



## Planning the course

Decide on the route (tracks and/or paths) to be followed. Ideally, a loop beginning and ending at the same place, otherwise linear with Start and Finish points or 'out-and-back' with kites both sides of the route. A course can be split into sections with a time-out in between – but this requires more officials, or more electronic timing equipment, and more explanation to competitors.

Then decide on the control sites to be used. These should not use diffuse features in the terrain, or be so far away from the track/path that features can't readily be seen or distinguished. The features and kites need to be clearly visible and the problem solvable from wheelchair-user/child height.

Then decide which will be A answers and which Z, and if Z, where the kite will be placed in relation to the control circle position to provide an interesting map/terrain reading challenge. You can have all A or all Z or anything in between, but around two-thirds A and one-third Z is commonly used.

Finally, decide on the sites for the viewing point markers. These should be where the appropriate kite can easily be seen. They should be in numerical order along the route, and at least 3 metres apart to avoid crowding. Competitors can, however, make their decisions from any point on the route.

Labels or pins are used to mark in advance the kite and viewing point marker positions, which on the event day have to be precisely placed.

## Running the event

Pre-entry is useful, to determine how many maps to print, but not essential (and if necessary, maps can be recycled). Cost of entry depends on your club's outlook – it can be zero if the event is for training or is an enhancement of an existing event equivalent to a String Course, or have an entry fee if a self-standing event or an event with significance in a series of events (e.g. BriTOL, JK).

Full information about the nature of the event and the on-the-day detail is best published in advance, and of course is made available at the event itself.

At basic level, the event can be organised and run by two people. (If Start and Finish are together and competitor numbers are few, the whole event can be run by one person.) First, the course is set out, plus signposting from the assembly area, and timing equipment synchronized.

For manual timing: one person runs the Start – issues a punch on loan if needed, writes competitor name and an advance start time on each participant's control card, folds the card in half and gives it to the participant, then issues the map at this precise time. The second person mans the Finish – notes the precise time of finishing, collects the control card and writes this time on it, splits the card in two with the half with the time written on it kept, the other returned to the competitor, and collects any loaned punch.

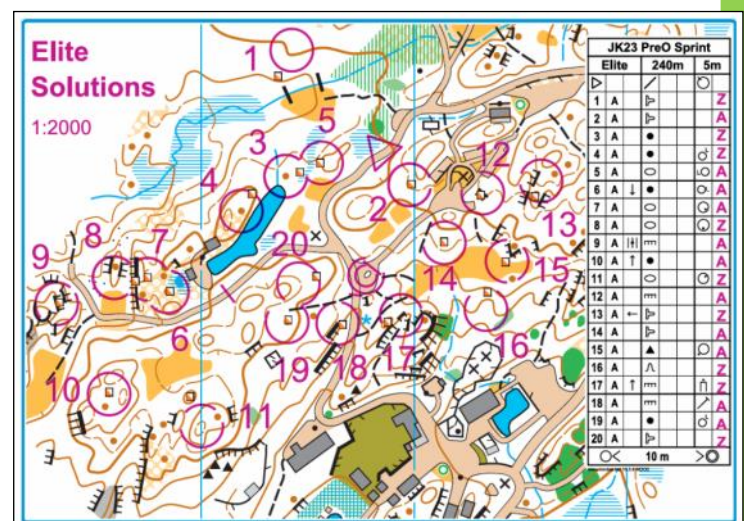
For electronic timing, competitors have an SI card or EMIT brick and punch at the point they receive the map and when they reach the finish. Here, the second person operates download and the computer.

## Results

Once everyone has started, a set of answers (A or Z) is posted at the Finish or assembly area for competitors to check their own.

You can check cards and post results (manual or computer) as time allows. The maximum allowed time is 1 minute per 30 metres of route, plus 1 minute per control, = 30 minutes for a 20-control/300 m course. Penalty of one point per minute (or part of) over maximum time. The time used on the course is used as a tie-breaker (shortest time wins); it is multiplied by 0.7 for manual wheelchair users, and 0.85 for users of electric wheelchairs + other TrailO Orienteers who compete in P-class.

It's good, but not necessary, to produce/publish a solution map showing where the kites were, or some notes on how to solve each control, along with the results.



**Above:** A Solutions Map for a PreO Sprint event. Small kite symbols have been used to indicate the location of the kites in the terrain and the controls descriptions list has also given the solutions: A or Z.

**Need help or guidance? Contact the Chair of the British Orienteering Development Group at [trailcommitteechair@britishorienteering.org.uk](mailto:trailcommitteechair@britishorienteering.org.uk) who will put you in touch with an experienced trail orienteer living in your part of the country.**