



REGULATIONS

SOUTH AMERICAN ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS

O-SAOC – South American Open Orienteering Championships – Open Categories

M-SAOC – South American Masters Orienteering Championships – Masters Categories

S-SAOC – South American Deaf Orienteering Championships – Deaf Categories

Article 1 – General Provisions

§1: The South American Orienteering Championships – SAOC 2026 shall be organized in accordance with the current rules of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF), especially those applicable to Regional Orienteering Championships.

Article 2 – Formats of the O-SAOC (Open), M-SAOC (Masters) and S-SAOC (Deaf)

§1: The South American Orienteering Championships (Open, Masters and Deaf) shall be held concurrently with SAOC2026, under the responsibility of the organizing country.

§2: The O-SAOC, M-SAOC and S-SAOC shall be held in the following format:

- Day 1 – Long Distance
- Day 2 – Middle Distance
- Day 3 – Sprint

§3: The organizer shall create a Model Event, available free of charge to all registered athletes.

Article 3 – Categories

§1: The O-SAOC shall be contested individually in the following categories:

- M (Men) / W (Women) = 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 21 (any age).

§2: The M-SAOC shall be contested individually in the following categories:

- M (Men) / W (Women) = 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90+

§3: The S-SAOC shall be contested individually in the following categories:

- MSA (Deaf Adult Men)
- WSA (Deaf Adult Women)

§4: – Eligibility for the Deaf Category

Athletes with a permanent hearing loss of 55 (fifty-five) decibels (dB) or greater in their better ear, in accordance with the standard established by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD), may compete in the Deaf category.

To validate eligibility, the athlete shall present one of the following documents at registration or accreditation:

a) A recent audiogram (issued by a qualified professional), containing:

- Assessment of bilateral hearing loss;
- Identification of the responsible professional;
- Date of issue;

or b) An official document issued by:

- National Deaf Sports Federation;
- Paralympic Committee;
- Or an equivalent recognized entity;

provided that it explicitly certifies a hearing impairment compatible with the above criteria.

The use of hearing aids, cochlear implants, or assistive hearing devices does not affect eligibility, and unaided hearing loss shall be considered.

The authenticity of the documents submitted is the responsibility of the athlete and their national federation.

The Organization and the Controller (Senior Event Adviser – SEA) reserve the right to:

- Request additional documentation;
- Reject registrations that do not meet the established criteria.

Cases not covered by these regulations shall be assessed according to the guidelines of the ICSD (International Committee of Sports for the Deaf) and the event organization, in order to ensure sporting fairness and the integrity of the competition.

§5: The difficulty level of all courses in the O-SAOC, M-SAOC and S-SAOC shall be “A – Very Difficult”.

Article 4 – Start Order

§1: For the O-SAOC and M-SAOC Sprint, the start order shall be determined by draw in all categories.

§2: For the O-SAOC and M-SAOC forest races (Middle and Long), the start order on the first day shall be determined by draw; on the second day it shall follow the reverse order of the results from the first day.

§3: For the S-SAOC, in the Sprint and forest races (Middle and Long), the start order shall be determined by draw.

Article 5 – Participation and Results

§1: All events (O-SAOC, M-SAOC and S-SAOC) are open to athletes from any IOF member federation.

§2: The official results of each race shall include all participating athletes, regardless of nationality.

§3: However, the titles, medals, and official South American Championship ranking shall be awarded exclusively to athletes representing South American countries.

§4: Athletes from other federations shall appear normally in the overall competition results, but shall not be eligible for South American Championship titles or medals.

§5: The final results of the O-SAOC and M-SAOC shall be determined as follows:

- Sprint: by the final result of each category.
- Forest races (Middle and Long): by the sum of the times from both races.

Therefore, a time of 4:00 h (four hours) shall be added to every athlete who is absent or disqualified in either race.

§6: The final results of the S-SAOC competition shall be determined as follows:

- Sprint: by the final result of each category.
- Middle Distance: by the final result of each category.
- Long Distance: by the final result of each category.

§7: In the event of a tie, athletes shall receive the same award, and the following positions shall not be ranked.

Article 6 – Awards

§1: The winners of the Sprint shall be declared South American Orienteering Champions in their respective categories according to their race times, in both the O-SAOC and M-SAOC.

The winners of the forest races shall be declared South American Orienteering Champions in their respective categories according to the sum of their times, in both the O-SAOC and M-SAOC.

§2: Sprint

Athletes placed up to 3rd place in all categories shall receive medals.

All athletes participating in the FAM and N categories (family and beginners) shall receive medals, regardless of their ranking.

§3: Forest Race

Athletes placed up to 3rd place in all categories shall receive medals.

All athletes participating in the FAM and N categories (family and beginners) shall receive medals, regardless of their ranking.

§4: All awards for the FAM and N categories shall be presented together at the beginning of each awards ceremony.

§5: Athletes participating in the S-SAOC shall be declared South American Orienteering Champions in their respective categories, and medals shall be awarded to those placed up to 3rd place.

§6: If the Technical Jury cancels an event, the awards shall be maintained.

§7: If an athlete cannot attend the awards ceremony, their representative must be of the same sex and of an age appropriate to the category.

§8: Awards shall be the responsibility of the organizer and must be approved by the IOF Senior Event Adviser.

§9: The organizer may increase the awards according to its financial capacity.

Article 7 – Extraordinary Situations

§1: Extraordinary and specific situations not covered by these regulations shall be resolved by the organizer and/or the Technical Jury, in accordance with the current IOF rules, specifications and standards.

§2: These Regulations were proposed by the SAOC2026 Organizer and approved by the IOF Senior Event Adviser. They shall be published on the competition website and widely disseminated, entering into force on the date of publication.

§3: The adaptations provided for in the O-SAOC, M-SAOC and S-SAOC categories are specific characteristics of the South American context, while maintaining coherence with the technical principles of the IOF.

Signed in the original
Event Director

Signed in the original
National Judge

Signed in the original
IOF Senior Event Adviser (SEA)