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Orienteering Canada

**2014/2015 Senior National Team
Selection Policy**

Table of contents

[Introduction](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Goals](#)

[Policy Committee General Comments](#)

[2014 WOC Team Selection](#)

[WOC 2014 Schedule](#)

[WOC 2014 Selection Policy](#)

[Middle / Long Selection Policy](#)

[Relay](#)

[Sprint and Sprint Relay](#)

[Alternates](#)

[Use of Alternates](#)

[Selection Process](#)

[Exceptions](#)

[Removal from the Team](#)

[Funding](#)

[Petitions](#)

[Appeals](#)

[Team Officials](#)

[2015 WOC Selection](#)

[Petitions](#)

[2014 WUOC Team Selection](#)

[Eligibility](#)

[Team Size](#)

[Selection](#)

[Team Officials](#)

[WUOC key dates](#)

[2014 World Cup team selection](#)

[Team Size \(per race\)](#)

[Selection](#)

[Team Officials](#)

[2014 World Cup schedule](#)

[World Games \(WG\)](#)

2014/2015 Senior National Team Selection Policy

Introduction

- This document describes the team selection policy for the senior national teams to represent Canada at World Orienteering Championships (WOC), World Cups (WCup), World University Orienteering Championships (WUOC), and World Games (WG).

Definitions

- *High Performance Committee (HPC)*
Orienteering Canada has formed a High Performance Committee (HPC) and delegates to the HPC all elite orienteering programming, including team selection.
- *Policy Committee (PC)*
The HPC has recruited a Policy Committee to develop the selection policy for all Senior Team selections. This is: Mike Waddington, Magnus Johansson, Magali Robert, Brian May, Adrian Zissos.
- *Selection Committee (SC)*
The HPC has recruited a Selection Committee to implement the selection policy for all Senior Team selections. The selection committee for 2014 is comprised of Brian May, Magali Robert and Mike Waddington. Additional committee members may be added by the HPC.
- *National Team Coach*
The HPC has recruited Toni Louhisola to act as National Team Coach, with special responsibility for leading and developing the 2014 and 2015 WOC teams.

Goals

- The HPC uses a policy in which selection is targeted at achieving certain short and long term program objectives, including to:
 - Motivate and encourage elite Canadian orienteers
 - Help to develop athletes who show potential for future excellence
 - Improve Canada's position in the IOF nations ranking year over year.
 - Earn the most possible places in IOF races by:
 - improving Canada's IOF national ranking - to earn maximum start positions in the WOC Middle & Long finals
 - consistently being the highest ranked nation in North America - to earn start positions in the World Games
 - winning individual races at NAOC - to earn personal places in WOC Middle & Long finals
 - Meet the Sport Canada-related target of consistently achieving some top 16* results in WOC finals, including relays (* Or top half if less than 32 entrants).

Policy Committee General Comments

- Given the changes in WOC format in 2014, Orienteering Canada must select fewer athletes directly to finals rather than selecting more athletes into qualification races. Therefore it makes sense to have selections that are less discretionary and more directly based on results at a Trials event, similar to the previous WOC qualification/final model.

- Discretionary selection has considerable advantages, however practical considerations (eg: lack of volunteer resources, lack of suitable selection races) argue in favour of simpler selection policy.
- The Policy Committee feels that the selection policy should be established for the upcoming two seasons at least, so that races in the current season can be used for selection for races in the following season.
- Head to head racing will be a critical factor in selection, so athletes will be expected to travel to selection races. In future, the National championships and the North American Regional Championships will be key races for selection.

2014 WOC Team Selection

July 5-13, Trentino-Veneto, Italy

WOC 2014 Schedule

May 26 - May 30 May 31 - June 2	Official WOC training camp Middle (WRE), Long (WRE), Sprint Relay, - Asiago, Italy
June 27 - 29	Selection Races - Alpe Adria 2014, Veneto, Italy <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long (WRE) - June 27. Cansiglio Forest.• Sprint (WRE) - June 28. Conegliano.• Middle (WRE) - June 29. Cansiglio Forest. Preliminary info according to AttackPoint posting, Nov 12, 2013 Website: http://www.ortarzo.it/aaoc2014/en Bulletin 1 - expected end of Nov, 2013
June 28 - July 4	Official WOC training camp
Saturday 5 July	Sprint Qualification (Burano), Sprint Final (Venice)
Sunday 6 July	Opening Ceremony (Asiago)
Monday 7 July	Sprint Relay (Trento)
Tuesday 8 July	Rest
Wednesday 9 July	Long Final (Lavarone)
Thursday 10 July	Rest
Friday 11 July	Middle Final (Campomulo)
Saturday 12 July	Relay (Campomulo)
July 14-20 (approx dates)	Canadian 2015 WOC Training Camp (Scotland)

In 2014 a new qualification system is introduced at WOC for the Middle and Long distance races, with the removal of qualification races in those disciplines. In addition, a new discipline – the mixed sprint relay – is added.

The new WOC qualification system for Middle & Long introduces a three-level division system in which the top eight nations in the world form the first division and get three starting places each, nations 9-22 get two places and nations 23 and lower get one starting place. All nations are thus guaranteed at least one starting place in the Middle and Long finals. The countries are ranked separately for men and women on the basis of the results in the Long, Middle, and Relay competitions in the past two WOC's.

At the end of each year, the nations move between the divisions based on the points from the two previous years. In 2014, based on WOC results from 2012 and 2013, Canadian men are in Division 3, and Canadian women are in Division 2.

Starting slots for Canada at WOC 2014:

Middle & Long	1 man, 2 women
Relay	3 men, 3 women
Sprint Q/F	3 men, 3 women
Sprint Relay	2 men, 2 women

List of nations, by division at end of 2013:

<http://orienteering.org/qualification-for-world-orienteering-championships-2014/>

Points for each nation based on 2012 / 2013 WOCs

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/26dphsdlq0jy8rx/WOC%20in%20the%20future.pdf>

IOF's nation scoring system summary:

<http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/WOC-Qualification-Model.pdf>

WOC 2014 Selection Policy

The WOC 2014 selection will be made as follows:

- Pre-selection: Exceptional performance at previous WOC will be used to pre-select athletes who have proven themselves able to perform at a very high level. A top-45 result in an individual race in WOC 2013 (i.e., placement in the Final) will guarantee selection for that race at WOC 2014.
- Selection: Remaining places for individual races, sprint relay and traditional relay will be made based on results at a team trials selection event.
- Selection event: The policy committee discussed at length the race(s) to be used for selection. A lack of races on the domestic calendar (i.e., no spring Canada Cup events to choose from) was a significant challenge. After discussions with current HPP members, the committee decided to use the Alpe Adria Cup event to be held in Italy one week before WOC begins. This was due to a combination of factors including: maximizing head to head competition, minimizing travel costs, maximizing time in WOC terrain prior to WOC, maximizing team training with WOC Team coach. It is not ideal to have important selection races so close to WOC, but given the new WOC format (less forest racing) and the other factors listed above, this schedule was chosen to provide a reasonable balance between all factors.

Middle / Long Selection Policy

Pre-Selection:

The pre-selection criterion of top-45 at 2013 WOC was met by Emily Kemp and Louise Oram in both the Long and Middle races. Thus, (in the absence of any significant injury or health issues), Emily and Louise will be offered the opportunity to race in both Middle and Long at WOC. No men met the top-45 criterion at WOC 2013, so none will be pre-selected for WOC.

Selection:

The remaining positions - one man for Middle; one man for Long; up to two women for Middle*; up to two women for Long* will be made at the selection event at the Alpe Adria Cup in Italy, as follows:

- The top Canadian in the men's Middle distance selection race will be selected to run WOC Middle.
- The top Canadian in the men's Long distance selection race will be selected to run WOC Long.
- If the same man is selected to run both Middle and Long, then that individual will be given the choice to run one race at WOC, but not both. The vacated slot will be filled by the next fastest Canadian in the relevant selection race.
- If necessary, the top 1 or top 2 Canadian women in the women's Middle distance selection race will be selected to run WOC Middle*.
- If necessary, the top 1 or top 2 Canadian women in the women's Long distance selection race will be selected to run 2014 WOC Long*.

(* Note that selection of women at the selection race will only be required if Louise Oram and/or Emily Kemp declines a start slot at WOC.)

Relay

- The men and women selected to run Middle/Long at WOC are automatically selected to the Relay.
- As required, additional men and women will be selected based on best overall placing in the Middle and Long trials races, using a points system that weights Middle and Long results equally.
 - $\text{Score} = (\text{Winning Time}) / (\text{Racer's Time}) \times 100$
 - This is basically a % of the winner's speed ... 100 if you win, 90 if you are travelling 90% as fast around the course.
 - The "winner" is considered to be the fastest runner of the appropriate gender on the course, regardless of age or nationality
 - Highest combined score (Middle score + Long score) wins. If a tie, then highest score in the Long distance race will be the deciding factor.
- An unlikely situation may occur in which more than three different Canadian runners run in the Middle and Long finals. In this case the relay team will be chosen by the discretion of the National Team Coach and the Selection Committee using primarily the performances in the Long and Middle finals.

Sprint and Sprint Relay

Pre-Selection:

No man or woman satisfied the top-45 place criterion for pre-selection in the Sprint distance event at WOC 2013. Thus, there will be no pre-selection to the team for the individual Sprint event at WOC.

Selection:

- Races to be included in sprint selection:
 - Alpe Adria Cup Sprint, Italy
 - Potentially another race close to the Alpe Adria Cup selection races
- If possible, two sprint races will be used. This will depend on finding a suitable second sprint race, in close proximity to the Alpe Adria Cup. Athletes should be prepared to run a second

sprint selection race, which may not be announced until as late as one month before the Alpe Adria Cup.

- If there are two sprint selection races, each race winner will earn a spot in the WOC Sprint Qualification races and a third athlete will be chosen based on an overall two-race score. If the same athlete wins both races, then two additional runners will be chosen based on their overall two-race score.
 - In each race points will be awarded using the same scoring system as for Relay selection (percentage-behind-winner).
 - The total score over the two races will count. If a tie, then the highest score in the Alpe Adria sprint will be the deciding factor.
- If we cannot arrange for a second trials race, then there will be single race during the Alpe Adria Cup. In this case the top three finishers will be selected.
- The Selection Committee will use discretion to choose the team of four runners (2 men, 2 women) to represent Canada in the Sprint Relay.

Alternates

The Selection Committee will use discretion to choose alternates, considering performance in the selection races, performance in recent major events (eg: 2013 National Champs), WRE score, future potential.

Use of Alternates

In the event a selected runner is unable to start a race, the National Team Coach in consultation with the Selection Committee will make a decision about which runner to replace them with. The coach may pick any of the other selected runners or the designated alternates.

Selection Process

It is not necessary to be a member of the HPP to be selected to the Canadian WOC team, but it is strongly encouraged. All athletes who wish to be considered must be in good standing with Orienteering Canada; in that they are full members of a Canadian orienteering club affiliated with Orienteering Canada and have no outstanding amounts owing to Orienteering Canada (unless a payment plan has been negotiated with the Orienteering Canada Treasurer).

Step 1. Pre-selection - deadline Dec 15, 2013

- Any athlete pre-selected by the Selection Committee for certain races will be notified.

Step 2. Acceptance of Pre-selection - deadline Dec 31, 2013

- Athletes offered pre-selected positions must confirm their intent to compete at WOC 2014 in those disciplines by the deadline. If they do not confirm in time, or if they decline the race, then these positions will become available to general selection.

Step 3. Initial Confirmation of Intent – deadline April 30, 2014

- Athletes must submit a *Confirmation of Intent* by email to Orienteering Canada (hpp@orienteering.ca) to confirm their intent to be considered for Team Canada for WOC 2014, including which races they wish to be considered for.
- The athlete will provide a brief (max. one-page) document outlining (Word or pdf format):

- his/her orienteering accomplishments (both training and racing) in the 2013 season,
- his/her training and race accomplishments from Jan to April, 2014,
- an outline of his/her training and race plans leading up to WOC 2014.

Step 4. Review of Intention - deadline May 15, 2014

- The Selection Committee will review all athletes' *Confirmation of Intent* statements.
- Should there be **fewer** qualified applicants than positions available in any race at WOC 2014, the Selection Committee may ask the HPC to recruit certain athletes for the available positions in those races. Additionally, the Selection Committee may make a discretionary selection for those races only.
- An announcement will be made by the Selection Committee stating:
 - all race positions that have already been filled
 - all race positions that are being contested
 - all race positions that are unfilled (i.e. not already filled, nor being contested)

Step 5. Team Trials – Sprint, Middle, Long. Alpe Adria Cup - Italy: June 27 - 29

- The Sprint, Middle and Long races at the Alpe Adria Cup will be used as final selections for WOC 2014. All athletes not pre-selected who would like to race at WOC 2014 must attend these selection races.
- Athletes must handle all logistics including registration, accommodation, transport.

Step 6. Team Selection - deadline June 30

- The results of the Selection races will be tallied, and the Canadian WOC team will be announced by email.
- The Selection Committee will be able to fill any unfilled positions using their discretion, based on
 - Results in the Trials events
 - Results in other events in 2014 (International Events, Canada Cups, US National Events)
 - Results in the 2013 season (Canada Cups, US National Events, WOC, International Events).
 - Training dedication, as documented in the *Confirmation of Intent* and in training logs.
 - Long-term potential (e.g., preference given to younger athletes in case other selection factors are comparable).

Step 7. Athlete Confirmation – deadline July 2, 2014

In order to confirm his/her place on the WOC team, each team member must provide:

- A signed copy of the current Athlete Agreement (if that wasn't submitted with the 2014 HPP application)
- An athlete profile for the Orienteering Canada website (if that wasn't submitted with the 2014 HPP application)
- Email confirmation to hpp@orienteering.ca that the athlete accepts a spot on the team.

Exceptions

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned (such as a voided selection race), the Selection Committee reserves the

right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

Removal from the Team

Once selected to the WOC team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to satisfy minimum training standards;
- B. Failure to adhere to team rules and Orienteering Canada's Code of Conduct and policies;
- C. Failure to remain competition-ready leading up to the event. Athletes who do not remain competition-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level.
- D. Voluntary withdrawal/retirement;
- E. Fraudulent misrepresentation.

Where an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competition readiness, violates team rules or the code of conduct or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the team, provided the athlete is given an opportunity to be heard, and to replace the athlete with another suitable candidate.

The Selection Committee will notify the athlete in writing that s/he has been removed from the team and reasons for the removal.

Funding

Any money required to be contributed by the athlete must be paid to Orienteering Canada as requested. Failure to pay such monies may result in the athlete's removal from the Team.

Petitions

The selection process is heavily weighted to objective results in mandatory selection races. Therefore petitions will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances such as when illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal commitments result in absence or underperformance in a selection race. Petitions must include documentation of the cause for absence or underperformance in a selection race (such as a letter from a doctor) and evidence of other results which are clearly strong enough to overturn the results of the selection races (such as previous excellent performance at World Championships). Petitions must be submitted by the end of the day of the final selection race.

Appeals

Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee can be made in accordance with Orienteering Canada's appeals policy. For WOC 2014 the appeal deadline is 24 hours after the Team Selection email is sent.

Team Officials

Orienteering Canada will recruit a Team Leader and a Team Coach. The WOC team will be expected to work together with these officials to handle registration and arrange for transportation, accommodation and other logistics.

2015 WOC Selection

August 1-8, Scotland

It is likely that Canadian men will remain in Division 3 for 2015 and Canadian women in Division 2 (since results are based on total of two previous years WOC – and Canada did not have high scores from 2013). Therefore it is expected that the national entries for Canada will be the same in 2015 as in 2014:

Middle & Long	1 man, 2 women
Relay	3 men, 3 women
Sprint Q/F	3 men, 3 women
Sprint Relay	2 men, 2 women

In addition to these National positions there will be a personal position given in the WOC 2015 Middle and Long Finals to the 2014 North American regional champions in the corresponding disciplines.

It is expected that all athletes who wish to compete at WOC 2015 will attend NAOC 2014 and will aim for a peak performance at this important race.

While the exact WOC 2015 selection criteria is not yet finalized (by publication of the 2014 Handbook), selection will be based primarily on performance at the following races:

- 2014 WOC Top-40 in Individual Final will trigger pre-selection for WOC 2015
- 2014 NAOC This will be an extremely important race for 2015 WOC selection.
- 2015 race There may or may not be a 2015 selection race in addition.

Petitions

The selection process is heavily weighted to objective results in mandatory selection races. Therefore petitions will be accepted only in exceptional circumstances such as when illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal commitments result in absence or underperformance in a selection race. Petitions must include documentation of the cause for absence or underperformance in a selection race (such as a letter from a doctor) and evidence of other results which are clearly strong enough to overturn the results of the selection races (such as previous excellent performance at World Championships). Petitions must be submitted by the end of the day of the final selection race.

2014 WUOC Team Selection

WUOC is a bi-annual event (taking place in even-numbered years). It is one of the more than thirty-two World University Championships, which are organized under the sanctioning of FISU (International University Sports Federation). WUOC is considered an important development opportunity for Canadian Elite orienteers.

2014: August 12-17 Olomouc, Czech Republic (wuoc2014.cz)
2016: to be awarded by FISU in November 2013.

Eligibility

Athlete's wishing to be selected for WUOC must:

- be a student currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at a University or similar institute whose status is recognized by the appropriate national academic authority or their country, or former students who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the year 2013;
- be aged 17-28 on Jan 1st;
- meet other eligibility requirements set out by Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS/SIC) and FISU.

Team Size

Max 6 men, 6 women

Long: 4 men, 4 women

Middle: 4 men, 4 women

Sprint: 4 men, 4 women

Relay: 2 men's team (3 legs), 2 women's team (3 legs)

Sprint Relay: 1 team (2 men, 2 women)

Selection

It is required to be an HPP member to be selected to the WUOC team.

Athletes who wish to participate at WUOC should indicate this in their HPP application, along with which WUOC races they wish to be considered for. An initial team selection and race allocation will be announced shortly following the HPP application *Confirmation Deadline*. Should there be more qualified applicants than positions available, the selection committee will make a discretionary team selection, based on previous results, but may give extra priority to younger developing athletes. The selection committee will allocate races based on communication with the athletes and on the committee's discretion. When analyzing results, the selection committee considers factors such as placing, time behind the winner, time per kilometre (tpk), strength of field, relevancy of terrain, types of errors made, etc.

Unfilled positions may be applied for by notifying Orienteering Canada (hpp@orienteering.ca) at least two weeks *before* the *Quantitative registration deadline* of the event. Final team will be announced one week prior to the *Final WUOC registration deadline*.

Team Officials

Orienteering Canada will complete the registration process for these events. The WUOC team will be expected to work together to recruit a team leader, and arrange for transportation, accommodation and other logistics.

WUOC key dates

HPP application deadline	Dec 31, 2013
HPP Confirmation deadline	Jan 31, 2014
Initial Team Selection	Feb 21, 2014
Preliminary WUOC registration · Intention to participate · Specify contact person	Feb 28, 2014
Application for unfilled positions	May 1, 2014
Final Team Selection	May 8, 2014
Quantitative WUOC registration · Specify number of men, women, officials · Number of relay teams · Specify Team Leader	May 15, 2014
Final WUOC Registration · Names of competitors & officials	Jul 31, 2014
WUOC	Aug 12 - 17, 2014

2014 World Cup team selection

At each World Cup the number of competitors per Federation is limited according to annually published quotas based on the IOF World Rankings (see *World Cup 2013 Special Rules*: <http://orienteering.org/foot-orienteering/rules/>).

Team Size (per race)

2014: Max 6 men, 6 women

Selection

HPP membership is not required to be selected to represent Canada in World Cup events, but it is strongly encouraged. All athletes who wish to be considered must be in good standing with Orienteering Canada; in that they are full members of a Canadian orienteering club affiliated with Orienteering Canada and have no outstanding amounts owing to Orienteering Canada (unless a payment plan has been negotiated with the Orienteering Canada Treasurer).

Athletes who wish to participate in World Cup races have to notify Orienteering Canada (hpp@orienteering.ca) at least two weeks before the preliminary registration deadline of the event. Note that some of these events have very early registration deadlines!

Should there be more qualified applicants than positions available, the selection committee will make a discretionary team selection, based on previous results, but may give extra priority to younger developing athletes. The selection committee will allocate races based on communication with the athletes and on the committee's discretion. When analyzing results, the selection committee considers factors such as placing, time behind the winner, time per kilometre (tpk), strength of field, relevancy of terrain, types of errors made, etc.

The final selection for each World Cup will be announced prior to the Final Registration deadline.

Team Officials

Orienteering Canada will complete the registration process for these events. The World Cup team at each event will be expected to work together to recruit a team leader if necessary, and arrange for transportation, accommodation and other logistics.

2014 World Cup schedule

Round 1

Mar 1, Antalya, Turkey (Middle)

Preliminary team registration deadline: **Dec 15, 2013**

Final registration: **Jan 31, 2014**

Website: <http://wcup2014antalya.com>

Round 2

April 5-6, Murcia, Spain (Long, Middle)

Preliminary team registration deadline: **Jan 1, 2014**
Final registration: **Mar 14, 2014**
Website: <http://www.wcupspain2014.es>

Round 2 (cont)

European Orienteering Championships
April 9-16, Palmela, Portugal
Preliminary team registration deadline: **Dec 31, 2013**
Final registration: **Mar 15, 2014**
Website: <http://www.eoc2014.fpo.pt/>

Round 3

June 7,8, Kongsberg, Norway (Middle, Long)
Preliminary team registration deadline: **Mar 4, 2014**
Final registration: **May 27, 2014**
Website: <http://www.kolweb.no/wc-2014/hjem>

Round 3 (cont)

June 11, Finland (Sprint)
(no deadline information as of Nov 4, 2013)
Preliminary team registration deadline:
Final registration:
Website: http://orienteering.org/events/?event_id=374

Round 4

World Orienteering Championships
July 6-13, Trentino-Veneto, Italy
Athletes will be selected using the criteria outlined in the 2014 WOC Selection portion of this document.

Round 5

October 4,5, Liestal, Switzerland (Middle, Sprint)
Preliminary team registration deadline: **Nov 30, 2013**
Final registration: **Feb 1, 2014**
Website: <http://www.o-worldcup.ch/en/>

World Games (WG)

2017: Wroclaw, Poland <http://worldgames2017.pl/english>

No Orienteering Canada selection process regarding the 2017 World Games will take place in 2014.

The World Games are held every four years. The IOF allocates start positions. In 2013, beside allocating entries to the strongest nations, it also allocated start positions to each region. North America was awarded start positions for two men and two women. Since the USA was the highest ranked country in the region in the IOF standings it was asked to select two men and two women to race at the World Games. This allows for a full relay team (2 men + 2 women).

Link to information about entry allocation and race details from 2013 World Games:

http://orienteering.org/events/?event_id=276

Entry allocation rules for 2013 World Games:

<http://orienteering.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/The-World-Games-2013-Qualification-Rules2.pdf>

Note that in 2013 the Nation ranking system used for the World Games was similar but slightly different from the ranking system to be used for WOC 2014 onwards.