



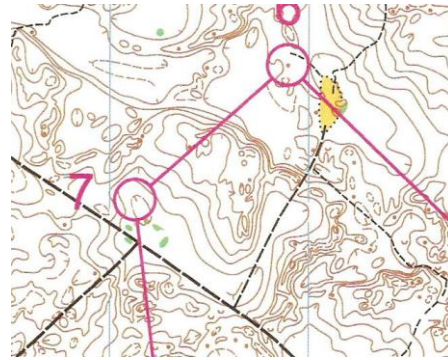
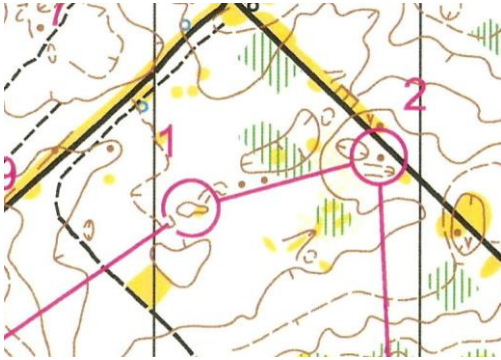
Counties-Manukau Orienteering Club

www.cmoc.co.nz

Consult the rules in the technical section of the NZOF web site for the full specifications for white, yellow, orange and red courses - a summary follows.

	White	yellow	orange	Red
Start triangle	on a drawn linear feature else taped			
Legs	follow drawn linear features else taped. No use of contour features.	Follow handrails or cut corners, else taped	Stepping stones. Limited distance estimation	As difficult navigation as possible. No handrails and no obvious attack points.
Control sites	At decision points, for example, track junction. No contour features.	<50m from drawn linear feature. Contour features OK.	Small point features OK. Prominent attack points and/or catching features <100m behind control.	In detailed areas and small point and contour features
Control marker visible.	On approach	On approach	Not necessary	no
Compass use	Map orienting only	Rough direction	Rough use	
Route choice provided	no	Handrails or cut corners	yes	Important, as much as possible
Dog legs	yes	yes	no	no

Examples



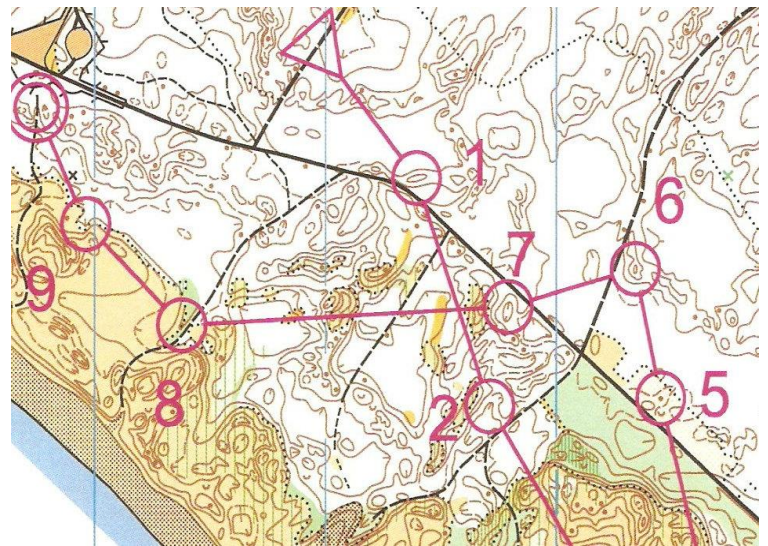
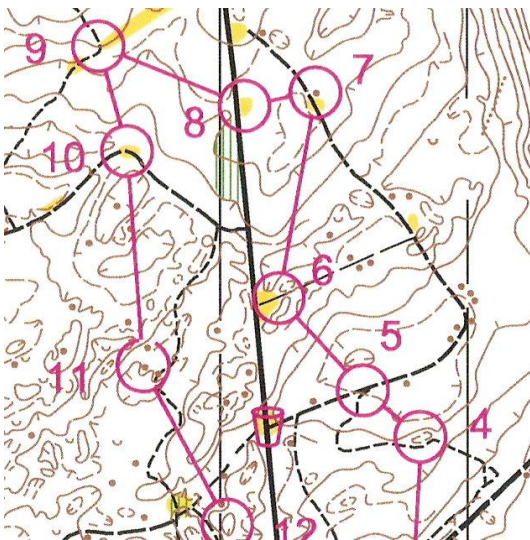
Orange legs:

Leg 1 – an easy orange leg. Only one route choice to the attack point of the Northern tip of the large clearing on the track and with the large depression as a catching feature. The control was placed on the North side of the hill so that it could not be seen on approach.

Leg 2 - An even easier orange leg with the knolls and large depression as stepping stones, the next large depression as the attack feature and the road clearing is a close and visible catching feature. The control flag was on the NE side of the knoll.

Leg 7 – a harder orange leg in low visibility forest with a red line route choice or veering to the right around the hill to follow the ridge into the broad reentrant. The track intersection is a prominent catching feature.

Yellow legs:



Yellow is a transition between the white and orange courses hence giving corner cutters an obvious advantage will induce beginners to go cross-country and hence obtain the compass skills needed on more difficult orange legs. Note the substantial inducement given in this regard in these two courses. Note also that:

- doglegs are OK,
- leg 9 on the right uses a vegetation handrail and
- control 5 on the left is a white control – white is OK provide it serves a useful purpose.

AN IMPORTANT 'BUT'

But "Difficulty" has continuum characteristics and the colour categories are not totally discrete. Easy and hard legs are possible within a colour category, not only in terms of the navigational challenges, but also in the control site's placement.

For example, control A (knoll, see below), which if within 50 m of the track/road junction, flag on top of the knoll and approached from the West would be a yellow control site. If the flag was on the NE side of the knoll and not visible from the direction of approach, then it could be considered as being a hard yellow or easy orange site. If approached from the NE and the knoll is within 100 m of the junction then it would be an orange site because of the catching feature of the junction.

Control B, on the other hand, if approached from the N is a red site, not orange, as the straight road is not a catching feature that enables orienteers to locate where they are on the road. It could be orange if there was a prominent hill on the other side of the road and B was within 100m of the road. Both A and B could be hard white controls if close to and clearly visible from the road.

If you want orienteers to think kindly of your efforts then make their first and last controls a colour grade less than the course colour or the easy side of their colour category. Rank each leg on a course as easy, OK and hard to get an impression of the course difficulty overall. Having a couple of hard legs on beginner courses at the end of the year could help the transition to the next colour course in the next year (easy ones at the start of the year). Also, it would be preferable that hard legs are not first or second as it is a soul destroying experience to be unable to find the first or second control. There is endless room for debate about course difficulty and the over-riding aim should be to provide a good quality orienteering experience guided by the criteria listed below - having a couple of "wrong" colour controls on a course is not a criminal offence and sometimes unavoidable, particularly when avoiding a dog leg.