

Orienteering Badges

Have you ever been in the guides or scouts? Do you enjoy collecting badges? Or do you just want some recognition that your orienteering is improving, even though you'll never make the national squad? Here's a rundown on the badges you could claim.

Colour Coded

If you orienteer at local or district events you'll be familiar with colour coded courses, graded on technical and physical difficulty – **White, Yellow, Orange, Red, Light Green, Green, Blue** and **Brown**. If you complete three White courses you can claim a White badge. To claim any other colour you need to complete three courses of that colour in a time below or equal to the par time. The par time is calculated by whichever of the following two methods gives the greatest number of qualifiers:

- 150% of the winner's time
- the time that is achieved by at least 50% of starters

White, Yellow and Orange badges can be claimed when competing as an individual or a pair. For the other colours you must compete as an individual. You can claim colour coded badges free by sending an SAE and a copy of the results for the qualifying events to **Anne Power, 6 Mallard Close, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1DH.**

SeNiLe Colour Coded

For the night orienteers amongst you the SEOA also offer colour coded badges for the courses used in SeNiLe events – **Ochre, Olive** and **Navy**. This scheme operates in exactly the same way as the ordinary colour coded scheme.

Gold, Silver, Bronze and Championship Badges

If you compete at Regional and National events these are the badges for you! To qualify for a badge you must reach the required standard in three events in the same age class within two years. The qualifying times for each standard are calculated from a base winning time, based on the top finishers' times. Just to confuse things, if you compete on a short course the base time for this is calculated from the base time for the long course adjusted by ratio of course lengths. The qualifying times for each standard are:

- **Gold** 125% base time
- **Silver** 150% base time
- **Bronze** 200% base time

But don't worry because the times can still occasionally be changed at the organiser's discretion, so it's safest to forget the calculations and wait for the final results which list the badge times for each class!

Championship badges are awarded to Elite, Long or A course competitors who complete three runs within 125% of the winner's time at the JK, the British Championships or National events. At least one qualifying run must be at the JK or the British Champs.

To claim a badge you need to send the following to **Chris Boycott, 13 Dawlish Avenue, Stafford, ST17 0EU**:

- Name, club and BOF number
- Age class and standard of badge being claimed
- Date, name and venue of the three qualifying events
- Your position and time at these events
- 9" x 6" SAE and cheque payable to BOF for £1.50 (badge) or 50p (certificate)

Explorer Challenge

This scheme aims to encourage young orienteers by rewarding them for locating controls. It is ideal for the younger or less competitive who might not be able to qualify for the colour coded awards. Every time the young person visits an orienteering event, permanent course or training exercise they record how many controls they locate in a logbook. Depending on the number of controls visited they can claim the following awards:

- 10 controls - **Acorn** certificate
- 25 controls - **Tree** certificate and badge
- 50 controls - **Copse** certificate and badge
- 75 controls - **Wood** certificate and badge
- 100 controls - **Forest** certificate and badge

The logbooks and awards can be obtained by sending an SAE to **Dawn Figg, 5 Cedar Road, Hatfield, AL10 8NZ**, tel: 01707 256551. Awards are free to junior individual members of Happy Herts and cost £1.00 per certificate, or £1.50 per certificate and badge to other juniors.

So what are you waiting for? Never mind going out running in the wind and rain, treat yourself to an evening in with a needle and thread and collect those badges!