

LEI Missing Runner Search Plan

Responsibility

The Organiser will be responsible for coordinating the search for a missing runner. For a Major Event this may be delegated to the Event Safety Officer. The organiser will be assisted by the controller, planner and Safety Officer as needed. If the search involves the police etc or fatality contact BOF Chief Executive Peter Hart (07384 462432) before making any contact with the media. Please also inform Steve Chafer, Club Chairman on 07799437128.

Missing Runner Search Plan

This Missing Runner Search Plan is a guide for the Organiser's own planning. It has 4 stages:

- 1. Pre-event planning**
- 2. Preparing the Search**
- 3. The Main Search**
- 4. The Aftermath**

1. Pre-event planning

a. Read this document and: British Orienteering Rule (2014) 1.7 - Event Safety; Appendix E (2014) - Event Safety; and BOF Accident Report Form. Confirm the day Risk Assessment is up to date and reviewed/signed by controller.

b. Discuss the Missing Runner Search Plan with the controller. Establish a quiet tent/area for relatives in case of a fatality.

c. Establish an Emergency Control point e.g. separate tent, corner of marquee, First Aid vehicle.

d. Pre-event identify and brief possible search team people, warning them to bring extra clothes, food, drink, torch, mobile phone etc.

It is preferable to have search team members who have mountain leadership qualifications as they will have had training in this area. Some LEI members have this qualification.

e. Prepare good means of communication (equipment charged/spare batteries). Wear a labelled Hi-Viz jacket. Use the LEI radio network.

f. Divide the orienteering area into potential search sectors, identifying driveable tracks and perimeter roads, access gates (keys?) etc. Mark this on the event map. Blank copies are always produced for each event.

g. Keep spare maps and OS maps extracts of the area and copies of all courses to hand.

h. Be ready to log information of the reporting person, missing person, details of the search teams etc and events as they happen. Use pen and waterproof paper, voice recorder device etc. You will need this information to write up any report.

2. Preparing and initiating the Search

a. Take details of the missing person, e.g. name, age, and experience. Note name and contact details of person reporting missing runner. Also check the person is really missing. Double check Download, radio controls, start and late start lists, possible name variations, car park (child is easily missed sitting in the car), phone home, food queues, toilets, friends etc.

b. Reassure relatives/friends; if necessary, appoint someone to look after them.

- c.** Organise a preliminary search using teams of 1 or 2 runners to run the course/nearest paths of the missing person. For longer courses, teams could run sections of the course meeting at predetermined points. A car could be helpful here. Record teams, timings and actions etc
- d.** If the missing person is found injured alive, the Organiser will commence the Casualty Rescue Plan.
- e.** In case of a suspected fatality, you and others should still work as if the casualty is alive till confirmed dead. A death must be confirmed by a paramedic or medical doctor. All deaths in a public place should be reported to the police immediately. Be very discreet. Arrange for relatives to be informed. Inform key event personnel and BOF Chief Executive (07384 462432). If the missing person is NOT found commence the Main Search remembering to record teams, times and actions. Searchers should be adequately prepared, e.g. maps, food and drink, compass, means of communication, clothing, and clear instructions of area to be searched, return time.
- g.** Keep key officials and relatives informed. Inform the Police that you are searching, as they prefer an early warning, especially if the missing person is a junior.
- h.** Stay in Emergency Control point.

3. The Main Search

- a.** Use the search sectors identified in the pre-event planning. Ribbon searching, which covers linear features, e.g. tracks, and land on either side is quickest. Two teams can work in parallel then meet at a prearranged place and time. Team members walk down the feature calling the name of the missing person. Do not use whistles. Cars can be used to carry searchers to search points and to search perimeter roads.
- b.** If the missing person is found injured and alive, the Organiser will commence the Casualty Rescue Plan.
- c.** In case of a suspected fatality, encourage searchers to treat any casualty as alive. A death must be confirmed by a paramedic or medical doctor. Inform the BOF Chief Executive (07384 462432) and Police immediately. Be very discreet. Arrange for the relatives to be informed. Inform key event personnel and call in search teams. If the missing person is NOT found inform the Police and BOF Chief Executive (07384 462432). The police may be with you already if a junior is involved. The Police will take charge of rescue operations and will call in Mountain Rescue if necessary. Keep relatives and key personnel informed.
- e.** Ensure that all search teams are fully recalled, accounted for and are safe.
- f.** If the Police have not yet appeared, the Organiser with the controller should continue to direct the search after discussion with the Police, carefully assessing the condition and resources of the search teams.

4. The Aftermath

- a.** Check all searchers are back safely and can get home.
- b.** Complete a BOF Accident Report Form and send it to British Orienteering office as soon as possible as directed on the form.
- c.** Keep all records/logs of the incident safe.
- d.** A post incident debrief for all involved is strongly recommended