

# Know your sport: Administering the sport

*So you enjoy going to orienteering events, you know that there are defined courses, you have joined a club, you have learnt the symbols used on maps, you search for events on the internet. Ever wondered how this all happens and how it is coordinated? Here is a brief summary:*



## The International Orienteering Federation (IOF):

At the top of our sport is the body which co-ordinates activities on a global scale. It is the IOF which establishes the standards for maps (ISOM and ISSOM) and the rules used for international events.

They are the organisation which decides on the staging of the various World Championships, allocating the responsibility to different national bodies but ensuring the events are staged to their standards and rules. As well as 'foot orienteering' the body also regulates mountain bike orienteering, ski orienteering, and trail orienteering. The IOF was founded in 1961 and recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1977.



## British Orienteering Federation (BOF):

For us here in the United Kingdom, the national governing body is the BOF (which for marketing and other purposes has adopted the shorter term: 'British Orienteering').

BOF is actually a 'limited company' and has official Articles of Association (running to 45 pages). These define how BOF is managed. There is a Board of Directors which provides leadership and direction and there is a Chief Executive who manages the organisation on a day-to-day basis implementing the decisions of the Board.

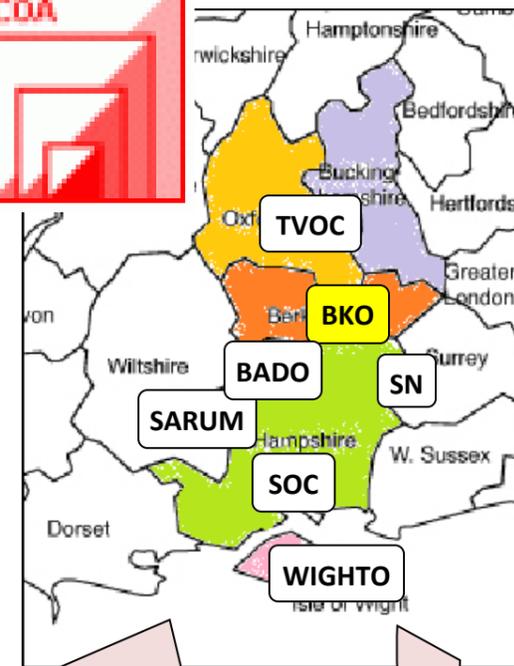
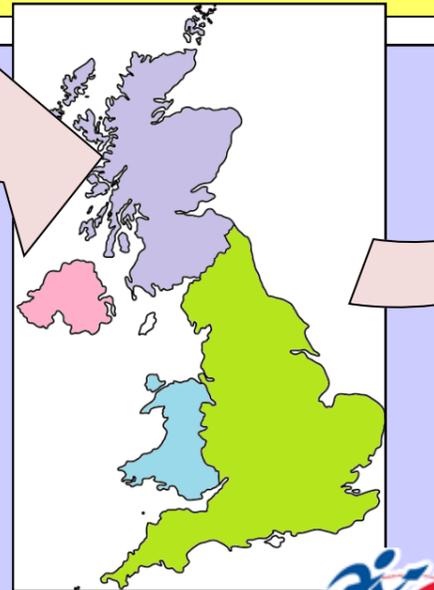
When you join and become a member of BKO via BOF you are actually becoming a member of the company with rights as laid down in the Articles.

One of the Articles sets out the constituent bodies (Associations) that make up the Federation. These are:

- Northern Ireland Orienteering Association
- Scottish Orienteering Association
- Welsh Orienteering Association
- Each of the nine Regional Associations of England:
  - East Anglian Orienteering Association, East Midlands Orienteering Association, North East Orienteering Association, North West Orienteering Association, **South Central Orienteering Association**, South East Orienteering Association, South West Orienteering Association, West Midland Orienteering Association and Yorkshire and Humberside Orienteering Association
- British Schools Orienteering Association

BOF adopts the national rules of the sport which are based on the IOF rules but with some minor local variations to take into account the national situation. The national body tries to ensure consistency in the way events are staged, they control and manage the various national championships, and they select and manage national teams to participate in international events such as the World Championships.

When we in BKO put on events, we register them with BOF which gives us insurance cover. This does however come at a cost - all registered events are subject to an event levy which helps contribute to BOF's income.



## South Central Orienteering Association (SCOA)

As indicated above, there are nine regional associations in England and their boundaries were based on those of the regional Sports Councils (which were a source of funding). Our regional Association, SCOA, helps coordinate activities in the region. It often seems a bit of an unlikely collection of counties being tall (N-S) and narrow (E-W)

This regional coordination may seem quite limited but it does involve things like the staging of regional championships, coordination of clubs' own events (avoiding clashes with other clubs in the region), organising a regional junior squad, promoting training opportunities and running a badge scheme. A regional committee meets regularly to progress this work. To fund its activities, SCOA also operates an event levy scheme.

The main 'open' clubs in the region are:

- **BADO** - Basingstoke and Andover Orienteers
- **BKO** - Berkshire Orienteers
- **SARUM** - Sarum Orienteering Club
- **SOC** - Southampton OC
- **SN** - Southern Navigators
- **TVOC** - Thames Valley OC
- **WIGHTO** - Wight Orienteers

The main 'closed' club is the British Army Orienteering Club (**BAOC**) which is linked to SCOA due to the presence of many army bases in the region - notably Aldershot.

It is perhaps worth noting that anyone can join any club as boundaries are not strictly defined or enforced. To further complicate things, two clubs actually also have members, and hence links, with other regions - SARUM with SWOA and SN with SEOA.

## Want to find out more?

- IOF: <http://orienteering.org/>
- BOF: <http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/index.php>
- SCOA: <http://www.scoa-orienteering.org.uk/>
- BKO: <http://www.bko.org.uk/info>

## Berkshire Orienteers (BKO)

And so to our own club - **Berkshire Orienteers**.

Originally set up as 'Reading Orienteers' in 1968, the expanding membership, particularly towards Bracknell and Maidenhead, led to the adoption of the current name in 1990. There is a short constitution setting out the terms of membership, the appointment of the club's officers and the requirement to hold an Annual General Meeting.

The club is managed by an Executive Committee and the current membership and the roles of the officers is shown in every Newsletter. The Committee usually meets every two months to consider key topics such as forthcoming events and activities, mapping, equipment, club development work and finances. There are also reports of relevant regional and national activities and debates about any topics on which clubs are being consulted.

Any member can stand for election to the Committee at the AGM and it is always good to have new members bringing fresh ideas. Of course, members don't have to be on the Committee to help the club in many ways - whether with the staging of events or with more routine administrative tasks.

