

BAOC

British Army Orienteering Club

&

Military League South

Restart of Orienteering

August & Sept 2020

Return to Orienteering after Lockdown

- The Military League South (MLS) restarted on the 5 Aug running events weekly on 8 areas around Aldershot. With a turn out between 220 to 300.
- The first consideration were the map as a most had many new paths created by mountain bikers and walkers during lock down, so a considerable task to get them all revised.

Extra consideration

- The extra consideration which had to be put into affect after the BO guideline were published were mainly directed in keeping the competitor and volunteers safe.
- For the 1st event I had to ask the planner to move the start and finish so that they were visible to registration and me so I could supervise with line of sight.

New Entry System

- A new entry system was devised so that we had more control over the input and out of the system. <https://www.racesignup.co.uk/>
- This simplified the pre entry to allows us to plan forward and change our plans as we improved the system and how we run the event on the ground.

Arena

- We tried to have the area laid out the same each week so that the competitor knew what to expect.
- Where possible the competitor could see the registration, toilets, food vendor, start/finish and down load.

Hand Gel

- I decided that although we told everyone that they were responsible for their own hand gel, we also provided at:
 - Food vendor
 - Registration
 - Start
 - Download
 - Toilets

Covid19 Signs

- Covid19 signs were placed in location on short posts with a view that all would see the signs from whatever angle they approached.
- Signs were placed at
 - Car park
 - Registration
 - Toilet
 - Starts
 - Finish

Volunteer Helpers

- Volunteers helpers were from many different clubs.
- All were briefed by email.
- Hi Vis vest were provide and bag after use, to be washed.
- Control collectors were provided with hand gel on competition of their collection task.
- Non orienteers who helped had their email and mobiles recorded.

Entry onto the Area

- Being on military training areas, entry points have to be manned throughout. We provided the marshal with a simple sign “Are you Orienteering” to reduce talking and approaching the open car window.

Car Park

- It was decided, to have cars in long lines with passable gaps both side. This allow the orienteers to get out of their car visit their boot and not to come with in 2m of another competitor
- The challenge was that I had to change 2 event areas as the car parks were too small, and the alternative was to reduce by half the number of competitors or cancel the event. We also had to change car park to another area on one event to fit in.
- The marshals were provide with orange pointers to reduce the amount of talking and were told not to approach car windows.

Registration/Download

- Signed, with 2m gaps between laid flat poles on the ground.
- The registration/download was set up in a large 2 sided van with back doors.
- Registration was from the drivers side door pointing towards the car park. Download was the back doors pointing towards the finish and the “problems” from the passenger side door. All doors had full Perspex protection.

Start

- The start evolved from one lane to 2 or 3 lanes to allow the through put of orienteers and allow them to spread on the area. It required a larger area than normal.
 - Manned at the start of the lanes and at the start posts/map boxes.
 - Each lane was marked
 - With poles laid down 2m apart.
 - Lane name
 - Course closing time
 - Rules of Six and keep 2m apart
- 1 start kite for all lanes

Courses

- Courses were planned with a view to avoid narrow paths through fight/thick vegetation and avoid “head on” in other narrow areas.
- Starts and Finishes were planned in wide visible area 100m from the registration/download. And where possible a short way for the organiser to supervise any challenges.

Finish & Download

- Placed in a more open area with signs to move away and with sufficiency distance away from download to allow the competitor to cool down.

Finally

- We had over 2000 competitors in the 8 weeks.
- We kept learning new lessons each week.
- We had 2 compliance checks, passed both.
- We had a reduction in printed map waste.
- Competitors were regular asked did they feel safe.
- We avoided upright poles as people have a habit of touching them!
- We found the controlling factor for numbers attending was the size of the car park rather than how many we could get out into the forest.
- The volunteers were outstanding.