

QO Missing Competitor Procedures

It is the organiser's responsibility to coordinate action in the event that a competitor fails to return from a run. It is recommended that the organiser takes actions as follows:

Deciding if someone is missing:

- regularly check with registration to see if anyone is overdue
- if anyone has been out for a long time, collate all useful information: i.e. name, age, ability, clothing and exact time of starting
- it is possible to interrogate SportIdent (SI) controls to find who has punched and at what time, and hence narrow down a last known position
- check that the missing person has not gone home

Deciding when to organise a search

- the urgency depends on the missing persons age and ability, the weather and hours of daylight remaining (in the case of young people, their parents will probably judge the urgency best)
- if parents go out to search themselves, find out where they are going and what time they will return
- if concern is growing, it may be worthwhile asking other people to stay behind in the event that an organised search is necessary
- it may be worth delaying control collecting and instead use the collectors to search for the missing person, but if controls are being collected, tell collectors who is missing and ask them to keep a look out

Organising a search

- gather as many people as possible, group into pairs or threes
- assign search areas, keeping to roads, paths and tracks as most lost people will stay on paths and because it is extremely difficult to search an area of woodland effectively
- note that roads can be searched efficiently by car
- give search parties a phone number or radio and tell them to be back by a certain time
- search parties could also be asked to collect controls, as this may confirm the last known position
- search parties should periodically call out the missing persons name and listen. Do not blow whistles as this will confuse other searchers, note that the international distress signal is six short blasts on a whistle
- the organiser should stay in the assembly area
- if the first search does not find, search again and consider calling the police

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