

URBAN EVENTS: BOK POLICY

Under 16 year olds on courses which involve crossing roads

Background: The Organiser of a BOK Urban event must display the following policy at the event and draw the attention of relevant runners and their parents/accompanying adults to it. The policy has been drawn up after consultation with the British Orienteering Federation and its insurers.

Under 16 year old runners are not permitted to run on courses which cross roads at urban events. (In this context, the age referred to is the child's **actual** age on the day of the race, not the age class in which they compete.) The club may accept entries from runners if the following circumstances pertain:

a. An under 16 year old runner may compete on a course which crosses roads if accompanied by a parent or an adult/mentor who has received the permission of the parent to accompany the under 16 year old.

This means that the adult must not be in a 'shadowing' relationship on this run but must maintain 'close proximity with the child' and take responsibility for the crossing of any road. That is, the adult must actually say, "yes, we can now cross the road".

b. BOK recognizes that the child and parent/mentor may be separated during the course of the run. To cover this eventuality, BOK recommends that both child and parent/mentor carry a mobile phone so that the child may re-establish close contact with the accompanying adult.

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Note: For all championship and ranking points events running with an accompanying adult will normally render the under 16 year old runner non-competitive. However, on the BOK Urban Series, under 16s running on such courses the BOK committee will not apply this ruling, as under 16 runners will be regarded as navigating their own course.