

Junior World Orienteering Championships

Dubbo, New South Wales

7th - 13th July 2007



2007 JUNIOR WORLD ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS (JWOC)

For the first time in the history of Orienteering, the Junior World Championships will be held outside of Europe. Having been selected to host this prestigious event, the Orienteering Association of New South Wales on behalf of Orienteering Australia selected terrain near the Central Western city of Dubbo for the Championships.

The Championship events will be held over 5 days and consist of 4 disciplines – sprint (approx 3km), Middle Distance (approx. 5km), Long Distance (approx. 11Km) and a relay event (for teams of 3 runners). While the location for the Sprint event has already been announced as the Western Plains Zoo, the locations of the other competition areas remain secret until the day of the races.

With final entry confirmations due in mid-June, 29 countries have indicated participation, with the traditional, and generally stronger, orienteering European nations sending full squads of 6 male and 6 female orienteers. There have been some surprise entries and none more so than an entry from Mongolia – understood to be their first entry at any world championship level.

A number of last year's winners and placegetters are expected to attend, including the Czech Republic's Jan Benes, Norway's Olav Lundanes and Sweden's Patrick Karlson in the men's events. Having trained earlier this year on granite terrain near Orange at the first official training camp, Norway's Mali Nielsen and Ida Marie Bjorgul are expected to impress in the women's events.

Assisting Team Manager Hilary Wood (Central Coast Orienteers) in looking after the Australian team will be Tasmania's Hanny Allston, the 2006 JWOC Long Distance champion and Sprint Distance runner-up in Lithuania, and recently selected for Australia's World Orienteering Championship Senior Squad.

The Sprint Distance final and Opening Ceremony take place on Sunday 8th July, with races taking place every day except Tuesday which is a rest day.

The final Australian squad will be selected after selection races are run during the National Orienteering League events at Molong and Eugowra on May 19th and 20th.

In parallel with the Junior World Championships will be a number of public events including the NSW Championships on Saturday 7th July and the Australian National championships on Saturday 14th July. The public events are expected to attract 1,000 to 1,500 orienteers from around Australia.

For further information:

Tim Cox	Media Liaison	Ph: 02- 9416-3930	0411-725-592
Colin Price	Promotion	Ph: 0243-845-003	0415-210-339
Ron Pallas	Event Director	Ph: 02-9526-6229	0424-720-165