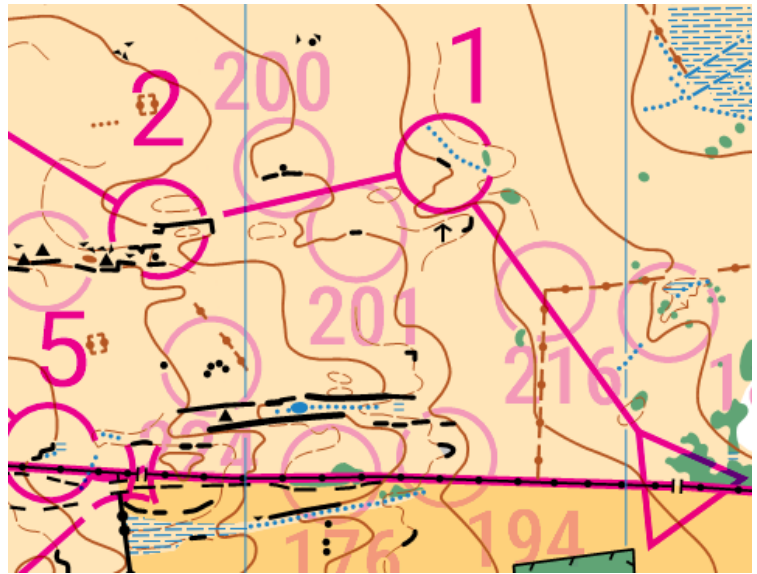


Jury decision at Shaftoe UKOL event, 2nd April 2022

We received a Protest from the parent of a competitor on the Green course who – like four others – had mis-punched on control #1.

The Green course control #1 had code 202.
About 100m away was a control with code 201 (the first control on the Blue, with 200 being the first control on the Brown) – see map here of the Green course and nearby controls.



The tags used during planning / controlling process were canes with a prominent piece of white tape showing the control code. The tape on the tag at control 201 wrongly had the code 202 on one side. This had been noticed when the site was tagged, and the '2' crossed out with a pen and replaced with a '1'. Unfortunately the ink had faded by the time of the event. Moreover when checking the sites on the morning of the event the control had been approached from the other direction, and the tag had the correct code 201 on that side.

So, on the direction of approach from the start, the most prominent thing that competitors would see was the tag saying 202. If they looked closer they would have seen the correct code 201 on top of the control box. See photo here of control site 201.

The Protest argued that this tag was easily assumed to be the control's actual control code, and those Green course competitors punching this control 201 instead of the real #1 at 202 should be reinstated.

The jury was convened:

- Paul Taylor (CLOK)
- Allie Wilson Craw (NATO)
- Chris Mackenzie (CLOK)
- Dai Bedwell (DVO)



The jury considered the following factors in support of the Protest:

- The most prominent number visible on approaching control 201 was actually a “202”.
- There had been no model control at the pre-start, and this was the first control on the course, therefore competitors could have validly assumed that the number on the tape on the cane was the official code for the control, especially as it was right next to the kite (and they could have overlooked the fact there was another number on the box, especially with touch free punching in a fast-paced middle distance).
- “201” was a similar number to “202” and only 100m away on in a similar feature (small crag).

They considered the following factors against the Protest:

- The controls were close but still 100m away (well over the 60m rule).
- There was a significant attack point – a fodder rack clearly visible on approach – that should have guided competitors towards the correct control site.
- Running straight to 201 and then on to #2 was slightly shorter than going to the real #1 and on to #2, therefore competitors doing this might have gained a small advantage over those going to the correct sites.

The jury also noted:

- None of those who punched the wrong control were in contention for top results. They were all at least 5 minutes behind the leaders in their class on the Green course, and re-instating them would not significantly affect the top positions in the overall results.
- From looking at the splits it is apparent none of them actual gained an advantage from running a shorter distance – they all appeared to take longer to get to 201 and on to #2 than those around them in the results took to get to the real #1 and on to #2.
- This was a National Event, a UK Orienteering League event, and being used for junior selection, with M16, W18 and W20 running the Green course. It would be unfortunate to have to void the whole course, and also discouraged by the rules to remove individual splits from the results.

After some deliberation the jury decided to allow the results of competitors who punched 201 instead of 202 on the Green course to stand. Those competitor’s results have been reinstated in the final results.