

# Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS): objectives, event guidelines and series scoring

Version 3.4 (16 June 2018)



<b>Objective I:</b>	<b>Introduction to classic orienteering</b>	To introduce park race competitors to forest orienteering but with a little park racing style so they don't get turned off; also to provide families and club runners opportunities to orienteer in and around London in the summer months.
<b>Objective II:</b>	<b>GLOSS competition for the London Bus trophy</b>	To provide a club-competition based on the fastest handicap times per club on the GLOSS course, but also open to anyone
<b>Guidelines for series' events</b>	<b>BOF level and GLOSS-specific</b>	To be registered with BOF (British Orienteering Federation) at level D and also be run in accordance with the GLOSS-series guidelines as set out below:
	<b>When</b>	4 to 5 events, ideally on Sundays (preferred to Saturdays) in late June/July/early August
	<b>Where</b>	Somewhere within the M25 or thereabouts. Public transport links an advantage
	<b>Terrain</b>	Open forest (easy visibility) and open parkland eg - Hampstead, Shooters Hill, Trent Park, Banstead, Bentley Priory, Wimbledon Common, Hainault. If a significant proportion of forest is used, the distance should be adjusted to adhere to the expected winning time (see below) etc.
	<b>GLOSS course length</b>	3 - 3.5 km course TD3 at first, 3-4 controls to give confidence and progressing to TD4. Errors should not be expensive in terms of time lost. Can be advertised as Light Green in terms of Greater London terrain.
	<b>GLOSS expected winning time</b>	20-22 mins – that would give a spread of 40-45 minutes for the oldest/less fit/less experienced competitors (about a 6-6.5 per km winning time).
	<b>Must also offer</b>	Optional second course at no extra cost of roughly 1.5 - 2.0km for anyone who wants it. Can be a simple extension course or something more unconventional, and can be run straight after or separately. A yellow standard course for newcomers/juniors.
	<b>Should avoid</b>	BINGO controls - made more difficult with seasonal vegetation.
	<b>Should offer</b>	Toilets
	<b>Contactless punching</b>	If you plan to have a Shadow Finish control for Extension course competitors <i>and</i> to use contactless punching, the shadow Finish (programmed as an ordinary touch-free control) and the actual Finish should be sited (a) several metres apart and, (b) so that a competitor approaching the shadow Finish cannot inadvertently pass close enough to the actual Finish SI unit (usually within 30cm) as to register a punch on the competitor's SIAC card, as this will prevent it recording any subsequent controls. Planners should at the same time be careful to ensure that the distance from the last control on the GLOSS course to both the shadow and actual Finishes is equal.
	<b>Maps, IT and raw results</b>	Pre-marked maps on waterproof paper and full use of electronic punching.  Unhandicapped results and Routegadget on club's website on

# Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS): objectives, event guidelines and series scoring

Version 3.4 (16 June 2018)



night of event.

## Information required from clubs to produce GLOSS results

Within SITiming (which replaces Autodownload) you will need to access Results->Export Results->Processable CSV Results and write that out to a file.

Note this file is different from those produced for raw results and Routegadget.

Please email the *Processable CSV Results* file to Paul Todd (fixtures@londonorienteeing.co.uk) after the event.

## GLOSS results publication

LOK will aim to publish GLOSS competition results on its website with full audit trail (see below) plus some race commentary on the night of the event and, as GLOSS series progresses, club scores for each event and the cumulative scores across the series, assuming the underlying SI timing info in the right format (see immediately above) is forwarded to LOK in a timely manner.

Full audit trail should track from raw times and average ranking points for an individual competitor to;

- 'shadow' points (see 'handicapping' below);
- ratio of 'shadow' points to average ranking points;
- individual scoring points (see 'event scoring' below);
- total points for each club's 6 highest scoring competitors; and finally to
- GLOSS series points for that event.

Competitors should appear in the results in descending order of their event points (see 'Event Scoring' below). Results should also show competitor placing based on raw time.

## GLOSS competition

### Eligibility

London clubs: CHIG, DFOK, HAVOC, HH, LOK, MV & SLOW  
Other SEOA clubs: GO, SAX, SN & SO  
SCOA clubs: BKO & TVOC

### Information required from competitors for GLOSS scoring

Organisers, please collect the following:

- if a member, competitor's BOF number<sup>1</sup>
- name
- club (or 'independent')
- BOF age class (eg W21)

There is no longer any need to capture competency ratings as we will give unranked competitors a ratio of 1.0 as a baseline.<sup>2</sup> If they do a subsequent event, then we will use their 'shadow' points (see below) from the previous event to give them a proper handicap.

<sup>1</sup> Regardless of whether member is currently ranked or not.

<sup>2</sup> We reserve the right to treat ranked runners with fewer than six ranked runs *and* an average of less than 500 points per run as unranked competitors as described in the main text.

# Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS): objectives, event guidelines and series scoring

Version 3.4 (16 June 2018)



**Handicapping philosophy** For GLOSS scoring purposes, competitors will be ranked in order of how well they outperform on the day against 'expectation'. 'Expectation' will be based on an individual competitor's average BOF ranking points at the outset of the series.

For each event we will determine the 'shadow' ranking points earned by each GLOSS competitor and then compare these 'shadow' points to their average ranking points. The ratio of 'shadow' on-the-day points to average ranking points will determine finishing order on handicap.

**Establishing results on handicap for competitors' GLOSS run** We first calculate 'shadow' points for each runner (ie competitor) as follows:

'Shadow' points =  $MP + SP(MT-RT)/ST$

Where

MP = mean points of runners\*

SP = standard deviation points of runners\*

MT = mean time of runners

RT = runner's time

ST = standard deviation time of runners

\* relates to average points per run per BOF rankings

This formula is the same as the one used to calculate [BOF ranking points](#). A competitor who runs the mean time earns points equal to the mean points (at the outset of the series) of all the competitors successfully completing the GLOSS course. To the extent they outperform, then they will earn extra points depending on how much quicker they were than the mean, benchmarked against the standard deviation of the times of all competitors.

Ranking points are awarded for most British Orienteering Federation (BOF) level C and above events on the basis of how much better or worse an individual's time is relative to those of their fellow ranked competitors allowing for how strong the field is and the spread of times achieved. Best six scores in past 12 months count to an individual's ranking. For handicapping purposes we, however, use average ranking points per contributing run.

For the purposes of our 'shadow' points calculations we will ignore the slowest 10% of runners in the calculations of MP, SP, MT and ST. In other words, everyone will earn 'shadow' points but the number of points will be calibrated with respect to the average ranking points of the fastest 90% of runners on the day. We do this to avoid outliers undermining the reliability of the calculations.

In summary, ordering for scoring purposes on handicap =

# Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS): objectives, event guidelines and series scoring

Version 3.4 (16 June 2018)



'shadow' points (as above calculation) / average ranking points at the outset of the series.

Were everyone to perform in line with expectations, they would all obtain the same ratio of 1.00 for scoring on handicap purposes!

## **Individual and club scoring for the event ('event scoring')**

All competitors successfully completing the course will be ranked in descending order of their ratio of 'shadow' points to average ranking points regardless of whether they are a member of a club or not.

### *Points awarded to competitors scoring for their club ('Individual scoring points')*

For club scoring purposes the eligible competitor with the highest ratio (of 'shadow' points to average ranking points) is awarded 100 points. The competitor with the next highest ratio is awarded 99 points and so on down the list - but only the first 6 competitors from each club score. If one or more competitors have equal ratios (as conceivably could happen for the unranked competitors), they all receive the same points e.g.

Ratio	Points
...	....
1.03	28
1.00	27
1.00	27
1.00	27
0.96	24
...	....

### *Series points for the event*

The clubs are placed in descending order of the aggregate of their scoring competitors' individual points for that event. The winning club receives 20 series points, the next 19 series points and so on down the list to score that event for the series.

## **Series scoring**

The best 4 out of 5 events for each club count to the series result ie as a club you 'drop' your worst score. In the case of there being less than 5 events, all events to count for series scoring.

## **Prize giving**

The prestigious London Bus Trophy will be awarded to the club winning the GLOSS series.

## **History**



The First Running Of the London Inter-club Championships (FROLICS), a summer series of orienteering events in and around London began in 1988 to provide orienteering opportunities in and around London after the then end of the main orienteering season in May/June. The twist was that everyone ran the same course (Light Green) and competitors' times were handicapped to calculate team results.

## **Greater London Orienteering Summer Series (GLOSS): objectives, event guidelines and series scoring**

Version 3.4 (16 June 2018)



In 2013 after 25 years of FROLICS we decided to rename the series **GLOSS** to make it more accessible to newcomers. There have been minor tweaks to both the handicapping system (based on minutes deductions for whoever was not an 'experienced' M21) and the club scoring systems over the years.

In 2015 we changed the handicapping system to be based on the best available (and statistically robust) information on a competitor's orienteering ability, their BOF ranking. In 2016 we made further tweaks to take better account of how these points are derived.

In 2018, following feedback arising from the 2017 series, we changed the basis of the handicapping once more, this time to make it fully based on the approach used by BOF to produce the national rankings.

Notwithstanding these changes over the years, the prize for the winner of the series remains the London Bus Trophy, styled on the old Routemaster and emblazoned with FROLICS CHAMPIONS!