

12 May 21

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MILITARY LEAGUE NORTH ORIENTEERING RULES FOR 2021-2022 SEASON

References:

- A. [British Orienteering \(BO\) Governance, Policies and Regulations](#)
- B. [2018DIN07-103 Authority for Army Orienteering](#)
- C. [Army General Administrative Instructions \(AGAI\) Volume 1 Chapter 5: Sport.](#)
- D. [DIO National Licence Arrangements dated 15 Mar 19.](#)
- E. [JSP375 - Management of Health and Safety in Defence.](#)
- F. [JSP907- Catalogue of Defence Training Estates](#)

1. **General.** Whether training or competing in the Army, up to and including Army Team and Individual championships, orienteering is classified as participating in 'Individual Military Training' (IMT); a distinct form of navigation training. It can be used as a component of Military Annual Training test (MATT) 5 (Land Navigation).
2. **The Rules.** These rules explain the governance structure of the Military League North Orienteering (MLNO) the competition formats and provide direction for the staging of events. They are in accordance with the general principles, guidelines and policies outlined at Reference A, as authorised at Reference B and supported by References C to F.
3. **MLNO Aim.** The aim of the MLNO is to:
 - a. Enhance the effectiveness of military personnel through the provision of structured orienteering opportunities in a competitive environment.
 - b. Foster links with local orienteering clubs to enhance the quality of military orienteering events and for the benefit of community relations.
4. **Governance.** The MLNO will be governed by a committee consisting of the under-mentioned appointments:
 - a. **Chairperson.** The Chairperson holds overall responsibility for the management of the MLN in accordance with its aims and governance framework. They are responsible for the policy framework governing MLNO activities. The Current Incumbent is Brig David Hargreaves.
 - b. **Secretary.** The Secretary is the main POC for the MLNO and is responsible for the MLNO Fixtures calendar. The secretary will liaise with the Army Orienteering Association (AOA) Secretary to avoid clashes with other championships and embargo areas as and when necessary. The Secretary is also the Account Manager for the MLNO Account. The current incumbent is Maj Al Mathers (3 RHA) alexander.mathers718@mod.gov.uk
 - c. **Suitably Qualified and Experienced Person (SQEP).** The MLNO is supported by an AOA Advisor who is available to give expert technical advice, as and when required. They will also assist the Secretary in running the league and act as the Results Secretary. The Current incumbent is Mr Phil Batts (AOA) mlntechrep@armyorienteering.com

Event Governance and Safety

5. **Event Officials and Senior responsible Officer (SRO).** Event officials should consist of an Organiser, Planner and Controller. The Organiser must be a service person and will therefore be the SRO.

6. **Event Management.** Event management must comply with both military policy for individual training activities and British Orienteering (BO) rules. Events must also be run in accordance with the AOA DIO licence agreement. The event Organiser is directly responsible for ensuring that the event is conducted in a safe manner. They are to stop the activity if not satisfied in this respect. A civilian cannot take formal responsibility for the conduct of military activity. Where civilians are running an MLNO event a UK service Officer or Warrant Officer is to be formally nominated as the Organiser/SRO.
7. **Retail Traders and Caterers.** Any trader or caterer who attends an MLNO event staged on MOD land must hold their own DIO licence to operate.
8. **Risk Management.** The Organiser/SRO is responsible for ensuring that there is an Exercise Action Safety Plan (EASP) which includes, a risk assessment and First Aid Action plan. In particular:
- a. **Medical cover.** The organisers are responsible for the provision of appropriate medical cover. This is to include, as a minimum, a qualified first aider cover and the provision of a basic First Aid kit at the event and the means to contact the emergency services.
 - b. **Unusual Hazards.** The organiser, supported by the planner and controller, has responsibility for identifying and advising participants of hazards that the participant would not usually expect to encounter. Examples include, but not limited to: armoured vehicles; exercising troops; road crossings¹; forestry operations; deep pits; mine shafts; missing manhole covers; deep water. Courses are to be planned to provide competitors with both a physically and navigationally challenging course whilst keeping the risk to life as low as reasonably practicable.
 - c. **Competitors Clothing and Equipment.** As minimum, all competitors are to wear full leg cover²; those not compliant are not permitted to start. Short sleeve shirts are permitted. Competitors are also to be advised to carry a compass and whistle.
 - d. **Children.** Competitors under the age of 13 years are to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Juniors over the age of 13 can complete courses unaccompanied, if deemed appropriate by their parent or guardian and, for those under 16 years of age, providing there is no unmanaged road crossing included in the course planning.
9. **Liability Insurance.** The MOD does not provide compensation for personal injury resulting from participation in orienteering events, although military personnel would normally expect to be eligible for payments under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. In all other respects participants take part at their own risk and are advised to consider taking out personal accident insurance. For third party liability:
- a. **Service Personnel.** When service personnel are formally authorised by the chain of command to participate in recognised³ orienteering activities, they do so 'On Duty'⁴. Under these circumstances, third party liability/public liability protection is provided by the MOD so long as the activity is conducted in accordance with the Safe Systems Approach to Training⁵.
 - b. **Civilians.** The AOA arranges public liability insurance that is provided by Towergate to provide cover for civilians when participating in or acting in a position of responsibility for an AOA registered event.

¹ Participants under the age of 16 years old, must not be allowed to compete in courses that include a busy road crossing

² This rule may be relaxed by the Organiser for Park or Urban Orienteering in accordance with BO rules.

³ Recorded on Part 1 Orders, as a formal event; includes exercise instructions and appropriate authority from the CoC

⁴ [2014DIN07-028](#) refers

⁵ Safe Persons, Safe Equipment, Safe Place, Safe Practice

10. **Booking of areas for MLNO events.** It is a mandatory requirement that the organiser of an MLNO event books military training areas and/or private land in accordance with Reference D and/or LFSOs for Training on Private Land (TOPL). Failure to adhere to this policy could result in the event being deemed an unauthorised activity. The organiser is to liaise with the MLNO Secretary with regards to any additional charges that the private land owner raises.

League Structure

11. **MLNO Area/Amalgamations for Sport.** The MLNO Area covers all military (including Joint and single Services⁶) units and organisations based within the Army Sport North geographical boundaries. At the agreement of the committee, teams from units outside of the stated area may compete but are to take no part in competitions within their own designated area. Units are to compete as Major or Minor Units in accordance with Reference C. Reserve unit teams will always compete as a minor Unit.

12. **Individual Eligibility.** The MLNO is open to all service personnel⁷ and MOD Civil Servants on the strength of, and representing, MOD units/organisations covered in paragraph 11 above. Although other personnel (military and civilian) are welcome, and encouraged to participate, they will compete only as 'Guests'.

13. **Competitions.** The MLNO comprises two main competitions:

a. **MLNO League.** The League will operate throughout the main orienteering season, normally commencing in September and ending in June. It comprises an Individual, a Major Unit, a Minor Unit and a Guest Unit/Club League, with any number of competitors from a unit or club competing on any course offered by the organiser within an event that is declared by the MLN Secretary as an MLNO League scoring event.

b. **Harris Team Championship.** Separate instructions will be issued to cover the MLNO Harris Team Championships.

14. **Fixtures.** Events will normally be held on Wednesday afternoons, but may be held at other times, eg during an evening, or on other weekdays. All fixtures are to be arranged through the MLNO Secretary who is responsible for notification of events and ensuring publication on the events section of the BAOC Website.

16. **Notification of event details.** The Organiser is to publicise the event details, by the means of an Event Flyer uploaded to the BAOC website (via the MLNO Secretary), not less than 21 calendar days prior to the event date.

15. **Type and Standards for Events.** The following formats and standards will apply for all listed MLNO League events. All courses MUST be planned in accordance with the BO Rules (see Annex B to Reference A):

a. **Cross-Country format.** It is essential to have three courses complying with the following parameters ***taken over flat terrain***, and that the rule 'expected time for most competitors' is taken on board by Planners.

Course	Course Colour	Technical Difficulty (TD)	Expected Time for Most Competitors (minutes)	Minimum/Maximum Length (km)
A	Blue	5	55 - 90	5.5 – 7.5
B	Light Green	4	45 - 75	3.5 - 5
C	Red	3	45 - 75	4.5 - 7

⁶ Such as RAF Stations

⁷ Regulars and Reserves from all 3 Services, including RM, FTRS, NRPS, OTC, Cadet Forces and Visiting Forces personnel. Reservists (including OTC) must be on an endorsed military activity, otherwise they are to enter events as a civilian participant.

- (1) BO guidelines note that each 100m of climb is equivalent to an additional 1 km of flat route; this must be taken into consideration by planners when estimating course completion times.
- (2) For the Red Course, maps should include a legend.
- (3) The Red Course is an adult novice standard course. The Planner must aim this course at the complete novice and not just re-use course controls from the Blue or Lt Green courses. Control descriptions must be written English and not IOF pictorial.

b. **Score format.** Course planners are to ensure that events are planned at a technical and physical standard so that it should be difficult for an individual to achieve a maximum control point score within the target time. Ten points will be deducted per minute over the target time at a rate of 1 point every 6 seconds, or part thereof.

c. **Other formats.** For events other than Cross-Country and Score, (eg Spanish Score, Contour, Corridor, Window, Map Memory and/or Norwegian), a mixture of control sites should be used to encourage competition. Advice should be sought from either the MLNO Secretary or from the AOA Technical Advisor, if necessary.

16. **Start Procedures.** Start times for competitors from the same team on the same course are to be at least 4 minutes apart.

17. **Orienteering Event Equipment.** To assist organising units the MLNO has various orienteering equipment available for temporary loan, details of which can be gained from the League Secretary.

18. **League Registration.** Units do not need to register for the league as they will automatically be included whenever teams attend an event. However, Team Captains are responsible for ensuring that all team members complete and confirm their entry correctly at Event Registration, as follows:

- a. **Military competitors.** Service number, rank, surname, initial, unit and DoB.
- b. **Civilian competitors.** BOF number, first name, surname, club and class.

19. **Missing detail.** A competitor whose unit or club cannot be identified on the day by the organiser will be listed as "IND" (independent) and will result in the non-publication of any league points until such time that either the Team Captain or individual rectify such omissions. Individuals of either sex who fail to give a correct age group when registering will be listed as M21.

20. **Age Grouping.** For the purposes of the MLNO League competition, individuals will compete in the BO age category that they will hold at the beginning of the year for the current MLNO season (ie. 2021/2022 season, age category as at 31 Dec 2021).

21. **League Scoring System - Individual Scores.**

a. **Cross-Country events.** This includes Night, Contour, Window, Map Memory and Norwegian formats, the timings of the top 3 MLN League military runners per course will be averaged, with this being the 'target time'. Points will be allocated as follows:

- (1) A Course (Blue) – Maximum 100 points.
- (2) B Course (Light Green)) – Maximum of 70 points.
- (3) C Course (Red) – Maximum of 50 points.

(4) For each full minute that a competitor is over the target time, a point will be subtracted from the maximum allowed for that Course. Negative points will not be awarded.

(5) For competitors under the target time, bonus points will be awarded based on one point per full minute under the target time, but this will apply only to the A Course (Blue).

b. **Score events.** The League points calculation depends on whether more than 2 MLN military runners achieved the maximum score at the event.

(1) **Maximum score NOT achieved by more than 2 military runners.** The scores of the first 3 MLN military runners will be averaged, with the MLN League points then calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{Runner's Score}}{\text{Average Score}} \times 100$$

(2) **Maximum score IS achieved by more than 2 military runners.** All those achieving the maximum score will have their League points calculated by the same method used for a Cross-Country event A Course (Blue) as described in section 23a above. This will result in reducing points awarded over the average of the first three MLN military runners' times. The lowest point's value awarded using this method is the Base Points Value (BPV) for those who do not achieve the maximum score and therefore all those below the maximum score will have their points calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Runner's Score}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times \text{BPV (as described above)}$$

(3) **Negative points.** Negative points are to be zeroed prior to submission to the Results Secretary.

c. **Event Officials.** 100 points each are awarded to the Organiser, Planner and Controller for an MLNO League event. This is available for up to a maximum of two events per official, in whatever capacity, per season and will be taken from the first 2 events that an official undertakes a duty. They may however assist in more, and an organiser may compete in their own event providing they are not involved in any part of the course planning and have no prior knowledge of control locations.

d. **League Positions.** The final league individual positions will be calculated from the average of the runners' best 50% rounded up +1 of the total events declared as an 'MLNO League Scoring Event'. For example: if there are 15 MLNO Scoring events throughout the season the average of a runners best 9 scores would be used. Subsequent placings after those who have completed the necessary events will be calculated on 'Total' score of events attended. To encourage attendance, a runner completing 50%+1 of events will always finish higher than someone who has not, regardless of score.

22. **League Scoring System - Team Scores.** These will be calculated as follows:

a. **Major Units.** The top six scoring runners per event will count towards the MLNO League position. Any number of runners may compete.

b. **Minor Units.** The top four scoring runners per event will count towards the league position. Any number of runners may compete.

- c. **Guest Units/Clubs.** The top four scoring runners per event will count towards the league position. Any number of runners may compete.
- d. **Minimum numbers of runners.** 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.
- e. **Event Organising Unit.** The organising unit is awarded the following points per MLNO League event. This is available for up to a maximum of two events:
- (1) Major Unit – 600 points.
 - (2) Minor Units and Guest Unit/Club – 400 points.
- f. **League Positions.** The final team league positions will be calculated from the units' or clubs' best 50% rounded up +1 of the total declared events.

23. **Funding/budgets.** As Military Training, orienteering events may in some circumstances utilise public funding, subject to authorisation from the budget holder. Organisers should always seek prior advice from their own unit RAO staff. Examples of issues that Organisers and participants may wish to consider include:

- a. **Unit Costs.** Operating costs of staging an event may be chargeable to a unit's military training budget.
- b. **Orienteering Equipment.** Equipment may be considered for purchase through the annual Sports Equipment Grant (SEG) administered by Sp Comd.
- c. **Entry Fees.** Event entry fees may be payable through ECOPF.
- d. **Prizes.** The purchase of prizes is not normally allowable with public funds.

24. **Entry Fees/Levies.** Event organisers should try to keep the charge per entrant to the recommended Entry Fee as shown in the table below. Entry Fees include the Organiser's costs, the MLN Levy and the DIO Levy.

Detail	All Military	Senior Civilians (M/W21 and above)	Junior Civilians (M/W20 and below)	Remarks
Recommended Entry Fee	£3.00	£5.75	£5.75	
Breakdown of costs				
Organising expenses (Unit)	£1.50	£1.50	£1.50	To cover mapping costs and sundries
MLN Fund	£1.50	£1.00	£1.00	Upkeep of equipment and prizes
AOA Insurance	Nil	£1.00	£1.00	Civilian entrants only
DIO Levy	Nil	£2.25	£2.25	Civilian entrants only

25. **League Tables.** League Tables are to be published as often as possible and as a minimum once every 2 months during the season and at least a week before the final league prize-giving event.

26. **Prizes/Prize Giving.** The Prize Giving, for all competitions, will be at an event held at the end of the MLNO League season, with prizes awarded in the categories listed below⁸:

⁸ Individuals are eligible for one prize only, so an individual winning the male open will not be eligible for an age category award. This is to ensure awards are distributed to the maximum of participants.

Competition	Classes	Awards	Procured by
MLNO League Individual	M/W Open Champion M/WU21, M/W21, M/W35, M/W40, M/W45, M/W50+	1 st ,	MLNO Secretary
		1 st , 2 nd	
MLNO League Team	Major Unit (6), Minor Unit (4), Guest Team (4)	1 st , 2 nd	MLNO Secretary
Team Harris	Major Unit (6), Minor Unit (4), Guest Team (4)	1 st , 2 nd	MLNO Secretary

27. **Complaints procedures.** Events will be governed by these Rules and AOA/BO Rules. The format and rules of the MLNO will remain unchanged throughout the season. Units seeking clarification should in the first instance consult the MLNO Secretary. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Chairman will be final. Any complaints regarding any competitor or any aspect of the organisation or course planning at events should be directed to the Organiser and Controller in the first instance. Matters not resolved should then be directed to the MLNO Secretary for further discussion with the MLNO Chairman, with the decision of the Chairman being final.

[Signed Electronically]

A J Mathers
Maj
MLNO Secretary
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Annex:

- A. The Fund Charter – Military League North Orienteering Fund.
- B. Event Forecast.
- C. Equipment list.

Distr:

Chairman
Secretary
AOA Technical Advisor
Trg PD – 4 Bde,
Army Sport North – all units

THE FUND CHARTER
MILITARY LEAGUE NORTH ORIENTEERING FUND

References:

- A. Queens Regulation for the Army.
- B. Service Fund Regulations.

Managing Trustee: Commanding Officer 3 RHA
Fund Manager: Military League North Secretary

1. **Status.** The Military League North Orienteering (MLNO) Orienteering Fund is a Service (Non-Public) Fund and is to be administered in accordance with References A and B. It will be held within the Unit Accounts administrated by 3 RHA.
2. **Aim.** The aim of the MLNO is to:
 - a. Enhance the effectiveness of military personnel through the provision of structured orienteering opportunities in a competitive environment.
 - b. Foster links with local orienteering clubs to enhance the quality of military orienteering events and for the benefit of community relations.
3. **The Fund.** The aims of the Fund are:
 - a. To financially support the aim of Military League North Orienteering.
 - b. The collection and payment of levies due to Army Orienteering Association (AOA) and other bodies.
 - c. Financing or subsidising the cost of the MLNO League and Team Championship events and the provision of suitable prizes for such competitions.
 - d. Provision or repair of resources and equipment owned or used to support the aim.
4. **Income.** The fund will attract income from the following sources:
 - a. The MLNO Levy charged at all MLNO events.
 - b. Sports Equipment Grants for capital equipment projects.
5. **Maintenance.** The account is to be maintained by the MLNO Secretary in accordance with accounting instructions detailed in Reference B.
6. **Safeguards.** Audits checks are to be carried out in accordance with Reference B.
7. **Management.** A MLNO Committee, consisting of a Chairman, Secretary and Tech Rep shall ensure the correct management of the Fund. By default, the Secretary shall act as treasurer and Account Manager for the Fund.

MLN Orienteering Event Programme 2021-2022:

Month	Date	MLN Event #	Activity	Host	Location
2021					
Jun	9	5	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	23	6	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
Jul	7	7	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	21	8	MLNO prize giving event (delayed from 2020)	MLNO Team	TBC
2021-22 season commences					
Sep	8	1	MLNO	MLNO Team	RAF Leeming
	10 - 12		Yorkshire Orienteering Festival	BAOC/CLOK/RAFO	Richmond
	22	2	MLNO	3RHA	Warcop Brakenber
Oct	11-14		Basic/Intermediate Skills & Planners Courses	AOA to include the postponed Inter Unit Champs (TBC)	Longmoor
	20	3	MLNO & RA Champs (TBC)	3RHA	Ellington Banks Ripon
Nov	3	4	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	8 - 11		Basic Skills Course	AOA	Longmoor
	13 - 14		Army Inter Corps Champs	AOA	Twesledown & Long Valley North
	17	5	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
Dec	1	6	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	15	7	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
2022					
Jan	17 - 20		Basic/Advanced Skills Course	AOA	Longmoor

	26	8	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
Feb	9	9	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	23	10	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
Mar	9	11	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	21 - 24		Basic Skills Course	AOA	Longmoor
Apr	20	12	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
May	4	13	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	18	14	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	23 – 24 (TBC)		Army Team Champs	AOA	Longmoor
Jun	8	15	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
	22	16	MLNO	Host unit required	TBC
Jul	6	17	MLNO prize giving event (21 -22 season)	MLNO Team	TBC

Note: Yorkshire Orienteering Festival has been rescheduled for 10-12 Sep 2021, joint BAOC, CLOK, RAFO event. Help from units requested!

**MLNO EQUIPMENT LIST
HELD BY MAJ MARK DAVIS 4RA (ALANBROOKE BKS TOPCLIFFE – YO7 3EY)**

Item	Qty	Remarks
TFP Control	42	Incl start and finish
Metal stake	50	
Marker flag	50	Some for signs
Nylon Hammer	2	
Bergan	2	For stakes
Start & Finish feathers	2	2 bags, 7 poles, 2 bases, pegs and 2 banners
Generator	1	With full fuel can
Inflatable shelter	1	With pump
Silver weight	2	Secure shelter on hard standing
Tac signs	10	Poles and roundels
Orienteering directions signs	13	
First aid kit	1	
30m power extension (reel)	1	
10m power extension (4 way)	1	
Folding table	2	
Folding chairs	2	
Folding white board	1	
Folding map boxes	2	
Yellow Box (ETS2) + wire	1	Only if directed by timing team
Timing team to supply		
EmiTags	120	
Maps	AR	
Computers	2	
Printer	1	Splits print
Power distribution	1	From generator or building supply
Start Clock (ESD2)	1	With tripod stand
Emitag reader/printer (MTR5)	1	Emergency backup!
Unit to supply		
Toilet rolls	4	For portaloos/long drop
White/orange mine tape	1	Start area barriers and start boxes
Tent pegs	20	
Cable ties	20	Re-usable ones are best
Water	1	20 Litre can per 50 competitors
Drinking cups	1	Per competitor
General items	AR	Bin Bags, Scissors, tape, string, pens and highlighters etc
High Vis Vests	6	
Start team	4	Two pers at a time in two shifts as a minimum
Car parking team	AR	Depends on layout of area. Min of two shifts
COVID-19 Considerations – unit to supply		
Hand Gel	AR	
Wipes	AR	
Blue Roll	AR	