

## Codified principles ensure an environmentally sustainable activity.

More than a decade ago, the **International Orienteering Federation (IOF)** adopted the following resolution on good environmental practices to ensure that orienteering remains a low-impact and sustainable use of natural areas:

1. To continue to be aware of the need to preserve a healthy environment and to integrate this principle into the fundamental conduct of orienteering.
2. To ensure that the rules of competition and best practice in the organisation of events are consistent with the principle of respect for the environment and the protection of flora and fauna.
3. To cooperate with landowners, government authorities and environmental organisations so that best practice may be defined.
4. To take particular care to observe local regulations for environmental protection, to maintain the litter-free nature of orienteering and to take proper measures to avoid pollution.
5. To include environmental good practice in the education and training of orienteers and officials.
6. To heighten the national federations' awareness of worldwide environmental problems so that they may adopt, apply and popularise principles to safeguard orienteering's sensitive use of the countryside.
7. to recommend that the national federations prepare environmental good practice guidelines specific to their own countries

Council of the IOF, April 14, 1996i

i <http://www.orienteering.asn.au/environment/science/>

ii <http://www.us.orienteering.org/>

In the United States, this environmental stewardship has been further clarified in US Orienteering Federation environmental standards, which state, in part:

The **U.S. Orienteering Federation** upholds the following environmental standards for all orienteering events conducted by its member clubs:

1. Orienteering shall operate within all legal environmental standards, and also within any framework agreed upon with land managers.
2. No long-term damage to animals, plants, landscape or archaeological features shall result from an orienteering event.
3. Any temporary damage, such as plant trampling, should no longer be discernable after 3 months of a growing season.
4. No litter, equipment or extraneous material shall remain once a venue has been vacated.
5. Where a venue contains vegetation, wildlife, or features of special sensitivity, event organizers shall cooperate with land managers to provide special protection.

USOF board of Directors, August 18th, 2006ii

Organizers of orienteering meets have an obligation to understand each land manager's unique environmental concerns, and land managers have an obligation to understand orienteering's actual impact on the environment vs. other activities.

Land managers who do not find their unique concerns addressed here are welcome to work with orienteering officials to address those needs during course design or even use meets as opportunities for their own scientific studies to further our understanding of proper environmental stewardship.