



ORIENTEERING

TECHNICAL HANDBOOK

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS

DEPARTMENT
WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
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INTERNATIONAL
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1. HISTORY

Orienteering is a particularly appealing discipline as it establishes a close connection between physical activity and nature. This sport is immensely popular in Scandinavia and other Northern European countries. It was no coincidence that the Finnish University Sports Federation (OLL) organised the first World University Championship Orienteering in Jyväskylä in 1978. The event was an unequivocal success, attracting 129 competitors from 17 countries. Since then, a further several editions have taken place, with the number of participants continually increasing. The 2016 edition in Miskolc, Hungary, set a new record with 266 athletes from 34 countries.

Orienteering originated in the Nordic countries, with Norway, Sweden, and Finland initially sharing the top positions. During the 1990s, European involvement expanded, with countries such as the Czechia, France, and Switzerland securing prominent results. Significant efforts have been made to promote the sport worldwide, yet European nations have predominantly led the way in achieving top results.

For instance, France discovered orienteering at the end of the 1960s, thanks to a Swedish compass salesman who fell in love with the French countryside. After its emergence within the Boy Scout movement, the sport was adopted by the military and eventually gained popularity within the university sector. Today, the sport benefits from the support of a vast pool of around 250,000 student participants. This was demonstrated in the French city of Roanne, where the World University Championship was held in 2000. France has been one of the most successful countries in the FISU World University Championship Orienteering since that time.

Since 2000, orienteering competitions have continued to evolve, with top athletes from nearly every country taking part. The IOF World Champions in 2014—Judith Wyder (Switzerland) in Sprint, Thierry Gueorgiou (France) in Long, and the Swiss teams in Sprint and the ladies' relay—all competed in the World University Championships. The FISU World University Championships are regarded as some of the most demanding events in the global orienteering community and are considered an important step for aspiring champions.

The 2020 FISU World University Championship Orienteering was scheduled to be held in Smolensk, Russia, but was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the Championship was hosted by Biel/Bienne, Switzerland, with 27 countries participating and a total of 222 athletes, and the 2024 event was organised by Bansko, Bulgaria. The event featured intense navigation and endurance challenges across Bulgaria's scenic mountain terrain and counted on the participation of 247 athletes, representing 30 countries.



2. STATISTICS

EDITION	YEAR	COUNTRY	CITY	COUNTRIES	ATHLETES			OFFs	TOTAL
					M	W	TOT		
1	1978	FIN	Jyväskylä	17	78	51	129	23	152
2	1980	SUI	Saint Gallen	20	103	74	177	37	214
3	1982	CZE	Prague	18	76	57	133	39	172
4	1984	SWE	Jönköping	18	71	62	133	38	171
5	1986	HUN	Miskolc	17	80	65	145	41	186
6	1988	NOR	Trondheim	23	99	85	184	46	230
7	1990	URS	Pskov	21	96	82	178	47	225
8	1992	GBR	Aberdeen	22	89	74	163	34	197
9	1994	SUI	Fiesch	30	116	84	200	62	262
10	1996	HUN	Veszprém	28	127	101	228	59	287
11	1998	NOR	Trondheim	29	130	90	220	55	275
12	2000	FRA	Roanne	20	74	61	135	33	168
13	2002	BUL	Varna	25	87	79	166	32	198
14	2004	CZE	Plzeň	30	123	93	216	40	256
15	2006	SVK	Košice	29	125	98	223	41	264
16	2008	EST	Tartu	28	123	98	221	49	270
17	2010	SWE	Borlänge	31	140	116	256	53	309
18	2012	ESP	Alicante	27	133	99	232	49	281
19	2014	CZE	Olomouc	32	138	120	258	57	315
20	2016	HUN	Miskolc	34	150	116	266	50	316
21	2018	FIN	Kuortane	34	131	118	249	54	303
22	2022	SUI	Biel/Bienne	27	117	105	222	51	273
23	2024	BUL	Bansko	30	132	115	247	54	301

3. GENERAL SCHEDULE

DAY -3	DAY -2	DAY -1	DAY 1-2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 3
A	A	GTM / OC	C	RD	C	C / CC	D

Legend: A – Arrivals / CC – Closing Ceremony / C – Competition / D – Departures / GTM – General Technical Meeting / OC – Opening Ceremony / RD – Rest Day

For Orienteering, the competitions shall last 5 days

4. REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

4.1. GENERAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -6 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

The General Entry is the first stage of the registration process, where delegations are invited to register, through the NUSFs, for the Championship indicating a general interest in participating in the event.

Teams and athletes are not required to submit any documentation or undergo a selection processes.

The submission of a General Entry Form is non-binding, indicating only initial interest by the NUSF but not final commitment

4.2. QUANTITATIVE ENTRY (DEADLINE: -3 MONTHS TO THE EVENT)

During the Quantitative Entry the NUSF delegation commits to participate and confirms the delegation composition in terms of numbers and although it does not yet provide individual details, it requires the NUSFs to submit an accurate count of delegation members.

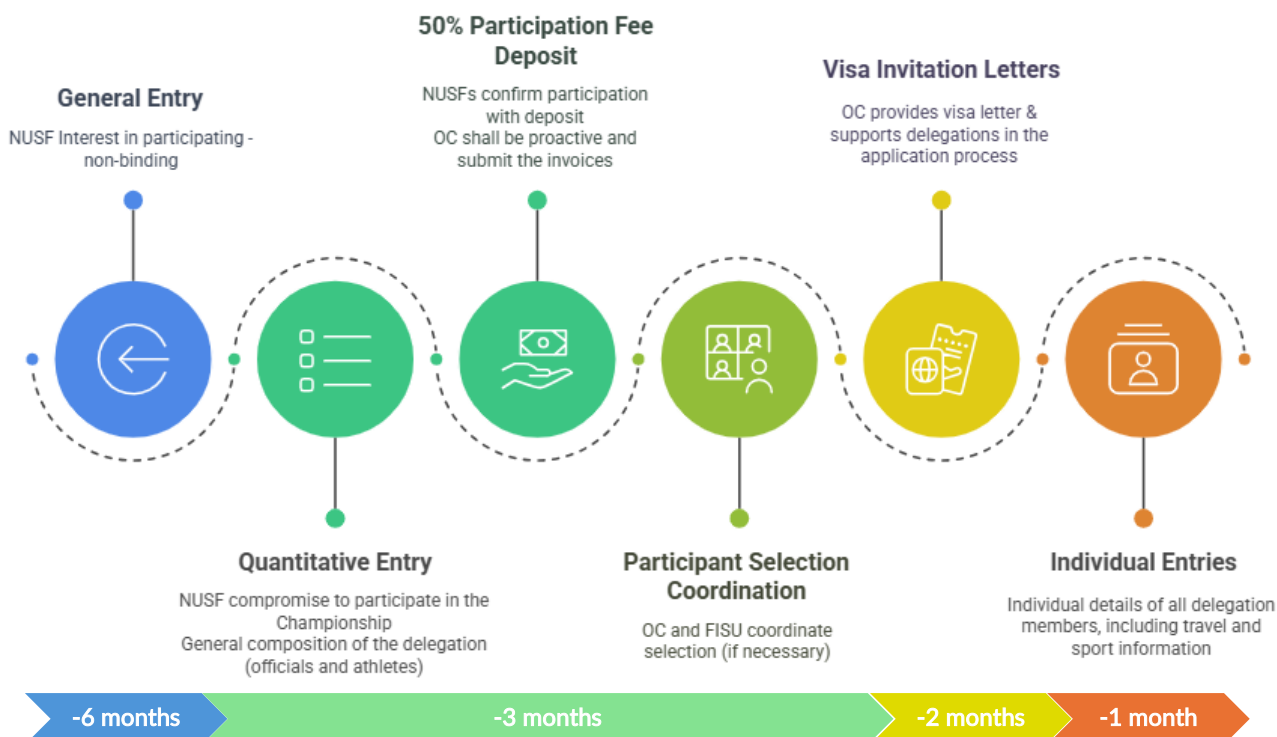
At this stage, a 50% payment of the participation fees is due and must be settled by the Quantitative Entry deadline. By proceeding with the payment, the delegation confirms its participation in the Championship.

This deposit serves as a participation guarantee, and is non-refundable in case of withdrawal, with refunds subject to FISU General Regulations and any OC-specific cancellation policies

4.3. INDIVIDUAL ENTRY (DEADLINE: -1 MONTH TO THE EVENT)

The Individual Entry is the final step in FISU event registration. The NUSF must provide all relevant data and documentation for each delegation member.

The remaining 50% of the participation fees is paid in full to the Organising Committee by this deadline. Failure to do so may result in non-participation in the Championship, unless specifically approved by the Organising Committee



5. SPORT REGULATIONS

The Orienteering competitions shall be organised following the most recent Technical Regulations of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF). In case of dispute in the interpretation of the rules, the English text shall be regarded as authoritative.

The competitions shall last 5 days as indicated in the General Schedule (Section 3) and the competition programme shall be proposed by the Organising Committee Competition Manager and confirmed by the FISU TCC, including the following events:

5.1. COMPETITION DISCIPLINES

EVENTS	MEN's	WOMEN's
Individual	Sprint Distance Race	Sprint Distance Race
	Middle Distance Race	Middle Distance Race
	K.O. Sprint	K.O. Sprint
Relay	Mixed Sprint Relay	

5.2. TEAM CLASSIFICATION

For the Team Classification, a team's score is calculated for each delegation according to the following:

- By adding together the placings of each delegation's three best competitors across all individual events (Men's Sprint, Middle & K.O. Races and Women's Sprint, Middle & K.O. Races)
- Adding the official placing of its best-placed Mixed Sprint Relay Team, multiplied by six

If a delegation has fewer than three finishers in any individual event, each missing competitor is considered to have finished one place behind the last finisher.

The results must be based on competitors' times for the entire course. It is prohibited to omit sections of the course based on split times unless the section has been specified in advance (e.g., a short section involving a busy road crossing).

The delegation with the lowest total score will be the Team Classification's winner.

Only delegations taking part in all events (Men's Sprint, Middle & K.O. Races, Women's Sprint, Middle & K.O. Races, and Mixed Sprint Relay) are eligible for the Team Classification

The winning country will be awarded a trophy

5.3. DELEGATIONS COMPOSITION

A. Athletes

DISCIPLINE	MEN's	WOMEN's
Individual	Max. 6 per race	Max. 6 per race
Mixed Relay	Max. 2 teams (4 athletes per team)	
Max. 12 athletes (6 men & 6 women) per delegation		

All participating athletes will require a valid IOF licence as a condition of entry

At the Technical Meeting, the Head of Delegation or his/her representative shall confirm and sign the official list of competitors accredited by the CIC, and no further changes to the athletes' designations will be permitted

B. Officials

TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFICIALS
Max. 5 officials per delegation

5.4. EXTREME HEAT CONDITIONS

The IOF Competition Rules state (rule 26.12) that: "The organiser must stop and postpone or cancel a race if at any point it becomes clear that circumstances have arisen which make the race dangerous for the competitor, officials or spectators."

The IOF Interim Guidelines on Extreme Heat provide guidance for organisers in determining what constitutes dangerous conditions in the context of extreme heat

The guidelines can be found in the following link – [Plan and organise an IOF Event | International Orienteering Federation](#)



6. TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

6.1. INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

For the FISU Championship, the ITOs are appointed by IOF, with the endorsement of FISU. This appointment process considers several critical factors, including the number of participants, the level and availability of NTOs, and the goal to minimise expenses when possible. To achieve cost-efficiency, IOF will aim to nominate ITOs from neighbouring countries whenever feasible. This approach not only fosters regional cooperation but also optimises resources.

A. Number & Roles of ITOs

A panel comprising three team officials shall be appointed at the first General Technical Meeting

The IOF Technical Delegate shall chair the panel without voting rights. The panel shall remain unchanged throughout the duration of the competition week

B. ITOs Costs

According to the Collaboration Convention signed between FISU and IOF, the costs of the ITOs are the following:

- Organising Committee shall cover:
 - Technical Delegate's flights
 - Technical Delegate's accommodation in single room
 - Technical Delegate's meals
 - Technical Delegate's internal transportation
 - ITOs flights
 - ITOs accommodation
 - ITOs meals
 - ITOs per-diem
 - ITOs internal transportation

6.2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Concerning the NTOs, these individuals are appointed by the Orienteering National Federation or the appropriate governing bodies within a country, under the supervision of the Organising Committee.

A. Number & Roles of NTOs

NATIONAL TECHNICAL OFFICIALS	
NUMBER	FUNCTION
1	National Technical Delegate
1	Local Technical Delegate
1	Event Secretary
2	Arena
2	Start & Quarantine
4	IT & Timekeeping
2	Cartography
2	Course Setting
1	National Controller
A total of 16 NTOs are required	

B. Agreement with the NF

Concerning the NTOs participation, it falls outside the scope of FISU or IOF. It is therefore advisable for the Organising Committee to reach an agreement directly with the National Federation. This collaboration will help ensure clarity and alignment on the financial aspects associated with it, including the following:

- NTOs Nomination – Ensure all NTOs possess the necessary qualifications to work in an international event
- Management and distribution of the technical official's clothing/uniforms
- Arrangement of suitable accommodation for the required period, if needed

It is strongly recommended to initiate communication with the National Federation promptly regarding the appointment of these officials. This proactive approach will help avert any potential personnel shortages that may arise from conflicting event dates, thereby expanding the available options and ensuring a more successful engagement

7. SPORT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

7.1. COMPETITION VENUES

- Number of competition venues – 3
 - Forest – 1
 - Urban (Sprint) – 1
 - Reserve Venue (Plan B) – 1
- Type of venues – Outdoor



7.2. MODEL EVENTS

- Number of model events venues – 1 to 2
- Type of venues – Outdoor
 - It is usually part of the competition terrain
 - If there is an urban and any other forest discipline, two separate model events are required

7.3. TRAINING VENUES

- Number of training venues – 1
- Type of venue – Outdoor
 - Different terrain from the competition itself
 - Usually there is a package, with ready courses and permanent controls in the terrain

7.4. EQUIPMENT

A. Uniforms & Sport Equipment

- Maps according to IOF regulations and map protection (high quality paper, such as Teslin or Blueback and plastic bags)
- Electronic system approved by IOF
- Bibs
- GPS loggers

Please refer to the [Minimum Requirements document](#) for more detailed information

8. TRAININGS

The Organising Committee is responsible for coordinating and communicating the training schedule to each delegation, ensuring appropriate access to facilities based on the sport and competition schedule. Some of the factors to be considered are:

- Create a training schedule based on the indications of the FISU TCC
- Consider the usage of the main competition venue, if needed and appropriate
- Provide hydration and basic medical assistance for training sessions
- Share a detailed training plan with each delegation at least 48 hours before their arrival
- Ensure training venue availability throughout the Championship

Please refer to the [Section 5.2.3 of the General Handbook](#) for more detailed information regarding Trainings

9. MEDICAL SERVICES

A. FISU Requirements

- First aid and Emergency Medical care
- Medical transportation
- OC on-call first aid medical services shall be available on a 24-hour basis
- A minimum of two ambulances per venue should be available and on duty from the start of warm-up until at least 45 minutes after the final competition of the day

B. Participants Medical Insurance

All participants must have valid travel medical insurance, covering:

- 24/7 Emergency Assistance
- Emergency Medical Expenses
- Medical Evacuation/Repatriation
- Trip Cancellation/Interruption
- Accidental Death or Injury

The OC is solely responsible for providing first aid, emergency medical care, and transportation to the designated hospital. All other medical costs shall be borne by the participant's insurance

Refer to Section 3.4.1 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Medical Services

10. DOPING CONTROL

A. FISU Requirements

- The requirements regarding the number and type of doping tests, as well as the total number of tests to be conducted, can be found in the *FISU Doping Test Requirements* document. This information is available exclusively to the Organising Committee.
- The OC Doctor or Head of the Medical area shall coordinate the doping testing and contact the FISU CMI to clarify the moment or disciplines in which the tests will be carried out.
- All doping tests costs (including collection, transportation, laboratory analyses) shall be borne by the Organising Committee.

B. Athletes Selection

- Athletes are eligible for testing once accredited until departing from the official event accommodation.

Please refer to Section 3.4.2 of the General Handbook for more detailed information regarding Doping Control



11. PROTOCOL, SPORT PRESENTATION & AWARDING

11.1. MEDALS TABLE

ORIENTEERING									
DISCIPLINE	MEN			WOMEN			MIXED		
	G	S	B	G	S	B	G	S	B
Individual Sprint Race	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Individual Middle Race	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Individual K.O. Sprint	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Sprint Relay							4	4	4
TOTAL	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4

A. FISU Requirements

The Organising Committee is responsible for providing the medals as shown in the table above. Medals must be awarded for all individual and mixed relay events. The top three athletes/teams in each discipline (individual and mixed relay) are eligible for medals.

The table below provides a comprehensive overview of the total number of medals awarded across all competition disciplines. Please note that extra/reserve medal sets and the FISU set are not included in these figures.

ORIENTEERING MEDALS	
Gold	10
Silver	10
Bronze	10

The Organising Committee must provide FISU with a set of medals of the event

B. Recommendations & Considerations

It is crucial to have additional sets of medals on hand as a contingency. Some medals may be defective, or athletes may achieve the same final time, necessitating duplicate medals of the same type.

Medals are not mandatory for Officials in Orienteering

C. Trophies

For the Orienteering Championship, the Organising Committee will present the Team Classification winning team a trophy.

11.2. SPORT PRESENTATION

Sports presentation is vital for elevating a Championship from a competition to an unforgettable experience. It encompasses everything from music and lighting to commentary and fan engagement, creating a unique atmosphere that engages the audience.

In case there is a big screen in the venue for the spectators, some educational video (provided by IOF) regarding the rules of the sport can be displayed at the beginning of the competition day

A. FISU Requirements

- **Audio Elements**
 - Sound System: A high-quality sound system is essential for announcements, music, and commentary, ensuring clear communication and an engaging atmosphere.
 - Microphone: Essential for general announcements such as schedule, results, athletes' introduction, general information, and others.
 - Thematic Music: Curate an energetic playlist to be played during introductions, warm-ups, and medal ceremonies to elevate the excitement.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Live Announcements: Make timely announcements regarding event schedules, race results, and athlete backgrounds to keep the audience informed and engaged.
- **Athletes Introduction**
 - Ceremonial Introductions: Develop exciting and personalized introductions for the athletes, showcasing their achievements and backgrounds. This builds anticipation before each heat. This task shall be done by the Speaker ITO.

B. Recommendations & Considerations

- **Audio Elements**
 - DJ: Enhances the atmosphere and overall experience of a sports competition, by creating and maintaining energy, motivating the athletes and engaging the crowd.
- **Commentary and Announcing**
 - Engaging Commentary: Hire knowledgeable commentators who can provide insights about the athletes, techniques, and race strategies. This adds depth to the viewing experience.



12. SERVICES

The Organising Committee should provide a variety of services for the event, including:

- Ice
- Laundry
- Wi-Fi

Please refer to the Section 3.11 of the General Handbook for more detailed information on all services

12.1. ICE

The supply of ice is one of the most common requests from participating delegations, particularly for injury treatment and recovery purposes.

- The Organising Committee must supply ice for treating injuries during both practice and competition, as part of the medical coverage for the event. It does not cover large quantities of ice needed for recovery treatments, such as cryotherapy.

The Organising Committee secure a reliable ice provider on standby, anticipating the request from teams and establishing clear procedures for ice procurement, including pricing and how to access this service

12.2. LAUNDRY

Laundry services are essential for many sports, particularly in long-duration competitions and team sports, where athletes may require frequent changes of clothing.

- Laundry services must be provided in all Team Sports Championships and in all sports with more than four competition days.
- Self-Service or Full-Service Laundry can be considered (hotel/accommodation and external services included in the latter)

Self-Service is the preferred option, giving more flexibility and control to the teams. If not, it is important to negotiate reduced pricing and adjust the timing for collection/delivery of uniforms with the provider

12.3. WI-FI

Wi-Fi is an essential service for university students, as it serves as a critical infrastructure that fosters communication and supports their academic responsibilities.

- Participants can easily access real-time information about event schedules, results, and updates. This allows them to plan their day effectively, ensuring they don't miss out on key events and activities.
- Participants can engage with live broadcasts, social media updates, and other digital content related to the event.
- For many students, academic responsibilities continue even during events. Wi-Fi connection ensures they can access study materials and educational resources, maintain communication with professors, and keep up with online courses.

Wi-Fi should be provided free of charge for all participants at the event, both at the accommodation sites and at the competition venues

13. GENERAL TIMELINE

TIMELINE	ACTIONS
Event -12 months	• Coordination Visit ◦ Venues visit and Equipment approval (FISU TCC) • Competition programme approval (FISU TCC) • Venue medical plan approval (FISU TCC)
Event -6 months	• General Entries (NUSFs)
Event -3 months	• Quantitative Entries (NUSFs) • 50% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • ITOs & NTOs list (FISU / IOF)
Event -1 months	• Individual Entries (NUSFs) • 100% payment from participating countries (NUSFs / OC) • Final Bulletin (OC / FISU / FISU TCC)
Event -1 day	• Accreditation and participants list confirmation (NUSFs) • Technical Officials Meeting (ITOs / NTOs / TCC / OC) • General Technical Meeting (NUSFs / OC / FISU)
EVENT	
Event +1 week	• Send all documents and media to FISU (OC)
Event +1 month	• Final Report to FISU (OC)

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