Event Guideline: Colour Coded Events

1. General Information

1.1 Nature of Event

Colour Coded events provide domestic competition for orienteers of all abilities. They are Level 4 events.

Courses are designated by colour, where each colour represents a course with a certain level of technical difficulty (generally the darker the colour the longer or harder the course). This ensures a consistency of course standards between events so that someone entering an Orange course one weekend will be able to enter an Orange course the following weekend confident that the physical and technical standards will be similar.

A youngster would be expected to start on either the White or Yellow course, whilst an adult novice would begin with either the Yellow or Orange course depending on his or her confidence. A competitor's progression can then be made either towards longer courses with the navigation remaining relatively simple, or on to technically difficult courses up to the appropriate length for his or her fitness.

For the Colour Coded scheme to be successful, it is essential that such events follow the current BOF Rules and Guidelines. Where necessary, rule variations can be made as described in Rules 1.3.7 and 1.3.8.

1.2 Eligibility

Anybody may compete at a Colour Coded Event.

1.3 Terrain

Colour Coded Events can be staged on all types of terrain.

1.4 Officials

Colour Coded Events are an ideal introduction to organising and planning orienteering events.

The officials for the event shall follow Rule 4, and shall meet the requirements set out for a Level 4 Event in Appendix C (Event Officials).

2. Organisational Requirements

2.1 Responsibility

The committee of each BOF Constituent Association is responsible for the co-ordination of Colour Coded Events within its area, working to ensure a sensible geographical spread of events. It will normally delegate responsibility for the organisation of such events to a club.

Clubs should apply to stage Colour Coded events via whatever method is in use within their Constituent Association.

2.2 Event Organisation

The organisation should be sufficient to cope with the number of competitors expected

to attend the event. Colour Coded Events should normally provide the following facilities as a minimum:

*   entry on the day;
*   results display;
*   published results within two weeks
*   clearly signed First Aid point;
*   toilets.

The Organiser should particularly take account of the guidance provided in:
*   Appendix E: Event Safety
*   Appendix F: Environmental Good Practice
*   Appendix G: Juries, Protests and Appeals

3.   Planning Requirements

3.1   Courses

The Planner should decide which courses are to be provided. Whilst the scheme is not intended to restrict a Planner's options, it is essential that a course designated as a particular colour must be of the appropriate length and difficulty. In those areas which only provide orienteering of a lower than ideal technical difficulty for the Green courses and above it is important that competitors are made aware of this beforehand. In such situations, courses up to Light Green should be planned to the correct standard, whilst Green and above will be easier than the stated standard. The most effective way of doing this is to provide a brief description of the terrain in the event advertising.

A Colour Coded Event should offer at least White, Yellow, Orange, Green and Blue courses. This will provide a range of courses suitable for most abilities. Other courses (including String) can then be offered depending on the size of the area, terrain, expected number of competitors, etc.

If a large entry is expected it is quite reasonable to plan two courses of the same colour, in which case they should be comparable in length and difficulty.

Planners should note that it may not be possible to provide certain colour courses on some areas. For example, a technically difficult area may not allow a White course. Similarly it is difficult to plan a course of Brown or Black length on a relatively small area.

3.2   Course Details

The definitions of the levels of Technical Difficulty, as used in the following table, are explained in Appendix B. Adhering to them ensures that standards are comparable across all Colour Coded Events, and between Colour Coded and Junior Badge courses.

Course	TD	Time For Most Competitors (minutes)	Normal Length (km)	Course Length Ratio (M21L = 1.00)
White	1	15 - 35	1.0 - 2.0	0.14

Yellow	2	25 - 45	1.5 - 2.5	0.24
Orange	3	35 - 60	2.5 - 3.5	0.28
Red	3	45 - 75	3.5 - 5.0	0.50
Light Green	4	35 - 60	2.5 - 3.5	0.29
Green	5	45 - 75	3.5 - 5.0	0.41
Blue	5	55 - 90	5.0 - 7.5	0.60
Brown	5	65 - 105	7.5 - 10.0	0.88
The courses below may also be offered, but are less commonly used.				
Purple	3	55 - 90	5.0 - 7.5	0.70
Black	5	75 - 120	>10.0	1.00

The time range shown is that expected for the majority of the competitors to complete the course. It would not be unusual for someone running below their normal colour to complete the course considerably faster.

The shorter courses with a low level of technical difficulty (White and Yellow) will be mainly along paths so the terrain and technical difficulty will have only a small affect on competitors' times.

The lengths of the technically difficult courses should be determined mainly with reference to the expected finishing times. The actual course lengths needed to achieve these will vary greatly according to the physical and technical difficulty of the terrain. The lengths shown are intended as a guide. For easy areas the course lengths will be towards the top end of the range. For difficult or more physical areas the course lengths will be towards the bottom end of the range.

3.3   Maps, Course Marking and Control Descriptions

The map should be produced in accordance with Rule 5.1 and Appendix H. It is accepted that Colour Coded events are often held some time after a larger event, and the map may therefore need map corrections.

Courses should be marked on the map in accordance with Rule 5.2, Rule 5.4 and Appendix B. Current printing technology means that it is often possible to use overprinted maps for Colour Coded events and this is encouraged where feasible.

If pre-marked maps are not being used, competitors may be allowed to copy their courses from master maps either before or after the timed start (Rule 5.4.1). Organisers should always allow competitors on White and Yellow courses to copy down or see their courses before the start.

Control Descriptions may be written or pictorial. They should be produced in accordance with Rule 6.6 and Appendix A. Course distance and climb should be calculated according to Rules 6.1.2 and 6.1.3.

4. Other Information

4.1 Colour Coded Awards

A White Award can be made to anyone who completes three White courses.

The Colour Coded Standard for courses other than White is calculated using whichever of the following two methods gives the larger number of qualifiers:

- The time that is achieved by at least 50% of those who started the course, which includes those who retire or are disqualified. Each pair or group on Yellow and Orange courses (if any) should be treated as a single starter.

- 150% of the winner's time.

The Controller may extend the qualifying time if there are reasonable circumstances (such as a very fast winning time compared with the remainder of the results), but may not reduce it.

A competitor qualifies for a colour award (other than White) by attaining the Colour Coded Standard for that course on three separate occasions. Pairs can qualify for colour awards on the White, Yellow and Orange courses.

The Colour Coded Standard time for each course should be included in the final results.

4.2 Further Advice

If you cannot find the answer to your question in this Event Guideline then contact:
- your Association Representative on Event Standards Committee;
- the Chairman of the Event Standards Committee, via the BOF Office or the Event Standards page of the BOF web-site.