

INTRODUCTION

Trail orienteering (TrailO, also precision orienteering or PreO) is one of four orienteering sports authorized by the International Orienteering Federation (IOF).

It's a sport offered to people with widely different physical abilities, including those with severely restricted mobility, who all compete on equal terms.

Competitors move along a track or marked route and study clusters of control markers placed in the terrain. They are issued with a very detailed map, and control descriptions. With these aids they must decide which (if any) of the markers relates to the feature depicted by the centre of the circle. Movement up and down the track is permitted but no one may approach the control markers in the terrain.

TrailO is a challenging event for foot orienteers as well as those who can't manage the physical challenge of regular orienteering. Several of the competitors in the Open class at WTOC are also top orienteers in FootO, and current world champion Thierry Gueorgiou was a European TrailO Champion a few years back. It's also a great training exercise and should improve your map and terrain interpretation skills.

European Championships in trail orienteering have been organised every year since 1994. The first ever World Cup in trail orienteering was held in 1999, and the inaugural World Trail Orienteering Championships were organised in 2004 (Västerås, Sweden). The World Championships are organised every year.

COMPETITION TYPES

PreO

PreO is the traditional form of trail orienteering. Competitors are given a map at the start. The locations of the controls, the start and the finishing line are marked on the map, as in traditional orienteering. At each site, there is a number of control flags, but only one or none correctly represent the control marked on the map. The competitors have to stay on trails as shown on the map and look at the control at a specified location on the trail, which is called the decision point (DP). Decision points are marked on the ground, but not on the map. Competitors are allowed to move along the trail to observe, but need to choose the answer at the decision point. Each correct answer scores one point, and wrong answer scores zero point.

In addition, there may be a few timed controls in a PreO course, which are used for tie breaking only. They are not included in the total points (starting from 2014 rules) but only have the time taken.

TempO

A TempO course has timed controls only. The competitors are ranked according to their time taken, which is the time needed to answer all controls and 30 seconds penalty for each incorrect answer, including blank and multiple answers.

At each timed station, competitors are required to sit in a certain place, at which all control flags can be seen clearly. They are given a set of maps including only the area around the controls, one for each question, and have to point at the correct answer on a plate showing A, B, C, D, E, F, Z as quickly as possible.

VENUES

| Year | Date | Venue |
|------|-----------------|---|
| 2004 | 15-18 September |   Västerås, Sweden (EU) |
| 2005 | 09-12 August |  Aichi, Japan |
| 2006 | 09-14 July |   Joensuu, Finland (EU) |
| 2007 | 17-26 August |  Kiev, Ukraine |
| 2008 | 12-16 July |   Olomouc, Czech Republic (EU) |
| 2009 | 18-23 August |   Miskolc, Hungary (EU) |
| 2010 | 08- 13 August |  Trondheim, Norway |
| 2011 | 13-20 August |   Savoie, France (EU) |
| 2012 | 06-09 June |   Scotland, United Kingdom (EU) |
| 2013 | 06-14 July |   Vuokatti, Finland (EU) |
| 2014 | 05-12 July |   Asiago-Lavarone, Italy (EU) |
| 2015 | 23-30 July |   Zagreb, Croatia (EU) |
| 2016 | 20-28 August |   Strömstad-Tanum, Sweden (EU) |