, small groups of students will be able to visit a coach to receive basic instruction. When ready to start, students will line up in their course lane and progress through several stages until they reach the start line. After a 1 minute interval, students are handed a pre-marked map and begin their course. To complete their course, they navigate to all the control points in sequential order. As each control point is found, they record each control on an SI Card until they reach the finish. The winning time for each course is expected to be 25 min. Most competitors will take around 45 min to complete the course. Results for each student are calculated and then displayed in the arena.

Before heading into the start process, all students will have the opportunity to receive a short coaching and familiarisation session provided by an OV coach. We strongly encourage all students to participate. During this session, students will have an opportunity to practise 'punching' the SI Card on the 'control station' (small red box) which they will need to do when they visit each control on their course. Aspects of the map will be explained, and basic navigation steps will be described.

#### **'My teaching schedule is tight - will I be required to do much preparation for the day?'**

All orienteering requirements will be prepared by OV. This includes allocation of start-times (if needed), preparation of competition maps, control descriptions and results. Your responsibility is to enter your students and then get them safely to and from the event. Preparation with the map and basic orienteering procedures will assist your students in approaching the day confidently.

#### **'What are the basic map reading skills required?'**

Students should know how to orientate their map to the north. The purple triangle indicates the START, and the purple double circle the FINISH. The controls are found in the centre of the circle drawn on their map. Controls must be visited in sequential numbered order. A visit is recorded when the small red box beeps.

### **'Can I take photos of the students?'**

As per your own school policy, you may take photos of your own students on the day. Orienteering Victoria may only take photos of students whose guardians have given prior permission. OV will publish the names of individual place-getters with their school names on the Orienteering Australia website. If you wish to have a student's name withheld, please ensure you inform OV via the comment box provided on the entry form.

### **CONTACT:**

For more information about any of the above, contact:

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