

Mapping Bulletin – New Sprint Specification

Orienteering NZ Mapping Committee

23 Sep 19 Club Version

Summary: The IOF has introduced a new mapping specification for sprint orienteering events. This bulletin gives advice to clubs on adopting this. There's a parallel bulletin aimed at mappers.

What Are the Changes?

There are few changes which NZ orienteering participants would notice, but there are lots "under the skin" designed to improve legibility. Some of these changes have already shown up in ISOM (standard) maps.

Some examples: the green circle and cross get a white halo, and the green dot gets a tiny white hole in the middle. The dark green/black disappears. There's a new symbol for an elevated paved area, and some things which are obvious extensions of existing symbols. The rural/urban colour distinction for paved areas and roads/tracks has gone, but now there's a high/low traffic distinction. There is more emphasis on minimum separations of features on the map.

Find the new spec at <https://orienteering.sport/iof/mapping/> The IOF has a changes document but unfortunately it covers every tiny dimensional change. If you insist, you'll find it at the above link 😊

There have been some very minor changes to ISOM (standard orienteering) maps too, such as the white halo on the green circle and cross.

When Do They Take Effect?

The new spec is optional for sprint events during 2019, and comes into effect from 1 Jan 2020.

Major events should use it from Jan 2020; but it will take time to convert all existing sprint maps. Clubs should tell competitors which specification their maps use - in event information and on the map. The OLD sprint specification was called ISSOM2007. The NEW sprint specification is called ISSprOM2019.

The sprint spec is used by some clubs for small close-to-home reserve areas, which may be steep and/or bushclad. The new spec is even more focussed on the urban landscape than before. It is not necessarily the right answer for these areas. The ONZ Mapping Committee is happy to discuss.

Starting New Maps

We have a summary of changes to fieldwork in the mappers version of this bulletin, and a 1-page "Fieldwork Legend" they can take into the field.

Users of the current version of OCAD (variously known as OCAD2018 or 2019) can pick up the new symbols from the File...New process. They should ensure that all updates have been applied.

OCAD12 only provided "final draft" symbols and they should not be used. The ONZ Mapping Committee has created a sample OCAD11 file which may be used as a source of the symbols. Users of OOM can also use this OCAD11 file.

Users of earlier versions of OCAD should contact the ONZ Mapping Committee to discuss options.

The latest OCAD also has a "Check Legibility" function in the Map menu. This identifies too-small objects, and puts a red dot or line where the separation isn't enough.

Converting Existing Maps

We have advice for converting existing sprint maps in the mappers version of this bulletin. This will be easy or hard depending on how closely the mapper followed the current spec.

Some tiny changes have also been rolled out for standard (ISOM) maps. Maps which have been drawn or converted to ISOM2017 may be updated with a couple of clicks by users of the latest OCAD. Conversion of older maps should leap-frog to the latest symbols.

Course Setting

There are no big changes here. The circle size remains 6mm, orienteers used to the 7.5mm circles for 1:10,000 ISOM maps might think they are small.

OCAD2018/2019 and Condes 10 are up with the play. Other software and older versions can usually comply but the "default settings" may not be the right ones.

Scales

The standard scale is 1:4000. The specifications are tailored for elite competition. It was always the case that younger and especially older orienteers need printing at a larger scale. The new spec puts this in black and white. Don't skimp on the enlargement, you can now use A3.

You would normally print a standard map (theoretically 1:15,000) at 1:10,000 for older classes, this suggests 1:2666 for sprints. (1:2500 if you want a round number.) Older orienteers enjoy sprints too!

Colours

By picking up a symbol table derived from OCAD, you inherit OCAD's latest colour table. That is, the CMYK values for each colour and shade, the order of colours, and whether show-through (overprint) is in effect. OCAD has used a set of recommendations the IOF put out for OFFSET printing. That is not what we generally use and we are talking to OCAD about this.

The LASER printing industry which we use for almost everything is not nearly as consistent as the offset industry, and we have always had to test our colours. The new values may be OK for your printshop. Or they may not.

The result is also affected by your course setting software, and of course the printshop's hardware, systems and paper. The only advice we have is to test your process - right thru to the printed page. ONZ has recently sent to clubs an IOF test sheet, against which you can compare colours.

Do not leave colour testing until the week before your important event. If your maps are all on the same symbol set, then minor events can serve as tests for major events.

Conclusion

From 2020 major sprint events are subject to a new IOF mapping specification, called ISSprOM2019. Mappers will need to make changes at fieldwork, drawing, and printing steps. But the new spec will make maps more legible.

Converting existing sprint maps will occur progressively over time. Some maps which are not really sprint areas should perhaps not be converted. The Mapping Committee is happy to discuss. You can email the convenor at any time: ***michael.wood@mapsport.co.nz***

Club might consider the extra workload this puts on its mappers.

Distribution

This bulletin goes to regular mappers known to the Mapping Committee, and ONZ clubs.