

CONTROL STANDS AND TETHERS

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Control stands with their attached SportIdent units are one of the Club's most valuable assets and should be properly maintained and protected from theft. The Club has two styles of stands - older metal ones and new, lighter fiberglass stands. The old metal stands stack neatly for carrying up to around 6-7 stands. The new light stands can be roughly bundled with a Velcro strap and around 10-12 or more can be easily carried. For hard ground there is a tool to make a hole to receive the stand (a big steel eyebolt to bang in with a hammer). This will be especially needed for the new fibreglass stands which can flex when being pushed in.

Tethering controls at events

Tethers of various colour-coded lengths are available for securing stands to trees, fences, poles, park furniture etc for urban and bush events. Remote bush sites won't require tethering however any controls placed in at-risk sites such as on or visible from roads/tracks used by motor bikes, 4WDs or general public need to be secured. The tether can be looped around/through the secure object, **through the wire loop securing the SI unit to the stand**, and then locked together with a padlock. It is also preferable to pass the tether through the flag such that it is also secured.

Tethering controls slows down control placement and adds weight to your load so factor this into your timeline. Ideally the best option for tethering should be worked out when visiting control sites during course planning. Unless you have worked out the exact requirements to place each tether you will need to carry a variety of lengths to ensure there is a tether long enough for each control site. Joining shorter tethers together is an option but you need to carry extra tethers to enable this. Tethers that are too long for the job can be a trip hazard for runners (can be covered with a log or branch). Don't forget to take a key for the padlocks!



Control stand tethered to a tree.



Tether coiled and secured with padlock.

Collecting controls post event

Ensure there are sufficient copies of master maps, or specific control collection groups maps, to enable people to bring the controls in. Make sure collectors take a key if their controls are tethered. Collected stands should then be laid out in number order to ensure all have been brought in.



Master map noting deleted controls.



Stands arranged in number order to check any missing.

When all stands are accounted for they should be bundled and taped in groups of 5 (old stands) for ease of handling and storage. Old stands will fit in the special storage slot in the gear van if the bundles are interleaved number plate to number plate and back to back. Stands should be arranged in number order for easy selection. New stands should be stored in the purpose built bags.



Old control bundles taped top and bottom.



Bundles of old stands stowed in the gear van.

Each tether should be coiled up and the loops secured with the padlock through the tether ends and around all loops. This will hold the loops together. Don't wind the last loop around the other loops as this makes it hard to unwind in the field. Bundling coiled tethers in like groups with a light carabiner (colour-coded) will keep the loops together.



Tethers of same length with padlocks around the loops and clipped together in a bundle.



Tethers stored in a plastic container.