



**2026
SPRINT
WORLD
ORIENTEERING
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

BULLETIN 4



Ministro per lo Sport e i Giovani

EVENT PARTNERS



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION



FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA SPORT ORIENTAMENTO



REGIONE LIGURIA



COMUNE DI GENOVA



Città Metropolitana di Genova



Genova Orienteering



CENTRO SPORTIVO ITALIANO
Comitato di Genova



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Università di Genova

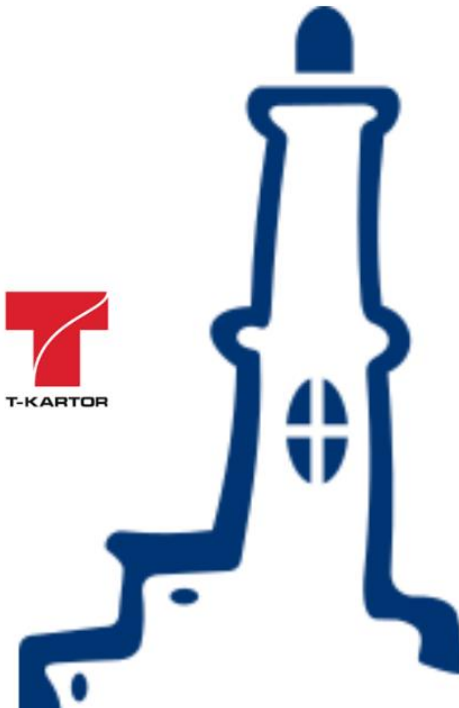
DISPI DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE POLITICHE E INTERNAZIONALI



L'assicurazione che ci unisce



TRE EMME



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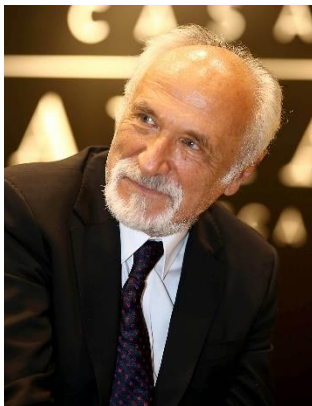


Photo: IOF / Kristina Lindgren

WELCOME

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome, on behalf of the Italian Orienteering Federation, all the nations, athletes, coaches, and team officials who will take part in the 2026 Sprint World Orienteering Championships.

This WOC arrives in a city that already hosted a World Cup round in 2024, proving its organizational capabilities and genuine passion. It is, therefore, also a confirmation: Genova is ready, once again, to welcome the global Orienteering community and transform itself into a competition arena.



Genova is a symbolic city: born to look beyond the horizon, overlooking the sea, shaped by steep alleys, squares filled with stories, and a port that for centuries served as a bridge between continents.

It is the birthplace of Christopher Columbus, an emblem of the drive to cross known boundaries and seek out new horizons.

In the same way, you orienteers are modern explorers: you chart your courses through the maps, guided by the rhythm of your run and the strategy of your decisions, always ready to chase new goals, not only on the course, but also within yourselves.

Another iconic figure from Genova that makes the spirit of these championships even more symbolic is the Mayor Silvia Salis, who has dedicated her life to athletics. Ten-time national champion, Olympic athlete in Beijing and London, and winner of the Mediterranean Games, she has continued her commitment after retiring, becoming Vice President of CONI (Italian Olympic Committee). A woman who has truly lived the sports experience and who now, with values of dedication, courage, and vision, leads the city hosting the World Orienteering Championships.

Beyond the competitions, Liguria will surprise you: sea and mountains just a step away, the perched villages, the culture, and the flavours of a land suspended between sky and rock.

I invite you to discover it beyond the courses, to experience it and be inspired.

Welcome to Italy,
Welcome to Liguria,
Welcome to Genova: the city where the horizon always invites you to push further!

Enjoy WOC 2026!

Alfio Giomi

President of the Italian Orienteering Federation



Photo: IOF / Kristina Lindgren

For our city, it is a source of great pride to host the World Orienteering Championships, one of the most prestigious events on the international sports calendar.

Welcoming athletes from all over the world means placing Genova at the heart of an event that brings together sport, culture, and the discovery of the territory. Orienteering is a discipline that values the intelligence of movement, the ability to find one's way, respect for the environment, and an authentic relationship with places, values that we deeply identify with and that perfectly reflect the identity of our city.

For me, having dedicated my life to sport, first as an athlete and then as Deputy Vice President of the Italian National Olympic Committee, this event also holds personal significance: it represents the highest expression of a sport that educates, includes, and builds relationships, both on and off the field.

The urban and natural routes that will host the competitions will offer a unique experience, crossing through the historic heart of Genova and its extraordinary landscape, where the sea, hills, and cultural heritage coexist in a truly unique way.

On behalf of the City Council and the entire city, I warmly welcome the athletes, technical staff, volunteers, and fans who will take part in this major event. Genova is ready to welcome you with its energy, its history, and its ability to look to the future through sport. We look forward to seeing you!

Silvia Salis
Mayor of Genova



Welcome to Genova!

As the Event Director and a proud Genovese, it is my absolute honour to welcome you to my hometown for these World Sprint Championships.

We stand in a place built by great navigators and visionary merchants.

For centuries, our shores were the gateway to the world, a powerful maritime republic that shaped global trade and bred legendary adventurers who braved the unknown. Today, that same spirit lives on as we welcome elite athletes from every corner of the globe.

As you explore, you will undoubtedly be inspired by our rich culture and stunning landscapes. However, when the clock starts, a different reality takes over. Prepare yourself: Genova's demanding and highly technical terrain will offer an unpredictable, world-class challenge that will surprise you on every competition day.

Embrace the history, conquer the terrain, and make your mark. Best of luck to you all!



Gianluca Carbone
Event Director

1. ORGANISATION AND CONTACT

1.1. ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Event Director	Gianluca Carbone
Technical Director	Alessio Tenani
Race Director	Aaron Gaio
Event Office	Karin Sanna
Bulletins	Lucia Curzio
IT Coordinator	Daniele Guardini
Start Director	Daniele Pagliari
Safety Manager	Gino Carta
Communication	Enrico Carmagnani
Materials	Carlo Carenini
Volunteers	Melania Tinelli
Media	Matteo Ferri
Spectator Races	Andrea Immovilli

1.2. EVENT ADVISERS

IOF WOC Project Manager	Áron Less (IOF)
IOF Senior Event Adviser	Péter Molnár (HUN)
National controller	Simone Grassi (ITA)

1.3. REFEREES

Main referee	Helge Lang Pedersen (DEN)
Assistant referee	Jon Cross (GBR)

 @woc2026
 @wocgenova2026



Photo: Joseph Lynch

1.4. CONTACT INFORMATION

General Info	info@woc2026.it
Website	http://www.woc2026.it
Event Director	gianluca.carbone@woc2026.it +393356966752
Technical Director & Training	alessio.tenani@woc2026.it
IOF WOC Project Manager	aron.less@orienteering.sport
Safety Managers	ginocart@libero.it beppe.platania@oosrl.com +393453323098
Media	media@woc2026.it

2.EVENT PROGRAMME

Sunday 5th July	Event Office open	09:00-12:00 16:00-20:00	Sala Quadrivium
Monday 6th July	Event Office open	09:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium
	Model Event	10:00-17:00	Sestri Ponente West
	Technical Model Event	10:00-12:00	Sestri Ponente West
	Deadline for late entries, changes and payment	12:00	Sala Quadrivium and IOF Eventor
	Sprint entry deadline	12:00	
	Team Officials' Meeting 1 (Sprint Q+F)	18:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium and online
	Tuesday 7th July	Event Office open	08:00-19:00
Sprint Q Quarantine closes		08:30	Sestri Ponente
Sprint Qualification (men first, women afterwards)		09:00-11:30	Sestri Ponente
Sprint F Quarantine closes		13:00	Sestri Ponente
Opening Ceremony		13:30-14:00	Race Arena
Sprint Final men		14:05-15:25	Sestri Ponente
Sprint Final women		15:30-16:50	Sestri Ponente
Medal Ceremony		17:10	Race Arena
Wednesday 8th July		Event Office open	09:00-12:00 16:00-19:00
	Model Event	10:00-17:00	Genova Porta Principe
	Knock-Out Sprint entry deadline	12:00	via IOF Eventor
	Team Officials' Meeting 2 (KO Sprint Qual)	18:00-18:30	online
	IOF General Assembly	12:00-16:00	Palazzo della Borsa
	IOF Family Dinner	19:30	Palazzo della Borsa

Thursday 9th July	Event Office open	08:30-12:00	Race Arena
	Knock-Out Q Quarantine closes	08:45	Sestri Ponente
	Knock-Out Sprint Qualification women	09:00-10:15	Sestri Ponente
	Knock-Out Sprint Qualification men	10:15-11:30	Sestri Ponente
	Heat selection	11:45	Race Arena
	Event Office open	16:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium
	Team Officials' Meeting 3 (KO rounds)	18:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium and online
Friday 10th July	Event Office open	11:30-18:00	Race Arena
	Knock-Out Sprint Quarantine closes	12:15	Genova
	K-O Quarter-finals first start women	13:00	Genova
	K-O Quarter-finals first start men	13:36	Genova
	K-O Semi-finals first start women	14:58	Genova
	K-O Semi-finals first start men	15:35	Genova
	K-O Final start women	16:22	Genova
	K-O Final start men	16:38	Genova
	Medal Ceremony	17:05	Race Arena
	Sprint Relay entry deadline	18:00	via IOF Eventor
	Team Officials' Meeting 4 (Sprint Relay)	19:30-20:00	online
	Saturday 11th July	Event Office open	10:00-11:00
IOF Family and Media Race		10:00-12:00	5 Days Arena
Sprint Relay Quarantine closes		14:40	Genova
Event Office open		15:00-18:00	Race Arena
Sprint Relay		15:40-17:10	Genova
Medal Ceremony		17:20	Race Arena
Closing Ceremony		17:30-17:50	Race Arena
Farewell Party		21:00-01:00	Rosa dei Venti Club
Sunday 12th July	Event Office open	09:00-12:00	Sala Quadrivium

3. VENUE, ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

The event will be organised in Genova, located in the North-West of Italy by the Mediterranean Sea.

We recommend using your own transport or a rental car/minibus. All the quarantines have parking for teams; the quarantines for the Knock-Out Sprint rounds and the Sprint Relay are subject to payment. Same applies for the Event Centre and the arenas.

Rent a car

Hertz We are pleased to announce a significant partnership with [Hertz](#), designed to facilitate travel for all activities related to the World Orienteering Championships 2026 in Genova!

Unlock exclusive travel savings: enjoy up to 10% off, global rental access, and fast-track service using our dedicated CDP code 954734.

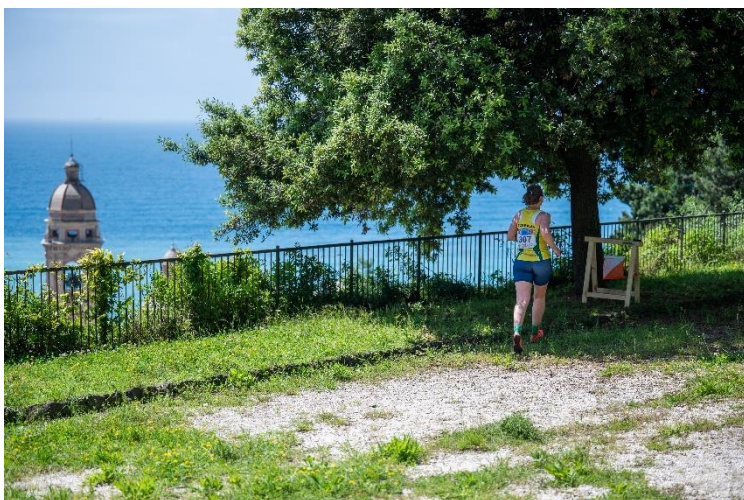
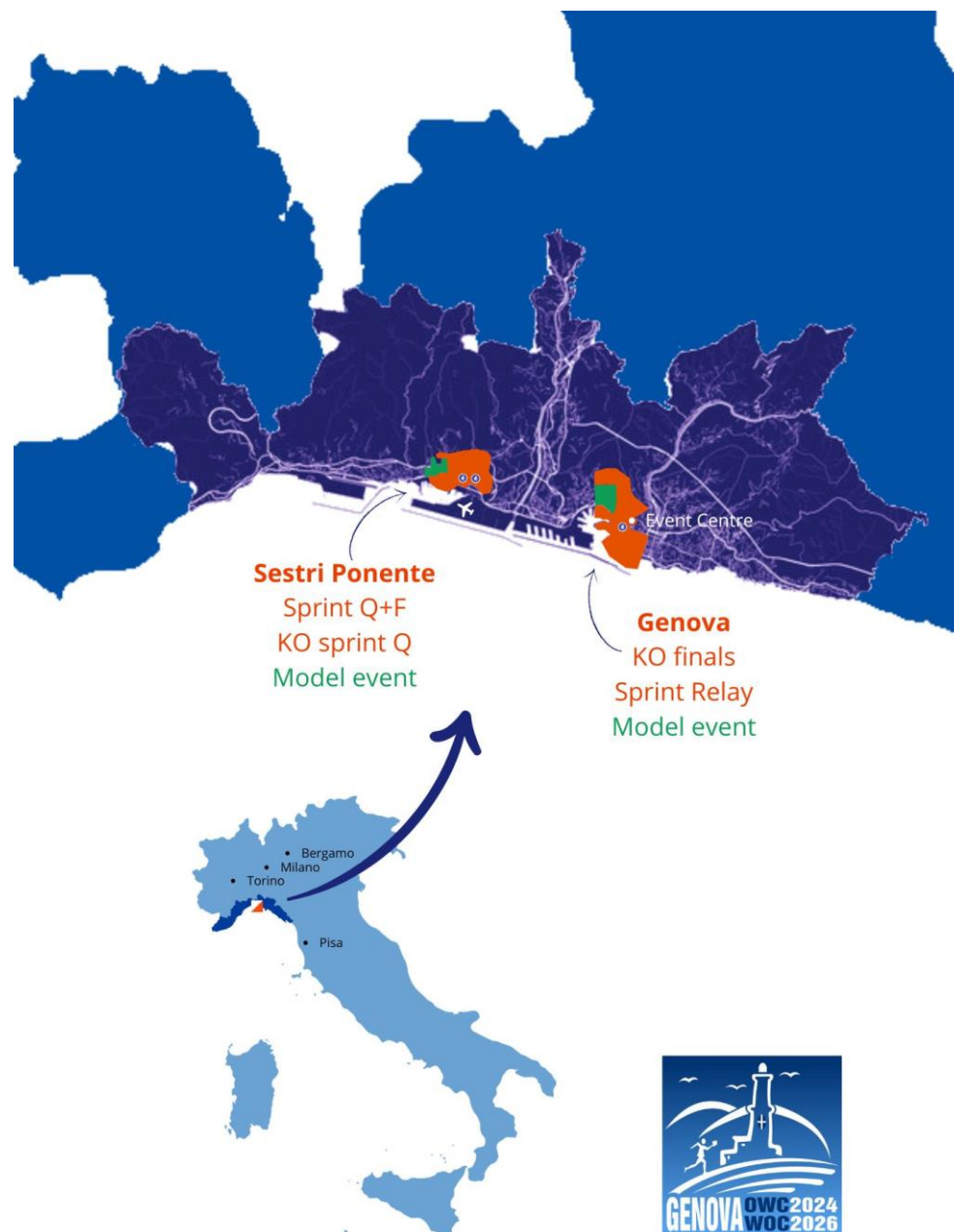


Photo: IOF / Kristina Lindgren

LOCATION

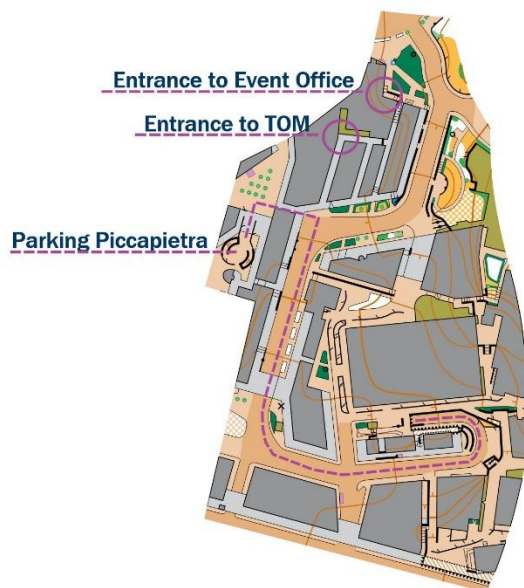
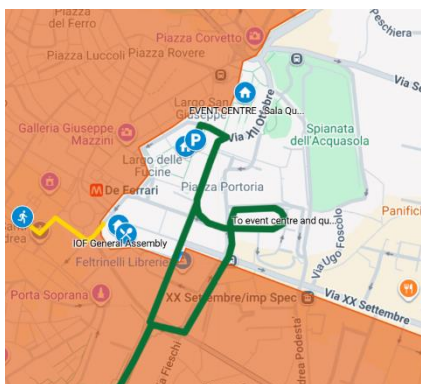
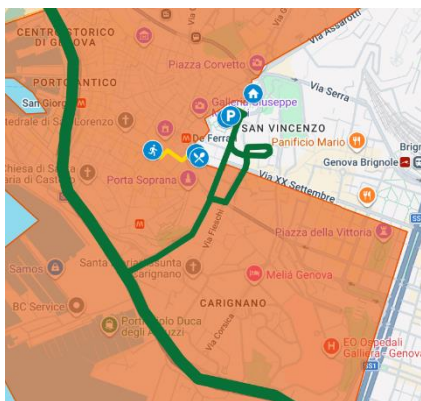


4. EVENT CENTRE

The Event Centre will be located at “Sala Quadrivium”, [via XII Ottobre 14, 16121 Genova](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Sala+Quadrivium,+14+via+XII+Ottobre,+16121+Genova). On the competition days the Event Office will be located at the arena.

The Event Centre is at the border of the embargoed area: athletes and team officials may only use permitted routes to pass through the embargoed area. More details at [IOF Eventor](https://www.iof.com/Eventor) and in the maps below.

The suggested parking is “Autopark Piccapietra” (toll parking) <https://maps.app.goo.gl/973xkWEkMBqb98h36>, otherwise, there are some free parking spaces in the area east of the EC.



The Event Centre is the location for:

- Accreditation of teams
- Event Office
- Team Officials' Meetings (TOM)

Please note that there are two different entrances, one for the Event Office and one for the TOM.

Contact: Karin Sanna, +420 774914967 (Whatsapp also) / karin.sanna@woc2026.it

Opening hours:

Sunday 5th July	09:00-12:00 16:00-20:00	Sala Quadrivium
Monday 6th July	09:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium
Tuesday 7th July	08:00-19:00	Race Arena
Wednesday 8th July	09:00-12:00 16:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium
Thursday 9th July	08:30-12:00	Race Arena
	16:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium
Friday 10th July	11:30-18:00	Race Arena
Saturday 11th July	10:00-11:00	Sala Quadrivium
	15:00-18:00	Race Arena
Sunday 12th July	09:00-12:00	Sala Quadrivium

5. EMERGENCY SERVICES

First-aid services, including a doctor of the organization will be provided at the competition arenas. Outside of competitions you may use the emergency and health services of the city. The phone number for emergency calls is 112.

The nearest hospital from Sprint and KO Sprint Qual is Ospedale Micone, [largo Nevio Rosso 2, Genova](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ospedale+Micone,+2+via+Alessandro+Volta,+6+Genova); from KO Sprint Rounds and Sprint Relay is Ospedali Galliera, [via Alessandro Volta 6, Genova](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ospedali+Galliera,+6+via+Alessandro+Volta,+6+Genova). Please note that the hospitals are inside the embargoed area, teams need to inform the organizers in case of visit.

6. ACCREDITATION AND ENTRIES

Accreditation takes place at the Event Centre. A personal ID card will be handed out. All accredited persons must wear it at all relevant times and present it for access to authorised zones. An athlete with no accreditation will not be allowed to start a race.

A team manager must be present at accreditation in case any clarification is needed about citizenship, validity of IOF licence, etc. Personal passports (or ID cards in special cases) of all athletes and team officials must be presented. The team manager can bring the passports of all their athletes and officials to accreditation. It is not necessary for all athletes and officials to come to accreditation in person.

At accreditation, each team receive two printed version of Bulletin 4 and the parking permit for Thursday's quarantine; every athlete receives a package with the ID card, SIAC card and model event maps. This SIAC card is personally assigned and shall be used in all competitions as the primary SIAC. The number of the personal SIAC, that shall be used as backup SIAC, will be double-checked at the accreditation.

Accreditation for the event is only possible if all payments have been fully settled. Please note that paying with card is not possible in the Event Centre! We accept only bank transfer or cash (€).

Teams need to provide an e-mail address and a telephone number so that the organizers can quickly contact the team officials if necessary. We are creating a Whatsapp group for the coaches with one-way information from the organisation towards the teams.

6.1. ENTRIES AND ENTRY DEADLINES

All entries are only to be made in IOF Eventor on:
<https://eventor.orienteeing.org/Events/Show/7383>

As the event start date is Monday 6th of July 2026 the deadline for late entries, changes of Team Size or Team Names is 6th of July 2026 12:00 (noon)

6.2. LATE ENTRIES

Changes of Team Size or Team Names will be accepted, if possible, up to the Event start date, 6th of July 2026. No late entries or changes will be accepted after that date. Late entries and changes will always have a defined extra cost (surcharge). Late entries and changes will always be treated equally and must be communicated directly to the organiser at info@woc2026.it. The organiser makes the changes in IOF Eventor after the deadlines.

Extra fee for changes of team size until 6th of July 2026: 50% (50% refund)
 Extra fee for changes of team names until 6th of July 2026: surcharge 10 €

6.3. COMPETITION ENTRIES

Names of the competitors shall be entered in IOF Eventor for each race before:

- 12:00 of the 6th July, for Sprint
- 12:00 of the 8th July, for KO Sprint
- 18:00 of the 10th July, for Sprint Relay

6.4. PAYMENT

After the Team Size deadline, the organiser have invoiced the Federations for entries and services. The invoices should have been paid before 25th of May 2026. If the Federation has done changes after that date, they need to be paid/refunded at the Event Office at the latest.

Please note that we will accept payments only in euro currency.

Payee	COMITATO GENOVA 2026 A.S.D.
Currency	Euro
IBAN	IT55E0538701411000003861810
BIC	BPMOIT22XXX
Bank	BPER Banca
Address of the bank	Agenzia 11 – GENOVA

6.5. ENTRY SUMMARY (at 28.6)

Federation	Men	Women	Team Officials	Total
Australia	4	5	3	12
Austria	4	3	3	10
Belgium	3	0	1	4
Brazil	4	3	4	11
Bulgaria	2	1	1	4
Canada	4	3	1	8
China	2	2	3	7
Colombia	1	1	0	2
Croatia	2	0	0	2
Czechia	4	4	4	12
Denmark	4	4	4	12
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Egypt	1	1	0	2
Estonia	3	2	1	6
Finland	4	4	4	12
France	5	4	3	12
Germany	4	4	4	12
Great Britain	5	4	4	13
Hong Kong China	3	4	2	9
Hungary	3	3	3	9
Iraq	1	0	0	1
Ireland	4	2	0	6
Israel	2	0	1	3
Italy	3	3	3	9
Japan	3	3	2	8
Latvia	3	3	2	8
Lithuania	3	2	1	6
Mexico	2	2	0	4
Moldova	1	1	0	2

Netherlands	0	2	0	2
New Zealand	4	4	3	11
North Macedonia	0	1	0	1
Norway	4	4	5	13
Paraguay	1	0	0	1
Poland	3	3	1	7
Portugal	3	3	1	7
Romania	1	0	0	1
Serbia	2	2	1	5
Slovakia	2	2	1	5
Spain	3	3	1	7
Sweden	5	4	4	13
Switzerland	7	4	6	17
Türkiye	4	4	2	10
Ukraine	4	3	0	7
United States	4	4	1	9
Total	132	111	80	323



7. BANQUET

A Farewell Party will take place in Porto Antico, at [Rosa dei Venti Club](#) on Saturday 11th, from 21.00 to 01.00.

Admission to the party is included in the accreditation fee, but registration via Eventor is required by 6th July.

Before the party, it will be possible to have dinner for € 35, registration is required as described above. The menu and further details are published separately on Eventor.

At the same venue, it will also be possible to take a shower after the race on Saturday evening (€ 3, pre-booking required).

8. EMBARGOED AREAS

At this link on Google Maps it is possible to find the overview of the embargoed areas: https://bit.ly/embargo-trainings_WC24_WOC26_Genova

This embargo applies to all potential WOC 2026 team members and those who intentionally or unintentionally could provide an unfair advantage to competitors at WOC 2026.

- Access is not allowed within the embargoed areas, marked in red on the map.
- It is allowed to use “Permissive routes”, marked in green on the map.
- It is allowed to take trains through the embargoed area. Other (public) transport is only allowed along the “Permissive route”.
- It is allowed to enter buildings directly from “Permissive routes” (marked in green on the map), as long as that building is directly adjacent to the "Permissive route". It is not allowed to exit the building into an embargoed area.
- It is permitted to use the metro through the embargoed area, with surfacing only allowed outside of the embargoed area.
- It is permitted to use routes marked in yellow on the map to access the quarantines and the arenas.

- No orienteering of any kind may take place in the embargoed areas until after WOC 2026. Exceptions are noted in chapters 13, 14 and 15, in the ‘Change of the embargoed area’ section.

Notes about the embargo rules: based on the IOF Rule 14.4 «Permission for access into embargoed terrain shall be requested from the organizer if needed» you can email the Technical Director at alessio.tenani@woc2026.it

8.1. PREVIOUS ORIENTEERING MAPS

A complete list of all the previous orienteering maps in the embargoed areas can be downloaded from this folder on Dropbox: https://bit.ly/WOC2026_oldmaps

9. RULES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

9.1. IOF COMPETITION RULES

The [Competition Rules for IOF Foot Orienteering Events 2026](#) valid from 1 January 2026 apply.

Competitors must not use or carry communication devices that can transmit or receive information, to or from a remote source, between entering the quarantine zone and reaching the finish in a race, unless provided by the organiser.

GPS-enabled devices (watches etc.) can be carried if they are not used for communication or navigation.

9.2. ANTI-DOPING

Doping is strictly forbidden, and the organizers of the WOC 2026 are dedicated to supporting the Anti-Doping authorities in their work. Doping controls may be carried out any time during the competitions in accordance with the procedures described in the WADA International Standard of Testing and Investigations. The latest IOF Anti-Doping rules and the World Anti-Doping Code applies. Athletes who are selected for doping control must bring an official identification (with photo) to the doping test area. The athlete should also present the personal therapeutic use exemption (TUE) if applicable. In general, it is advisable that athletes take their ID to all competitions and events. For more information, please consult <https://orienteering.sport/iof/anti-doping/>

9.3. INSURANCE AND LIABILITIES

The organizers decline any liability that might occur through participation in the WOC 2026 events and trainings. Each person participates at their own risk and is responsible for their own insurance coverage (illness and accident).

9.4. ATHLETE'S LICENCE

All athletes need to have [a valid IOF athlete's licence](#) to participate in the WOC 2026 races.

9.5. LIVE TV PRODUCTION

There will be live TV productions from all final races broadcasted on IOF TV: <https://tv.orienteering.sport>. All the finals will also be aired on National TV in Switzerland, Austria, Czechia, Sweden, Norway, and Finland.

Broadcast schedule for the Finals:

Tuesday, 7 th July, Sprint	14.10-17.00 CEST
Friday, 10 th July, KO Sprint Finals	12.55-14.20 CEST
	14.50-17.00 CEST
Saturday, 11 th July, Sprint Relay	15.30-17.00 CEST

A live stream of the Sprint Qualification and the Knock-Out Sprint Qualification will be available free of charge via <https://tv.orienteering.sport/ebu>

Tuesday, 7 th July, Sprint Qualification	09.00-11.30 CEST
Thursday, 9 th July, KO Sprint Qualification	09.00-11.30 CEST

During the competitions, athletes may encounter camera crews in the terrain. Camera controls and intermediate time controls are not marked on the control description. Athletes may also be followed by a running camera or by camera-drones during the race.

9.6. PHOTO AND VIDEO DISCLAIMERS

By taking part in WOC, all persons acknowledge their consent to interview(s), photography, audio recording, video recording and its/their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction to be used for news, webcast, promotional purposes, telecasts, advertising, inclusion on websites, or any other purpose by the

organizers and their affiliates and representatives. No drones are allowed in the competition area without written permission from the organizers.

10. GENERAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

10.1. CLASSES AND PARTICIPATION RESTRICTIONS

Competition classes are Women and Men with no age restrictions (Rule 5.7). All competitors represent a Federation (6.6). Requests for change of Federation representation will be checked by the IOF Office and will come into effect on 15th April or 15th November. A competitor may not change their Federation representation more frequently than once every four years (6.2). They must be a citizen of the country of that Federation (6.1).

In the Sprint and Knock-Out Sprint competitions, every Federation may enter up to 3 women and 3 men and, in addition, the current World Champions for each format and the current Regional Champions for each format may be entered into the respective competitions by their Federation(s). Where a Region does not hold a Knock-Out Sprint competition, the Regional Sprint Champion may be entered for both competitions. (6.7). In the Sprint Relay, each Federation may enter one team consisting of 4 team members of whom at least 2 must be women (6.10).

Extra allocations:

Sprint Men

current World Champion (2024): Martin Regborn (SWE)
 current Asian Champion (2024): Yuichi Honjo (JPN)
 current European Champion (2025): Mathias Barros Vallet (FRA)
 current North American Champion (2024): Damian Konotopetz (CAN)
 current Oceania Champion (2026): Joseph Lynch (NZL)
 current South American Champion (2024): Leandro Nascimento (BRA)

Sprint Women

current World Champion (2024): Tove Alexandersson (SWE)
 current Asian Champion (2024): Ying Yau Chu (HKG)
 current European Champion (2025): Pia Young Vik (NOR)

Sprint World Orienteering Championships, 2026

current North American Champion (2024): Emma Waddington (CAN)

current Oceania Champion (2026): Erika Enderby (AUS)

current South American Champion (2024): Mariana Ostetto (BRA)

Knock-Out Sprint Men

current World Champion (2024): Riccardo Rancan (SUI)

current Asian Sprint Champion (2024): Yuichi Honjo (JPN)

current European Champion (2025): August Mollen (SWE)

current North American Champion (2024): Christian Michelsen (CAN)

current Oceania Champion (2026): Joseph Lynch (NZL)

current South American Sprint Champion (2024): Leandro Nascimento (BRA)

Knock-Out Sprint Women

current World Champion (2024): Tove Alexandersson (SWE)

current Asian Sprint Champion (2024): Ying Yau Chu (HKG)

current European Champion (2025): Cecile Calandry (FRA)

current North American Champion (2024): Emma Waddington (CAN)

current Oceania Champion (2026): Nea Shingler (AUS)

current South American Sprint Champion (2024): Mariana Ostetto (BRA)

10.2. TEAM OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Team officials' meetings will be held at the Event Centre or online with the following schedule:

Monday 6th July	Team Officials' Meeting 1 (Sprint)	18:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium and online
Wednesday 8th July	Team Officials' Meeting 2 (KO Sprint Qual)	18:00-18:30	online
Thursday 9th July	Team Officials' Meeting 3 (KO Rounds)	18:00-19:00	Sala Quadrivium and online
Friday 10th July	Team Officials' Meeting 4 (Sprint Relay)	19:30-20:00	online

All TOMs will be also broadcast online ([click here](#)).

TOM presentation slides will be uploaded to IOF Eventor after the meeting. Questions for the TOM shall be sent by e-mail to daniele.guardini@woc2026.it until 16:00 of each day and will be answered during the meeting.

10.3. PUNCHING SYSTEM

The punching system used is SPORTident SIAC Air+. Each participant will use two SIAC cards. The primary card will be provided by the organizers free of charge; participants are requested to use their own as backup.

The last control in every competition will have a punching unit with a longer-range than standard as allowed per IOF Rule 20.9.

10.4. START TIMING

Sprint and KO Sprint Qual: the real start time will be recorded using a start gate.

KO Sprint Rounds and Sprint Relay: Mass start. Listen to the commands of the start official. Start signal will be given through the start gun by the start official. Early start leads to disqualification.

10.5. FINISH TIMING

Sprint and KO Sprint Qual: finish time will be taken when the athlete crosses the finish line using a photocell (SIAC is used as a backup). The running times will be rounded down to the nearest second.

KO Sprint Rounds and Sprint Relay: finish time is given by the SIAC-card crossing the finish line. In case of a head-to-head run in, the finish judges will rule on the final placings based on the order that the competitors' chest crosses the finish line (photo-finish available). The running times will be rounded down to the nearest tenth of a second.

10.6. GPS TRACKING

In every race, all competitors will carry a GPS tracking device. It has to be carried on the back of the competitor in an elastic harness. GPS tracking will be used for live TV-production, arena production on the big video screen and live on-line transmission. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the info point in quarantine well in advance. Please keep the vest for all the week.

10.7. CONTROLS

All controls are on wooden stands or yellow sticks. There is one punching unit at each control, placed in the middle of a wooden stand and equipped with a

control flag. At certain TV-controls, there will be two wooden stands, but only one of these will have a control flag and the other will have advertisement boards (like in the World Cup in Sweden in May 2026). The exact design with the punching unit will be demonstrated at the Model Event on 6th July.

10.8. CLOTHING

No restrictions.

10.9. NEW COMPETITION MAPS

Competition maps will only be collected at the finish, if there is supposed to be a problem with the map or the runner's result. Competition maps for runners not running the actual race and team officials will be handed out distributed by country at the Event Office; on Saturday maps will only be handed out, when returning all borrowed items to the organizers.

10.10. START NUMBER BIBS

Number bibs will be handed out at the info point of the Quarantine Zone of each race. Two number bibs are provided, they must be placed visibly on both chest and back and must not be folded or cut. The size of the bibs is 24 x 21 cm. Safety pins will be provided, but please re-use them from race to race.

10.11. QUARANTINE

A quarantine zone is defined as a secure area where communication with the outside world by any person in the quarantine zone is forbidden. The quarantine zone consists of the quarantine itself, the warm-up area, pre-start areas, start areas, and any connecting routes in between. Competitors are considered in quarantine once they have checked in and until they reach the finish of the race.

Upon arrival at the quarantine, competitors and team officials must check in by showing their accreditation card and sign the list before the quarantine closes. No one will be allowed to check in after the deadline.

All quarantines offer covered areas (a building and/or tents), in the quarantine for the KO Rounds and the Sprint Relay, setting up your own tent is not permitted. Toilets and water are available. There will be a clock showing the official competition time. Bags are transported to the team zone in the finish; competitors will leave their bags at the bag drop tent. The logistics of each

quarantine are described separately for every race, either in this Bulletin or at the respective Team Officials' Meeting.

All competitors are strongly advised to perform the SIAC battery test and in case of low battery indication, request a SIAC replacement at the quarantine info point.

Competitors and team officials can leave the quarantine at any time following the procedure of each competition; once they have left, they are not allowed to return.

Remember to respect the fairness rules when you are in quarantine:

- The use of mobile phones, computers or any other communication device inside the quarantine is strictly forbidden.
- All tents and rooms inside the quarantine must stay open so others can have a look inside.
- It is strictly forbidden to bring any electronic devices (except for watches) to toilets or any other private room, no matter if the device is turned on or not.
- It is allowed to use music players without any built-in connectivity. Competitors wearing headphones might be randomly asked to display their players for checking.
- It is not allowed to bring any map into the quarantine zone, unless provided by the organizers.
- Team officials are not allowed to follow the competitors beyond the pre-start/call-up at any competitions.

For specific details, see descriptions in each race's section.

10.12. PRE-START AND START

For specific details, see descriptions in each race's section.

The detailed start procedure will only be presented at the respective Team Officials' Meetings.

10.13. LATE START

IOF Rule 22.9: Competitors who are late for their start time must be permitted to start. Their new start time must be recorded.

- In a mass or chasing start, the competitor must be started as soon as possible.
- In an interval start, if the competitor is at the start line less than half the start interval after their start time, they must start immediately.
- In an interval start, if the competitor is at the start line more than half the start interval after their start time, they must start at the next available half start interval.

IOF Rule 22.10.: Competitors who are late for their start time through no fault of the organiser must be timed as if they had started at their original start time. Competitors who are late for their start time through the fault of the organiser must be timed from their new start time.

10.14. TRAFFIC

Parts of the race areas will be closed for traffic. Drive-in is not possible whereas drive-out is always possible. Local traffic will still occur within the closed areas.

Cars can leave the closed areas and traffic guards will guide and regulate the local traffic inside the areas.

10.15. COACHING ZONE

Due to limited space in the arena, no dedicated coaching zones will be arranged.

10.16. LAST CONTROL TO FINISH

Competitors must follow the marked route from the last control to the finish.

10.17. COOL DOWN AREA AND TEAM ZONES

The team zone will be a reserved area in proximity of the finish, only athletes and coaches will be allowed to enter. Team tents are not allowed in the arena.

Cooling down is only allowed in the Team Zone and in the areas indicated on the cool down maps, available after finishing.

It is forbidden for team members to re-enter the competition area until the embargo is lifted.

10.18. ABANDONING A RACE

Athletes who abandon a race must report to the finish staff and hand in their competition maps. A retiring athlete may not influence any other competitor.

10.19. MEDIA CONTROLS

Athletes may meet TV staff or journalists/photographers near control points, not marked in the control description. All controls are guarded by the organizers.

Directly after each final race is decided, the TV-production needs to perform a short winner interview live at a certain time. The athletes will be met by IOF staff and guided to the interview position.

10.20. CEREMONIES

Flower Ceremony

Only a few minutes after the conclusion of the finals race, there will be a flower ceremony for the best 3 athletes/teams on the stage with live broadcasting on TV. Please be ready for this award if you are in the top 3.

Medal ceremonies

Athletes/teams ranked on positions 1 – 6 are kindly requested to line up behind the stage 10 minutes prior to the medal ceremonies. It's the athletes' responsibility to be there on time.

Athletes taking part in the medal ceremony should wear their national team uniform.

10.21. FAIR PLAY GUIDELINE

The IOF, organizers and referees have agreed on additional principles when making decisions on race incidents at this event. The overarching principle is that a competitor must not take any action intended to obstruct another competitor. The Sprint Fair Play Guidelines can be downloaded from the [IOF Competition Rules](#) website.

10.22. REFEREE SYSTEM

The IOF Foot-O referee system (<https://orienteering.sport/orienteering/competition-rules/>) will be used for all races.

The referees at the event are Helge Lang Pedersen (DEN, main referee) and Jon Cross (GBR, assistant referee). At least one referee will be available in the finish tent during the races.

The organiser has the right to disqualify athletes for rule violations such as punching incorrectly or crossing a feature that is forbidden to cross. When this happens, it is the task of the organiser to explain the reason for disqualification to the athlete and/or team official. The referees can also make disqualifications directly. Complaints against the decision of the organiser can be made directly to the referees in the finish tent. The decision of the referees is final, even if they make the initial decision.

10.23. CLIMATE AND HAZARDS

Average temperature in Genova in July is between 21° and 27° C with a humidity of 70% and low probability of raining.

Summer thunderstorms may occur.

Please make sure that you are always properly hydrated.

10.24. SAFETY INFORMATION

Weather Information

Weather conditions in Genova may vary throughout the day, especially in July. Updated information on temperature and humidity will be provided daily at the Event Centre and communicated during the Team Officials' Meetings. Teams are encouraged to take these updates into account when planning warm-up routines and hydration.

Overall behaviours

The competitions take place in a complex urban environment characterised by narrow alleys, stairways, irregular pavements and blind corners. Athletes must

remain attentive, respect pedestrians and local activities, and reduce speed in crowded or sensitive areas. The instructions of volunteers must be always followed. Some areas are open to the traffic; athletes must take care to the vehicles.

Personal safety

Personal safety is paramount. In case of injury, whether involving oneself, with other competitor or others, athletes must stop immediately and report the situation to the nearest volunteer. Any behaviour that may create unnecessary risk is strictly forbidden.

Environment

Participants are also reminded to respect the environment and the urban setting hosting the Championships. Waste must not be left in the terrain, private property must not be entered, and all public spaces must be treated with care to ensure that the event leaves no impact on the city beyond the competition itself.

11. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

11.1. MAPS

The competition maps are drawn by Samuele Curzio in 2026 in accordance with ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024.

Scale 1:4000, contour interval 2.5 m.

The maps are printed by digital printing on waterproof paper (Teslin). They will not be put in plastic bags. The maps are printed by DBS - Rasai (same as all the training maps provided by the organizer.).

11.2. ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS

Artificial barriers will be installed in the race areas.



They are created with **IOF tape at the ground level** (white 7.5 cm wide plastic printed with the logos of IOF), with or without cones at edges; they are marked on the map by a 1 mm thick purple line (**Symbol 708**). mostly accompanied by an Out-of-bounds area (**709**) on the back side.

On roads with traffic, guards will be present to let vehicles pass through the barrier. There will also be gaps without tape for pedestrians, where needed, but these will be small and arranged in a way that they will not influence the overall visibility of the barrier for the arriving

athlete.

The artificial barriers are always easy to identify on the competition maps.

11.3. SPECIAL SYMBOLS

Magnetic north line (symbol no. 601) is drawn in blue colour.



Symbol 530 is used also for beach flags like the one in the picture, all the controls on a symbol 530 will be on a beach flag.



501. Paved area 50% (dark brown)

This symbol is used in three different situations: roads with heavy motor vehicle traffic, streets or areas where the number of pedestrians and tourists may be very high, and parking areas where numerous vehicles are usually present. Passage between parked cars is not forbidden, but it may be difficult and slow.

In all cases, no route choices or crossing situations are planned where this symbol should be interpreted as a significant factor for navigation or route choice. Its purpose is simply to inform competitors about specific conditions they may encounter along their route.



11.4. OUT-OF-BOUNDS AREAS AND BOUNDARIES

Out-of-bounds areas, such as Area that shall not be entered (520), Uncrossable body of water (301), Uncrossable vegetation (411) and various uncrossable boundaries [e.g., Uncrossable wall (515) and Uncrossable fence or railing (518)] may be marked with continuous IOF tape in the terrain in cases where they are difficult to distinguish in the terrain. The tape around out-of-bounds areas will be mounted at the height of 70 cm, when needed in the areas where it's diffuse.



Permanent outdoor serving areas (on a seasonal basis) are marked on the map with the symbol Temporary construction or closed area (714).

In other places, the symbol is used to mark other temporary closed areas, such as construction sites or parked motorbikes.

All areas marked with the symbol 714 are forbidden to enter and cross through. They will

sometimes be marked with IOF tape by the organizers.

11.5. OTHER ISSUES

Small fences - bollards



Along some narrow streets and alleys, there are bollards that may partially slow down passage. They are typically constructed as small fenced barriers, as shown in the picture, and do not completely block movement. Their purpose is to prevent cars, bicycles and motorcycles from entering certain streets and to improve safety at some

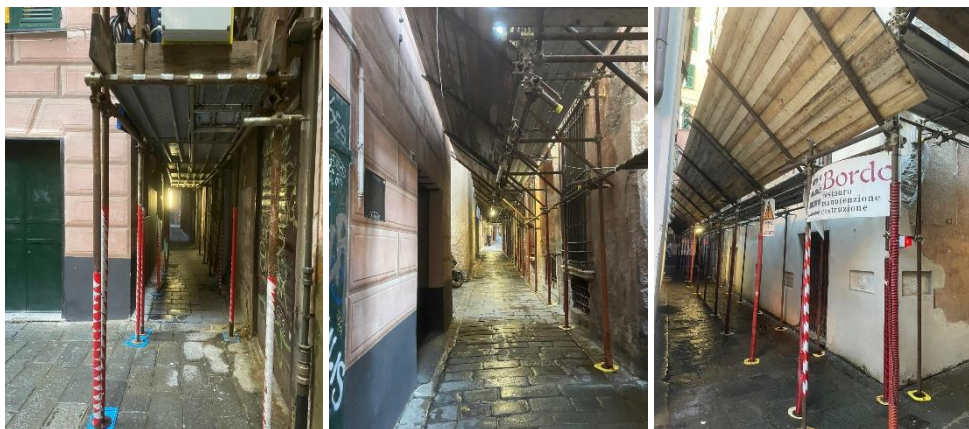
intersections. These features have not been mapped and they do not affect route-choice decisions.



Along the course, on some of the main streets, competitors may encounter barriers that are used to restrict vehicle access to the competition areas. These barriers are not mapped, as their exact locations cannot be guaranteed in advance. However, they are clearly non-intrusive in terms of navigation and competitor movement, and they will not create any difficulties for runners passing through on foot.

Scaffolding structures

In some streets there are scaffolding structures and small construction sites which may make passage slightly more difficult but do not block it. These structures are typically positioned along the building walls and generally appear as illustrated in the photos. They are not mapped in any way, as they do not obstruct passage and, in the narrower streets (caruggi), they may even resemble an arcade or covered walkway from the competitor's perspective.



11.6. MODEL EVENTS

We will offer two model events in relevant areas for competitions, Monday, 6th July in Sestri Ponente West and Wednesday, 8th July in Genova Porta Principe. They are new areas mapped by the WOC cartographer Samuele Curzio and digitally printed on Teslin, just like the competition maps.

Model event maps will be handed out at the accreditation.

It is possible to visit the model event area outside of the above mentioned times from the 6th of July, but controls, barriers and tapes will not be in place.

Sestri Ponente West, Monday 6th July

Parking (free): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fhKCUTJU24nr6GVx6>
 Map 1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)
 Mapper Samuele Curzio
 Course all controls map (Alessio Tenani / Marcello Lambertini)
 Time 10.00-17.00
 Technical Model event 10.00-12.00

Orienteering flags + SI units are on controls. Session is timed, you can read out your SI-card at the finish. Start and Finish procedure is presented as they will be built up for the competitions (only between 10.00-12.00). The area surrounding the Technical Model Event includes examples of some of the situations described in the bulletin, as well as an artificial barrier and a black circle with a control.

Near the finish there is a bar with a toilet (10.00-12.00, 15.00-18.00).

Genova Porta Principe, Wednesday 8th July

Parking (toll): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/NpLugoX2qQUUUueT9>
 Map 1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)
 Mapper Samuele Curzio
 Course all controls map (Alessio Tenani / Marcello Lambertini)
 Time 10.00-17.00

Orienteering flags on controls. No SI units, tapes or any additional marking of forbidden features are installed.

12. SPRINT QUALIFICATION, Tuesday

7th July 2026

Arena

Sestri Ponente – Piazza Baracca

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FL5kQbBxyBpqioQ37>

Arena opens at 8.30. No team member or related person is allowed to enter the arena before 8.30.

Format

Sprint competition with individual start. Both men's and women's classes have three heats. The starting order is based on the order of the Sprint World Ranking as published at 12 noon on 6th July (best ranked start first).

Participation

According to IOF Competition Rule 6.7. Every Federation may enter up to 3 women and 3 men and, in addition, the current World Champions in Sprint and the current Regional Champions in Sprint may be entered to the Qualification race.

First start

9.00 Men – 10.15 Women. Start interval: 90 seconds.

Access to the quarantine and parking

The location for the parking (free) of the quarantine is available on the embargoed area map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y77fahJ6HF4yyxqx7>

The walking distance between the parking and the quarantine is 1100 m (around 15 minutes); please follow signs.

Quarantine: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/vgyoYYkQc8vHtSTf9>

If the teams have heavy items to bring to the quarantine area, a shuttle van will be available to transport the equipment. It will depart from the parking at 7.45.

Quarantine

Quarantine opens at 7.30 and closes at 8.30. It offers an indoor room, tents, toilets, drinking water and a bar (payment only by cash). Teams own tents are

allowed to set up, but must stay open. Number bibs can be picked up at the quarantine info point.

GPS units will be distributed during the start procedure. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the quarantine info point well in advance.

Check-in

By signing-in at the quarantine at latest at 8.30.

Team officials

Team officials can enter the quarantine before the 8.30 deadline. Then they can leave it at any time, checking out at the quarantine entrance; the arena is within walking distance, following the signs.

Clothes

Bags will be transported from the quarantine to the team zone in the arena. Please leave your labelled bag at the bag drop in the quarantine. Please limit the size of your bags to avoid heavy transport.

Warm-up map

One warm-up map for both the Sprint Qualification and Final races is available at the quarantine info point. Competitors can warm up in the area shown on the map only.

Pre-start

Distance from the quarantine info point to call-up is 30 meters. Team officials are not allowed to follow the athletes beyond pre-start/call-up.

Detailed start procedure

Competitors will enter the call-up between 5 and 20 minutes (exact time presented at TOM) before their start: here the number bib will be checked and a GPS will be handed out.

Emergency toilet is available.

At -2'00" loose control description will be available.

In the last start box, maps will be released by an official at the sound of the start signal.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 30 meters from the start line; follow the marked route.

Sprint World Orienteering Championships, 2026

Control description

Loose control descriptions will be handed out at the pre-start (-2'00"). They are also printed on the map.

Terrain

95-100% paved – 0-5% soft surface

The terrain is a combination of flat old-town pedestrian streets with high runnability and residential areas with steep slopes and complex orienteering patterns, due to urban parks, narrow stairways and intricate passages.

Map

1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)

Mapper: Samuele Curzio

Format: A4

Course information

Course setter: Alessio Tenani

Controller: Marcello Lambertini

Winning time: 13 minutes

Maximum running time: 50 minutes

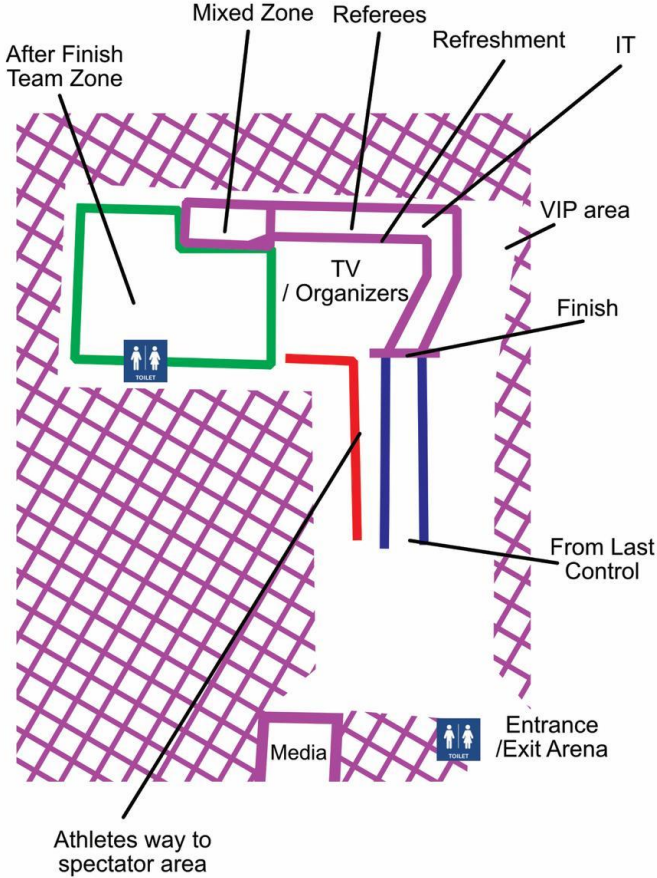
Finish

It is not allowed for teams to visit the finish area before their start and it is not allowed for coaches to go to the quarantine / start / pre-start area if they have been at the finish area.

Cool-down zone

It is only allowed to run in the area indicated on the cool-down map available at the finish. You are allowed to leave the arena, but only using the route marked on the embargoed area map.

Arena layout



13. SPRINT FINAL, Tuesday 7th July 2026

Arena

Sestri Ponente – Piazza Baracca

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/FL5kQbBxyBpqioQ37>

Format

Sprint competition with individual start, based on the results of the morning's qualification race. The starting order of the final is the reverse of the placings in the qualification race heats; the best competitors start last. See IOF Competition Rule 12.11. for more information.

Participation

Competitors placed 15 and better in each of the morning's qualification races qualify for the final.

First start (planned)

14.05 Men – 15.27 Women. Start interval: 90 seconds.

Access to the quarantine and parking

The location for the parking (free) of the quarantine is available on the embargoed area map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Y77fahJ6HF4yyxqx7>

Competitors and team officials can walk directly from the arena to the quarantine, following signs; the walking distance is 650 m (around 10' walking).

Alternatively they can walk to the quarantine from the parking area: The walking distance between the parking and the quarantine is 1100 m (around 15 minutes); please follow signs.

Quarantine: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/vgyoYYkQc8vHtSTf9>

Quarantine

Quarantine opens at 11.15 and closes at 13.00. It offers an indoor room, tents, toilets, drinking water and a bar (payment only by cash). Teams own tents are allowed to set up, but must stay open. Number bibs can be picked up at the quarantine info point.

GPS units will be distributed during the start procedure. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the quarantine info point well in advance.

Check-in

By signing-in at the quarantine at latest at 13.00.

Team officials

Team officials can enter the quarantine before 13.00. Then they can leave it at any time, checking out at the quarantine entrance; the arena is within walking distance, following the signs.

Clothes

Bags will be transported from the quarantine to the team zone in the arena. Please leave your labelled bag at the bag drop in the quarantine. Please limit the size of your bags to avoid heavy transport.

Warm-up map

One warm-up map for both Sprint Qualification and Final races is available at the quarantine info point. Competitors can warm up in the area shown on the map only. Please reuse your warm-up map from the morning.

Pre-start

Distance from the quarantine info point to call up is 30 meters. Team officials are not allowed to follow the athletes beyond pre-start/call-up.

Detailed start procedure

Competitors will enter the call-up between 5 and 20 minutes (exact time presented at TOM) before their start: here the number bib will be checked and a GPS will be handed out.

Emergency toilet is available.

At -3'00" loose control description will be available.

In the last start box, maps will be released by an official at the sound of the start signal.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 40 meters from the start line; follow the marked route.

Control description

Loose control descriptions will be handed out at the pre-start (-3'00"). They are also printed on the map.

Terrain

95-100% paved – 0-5% soft surface

The terrain is a combination of flat old-town pedestrian streets with high runnability and residential areas with steep slopes and complex orienteering patterns, due to urban parks, narrow stairways and intricate passages.

Map

1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)

Mapper: Samuele Curzio

Format: A4

Course information

Course setter: Alessio Tenani

Controller: Marcello Lambertini

Winning time: 14 minutes

Maximum running time: 50 minutes

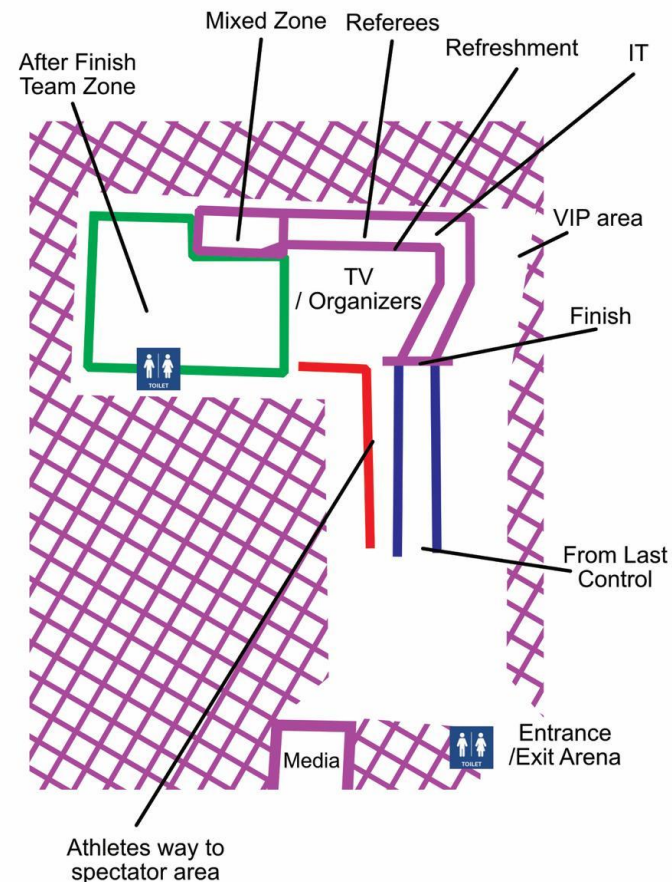
Cool-down zone

It is only allowed to run in the area indicated on the cool-down map available at the finish. You are allowed to leave the arena before the competition ends, but only using the route marked on the embargoed area map.

Change of the embargoed area

After the last competitor finished in the WOC Sprint Final, the area West of the Torrente Chiaravagna (the river in the middle of the Sestri Ponente embargoed area) is lifted from the embargo.

Arena layout



14. KNOCK-OUT SPRINT

QUALIFICATION, Thursday 9th July 2026

Arena

Sestri Ponente – Campo sportivo ex Corderia

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Vdpvs2wTK7fwp97y6>

Arena opens at 8.45. No team member or related person is allowed to enter the arena before this time.

Format

Sprint competition with individual start. Both men's and women's classes have three heats. The starting order is based on the order of the Sprint World Ranking as published at 12 noon on 6th July (best ranked start first).

Participation

According to IOF Competition Rule 6.7., every Federation may enter up to 3 women and 3 men and, in addition, the current World Champions in Knock-Out Sprint and the current Regional Champions in Knock-Out Sprint may be entered to the Qualification race. As Asia and South America does not hold a Knock-Out Sprint competition, their current Champions in Sprint may be entered to the Qualification race.

First start

9.00 Women – 10.15 Men. Start interval: 90 seconds

Access to the quarantine and parking

The location for the parking (free) of the quarantine is available on the embargoed area map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/c5QF7Js8jwSCGTT59>. Teams can also park on the road alongside the park (via Melen), displaying the permit collected at the accreditation.

The walking distance between the parking and the quarantine is around 5 minutes; please follow signs.

Quarantine

Quarantine opens at 7.30 and closes at 8.45. It offers tents, toilets and drinking

water. Teams own tents are allowed to set up, but must stay open. Number bibs can be picked up at the quarantine info point.

GPS units will be distributed during the start procedure. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the quarantine info point well in advance.

Check-in

By signing-in at the quarantine at latest at 8.45.

Team officials

Team officials can enter the quarantine before 8.45. Then they can leave it at any time, checking out at the quarantine entrance. The arena can be reached alternatively by own car, following the route outside the embargoed area that will be presented at the TOM, or by joining the luggage transport car provided by the organizers.

Clothes

Bags will be transported from the quarantine to the team zone in the arena. Please leave your labelled bag at the bag drop in the quarantine. Please limit the size of your bags to avoid heavy transport.

Warm-up map

A warm-up map is available at the quarantine info point. Competitors can warm up in the area shown on the map only.

Pre-start

Distance from the quarantine info point to call up is 200 meters. Team officials are not allowed to follow the athletes beyond pre-start/call-up.

Detailed start procedure

Competitors will enter the call-up between 5 and 20 minutes (exact time presented at TOM) before their start: here the number bib will be checked and a GPS will be handed out.

At -1'30" loose control description will be available.

In the last start box, maps will be released by an official at the sound of the start signal.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 40 meters from the start line; follow the marked route.

Sprint World Orienteering Championships, 2026

Control description

Loose control descriptions will be handed out at the pre-start (-1'30"). They are also printed on the map.

Terrain

99% paved - 1% soft surface

The terrain is a residential neighbourhood with steep winding roads and complex orienteering patterns, due to narrow stairways, small green areas and intricate passages.

Map

1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)

Mapper: Samuele Curzio

Format: A4

Course information

Course setter: Alessio Tenani

Controller: Marcello Lambertini

Winning time: 9 minutes

Maximum running time: 30 minutes

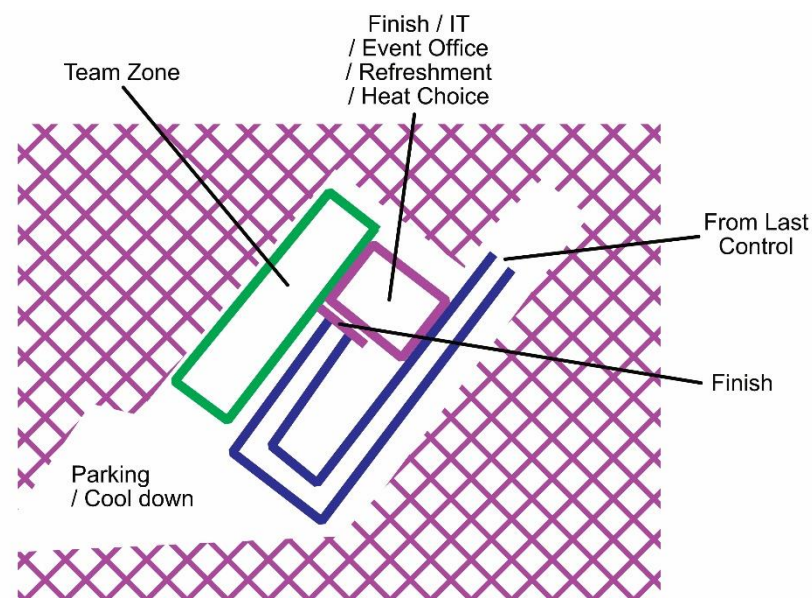
Finish

It is not allowed for teams to visit the finish area before their start and it is not allowed for coaches to go to the quarantine / start / pre-start area if you have been at the finish area.

Cool-down zone

It is only allowed to run in the area indicated on the cool-down map available at the finish. You are allowed to leave the arena, but only using the route marked on the embargoed area map.

Arena layout



Heat selection

The heat selection will take place in the arena right after the finish of the second race (approx. 11.45), beginning with the Women, followed by the Men). The qualified competitors (or their coaches) will be responsible for choosing their quarter-finals heat in the following order 7th → 12th (i.e. 3H3, 3H2, 3H1, 4H3, 4H2, 4H1), 6th → 1st (i.e. 2H1, 2H2, 2H3, 1H1, 1H2, 1H3) and 13th → 36th (i.e. 5H3, 5H2, 5H1, ... 12H1) based on the qualification results.

Change of the embargoed area

After the last competitor finished in the WOC Knock-Out Sprint Qualification race, the whole Sestri Ponente area is lifted from the embargo.

15. KNOCK-OUT SPRINT ROUNDS, Friday 10th July 2026

Arena

Genova – Piazza Matteotti

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kAwLydVf5BHyFrut7>

The arena opens at 12.15. No team member or related person is allowed to enter the arena before this time.

Format

The elimination rounds consist of 6 quarter finals, 3 semi-finals and 1 final per class with normally 6 runners in each heat. The top 3 from each heat of the quarter final and the top 2 from each heat of the semi-final qualify for the following round.

For all rounds, the courses may incorporate forking/splitting systems:

- No forking.
- Forking.
- «Course Choice Model» where each competitor picks one of three options. The controls of the Course Choice may be run in different stages of the race compared to how the options appear on the three course choice maps.

There will be no announcement in advance about which method is used in which round.

Participation

See IOF Competition Rule 12.24. The first 12 placed competitors in each qualification heat from the day before will qualify for the quarter-finals. The qualified competitors (or their coaches) will be responsible for choosing their quarter-finals heat right after the qualification race.

First starts

13.00 QF1 Women, further QFs every 6 minutes

13.36 QF1 Men, further QFs every 6 minutes

14.58 SF1 Women, further SFs every 12,5 minutes

15.36 SF1 Men, further SFs every 12 minutes

16.22 F Women

16.38 F Men

Access to the pre-race quarantine and parking

The location for the parking of the pre-race quarantine is available on the embargoed area map: “Autopark Piccapietra” (toll parking)

<https://share.google/Gv3UB2pOKRqyXbqNz>

The multilevel parking is just under the pre-race quarantine; please walk up the stairs to the ground level.

Pre-race Quarantine

Pre-race quarantine opens at 11.30 and closes at 12.15. Competitors are considered being in quarantine from their arrival at the pre-race quarantine for the Quarterfinal until they leave the competition when having been knocked out or after the final round.

The pre-race quarantine offers tents, toilets, drinking water and a bar. Teams' own tents are not allowed to set up. Number bibs can be picked up at the pre-race quarantine info point.

GPS units will be distributed during the start procedure. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the pre-race quarantine info point well in advance.

Check-in

By signing-in at the pre-race quarantine at latest at 12.15.

Team officials

Team officials can enter the pre-race quarantine before 12.15. Then they can leave it at any time, checking out at the bag drop tent and following a marked route to the finish area or to the after-finish quarantine. Once a team official has left the pre-race quarantine, they cannot go back to pre-race quarantine until all competitors leave it for that round. When athletes are called up in the after-finish quarantine for the next round, team officials can join their athletes walking towards the pre-race quarantine again.

Clothes

Bags will be transported from the pre-race quarantine to the after-finish

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quarantine. Please leave your labelled bag at the bag drop in the pre-race quarantine. Please limit the size of your bags to avoid heavy transport.

Warm-up map

A warm-up map is available in the pre-race quarantine info point. Competitors can warm up in the area shown on the map only.

Pre-start

Distance from the quarantine info point to call up is 50 meters. Team officials are not allowed to follow the athletes beyond pre-start/call-up.

Detailed start procedure

Competitors will enter the call-up between 5 and 20 minutes (exact time and a detailed scheme will be presented at TOM) before their start at Quarterfinal, Semifinal and Final; here the number bib will be checked and a GPS will be handed out.

Competitors will be then guided to the start area by WOC officials, whose instructions shall be followed.

There will be an emergency toilet near the start.

Before the last start box, competitors will be arranged in the correct order and, in the case of a course choice: 1) 3 choices are shown for 20 seconds; 2) the runner chooses a course (letters A/B/C); 3) the runner picks up the chosen map (rolled); 4) the runner proceeds to the start position. At the sound of the start signal, competitors are allowed to unfold the maps.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 60 meters from the start line; follow the marked route.

Control description

Only on the map.

Terrain

Mostly paved, up to 3% soft surface.

The terrain features the historical city centre of Genova with a grid of narrow, hard to navigate streets (caruggi), and its hilly surroundings with parks and green areas, irregular road patterns and very steep slopes which create interesting route choices.

Map

1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)

Mapper: Samuele Curzio

Format: A5

In all rounds, a map flip may occur. After ending at the control on one side of the map, the course continues with a new start triangle (symbol 715) on the map on the back side. Numbering of controls is always continuous. The first map is always facing down at the start.

Course information

Course setter: Alessio Tenani

Controller: Marcello Lambertini

Winning time: QF 6'30" men, 7' women / SF 7'30" men, 8' women / F 7' men, 7'30" women

Maximum running time: 15 minutes

Finish

There is an after-finish quarantine (AFQ). After the finish of each race, competitors will be escorted from the finish to AFQ, where they will find the bag pick-up, toilets, water and the cool-down zone.

After all the quarter finals, competitors who have qualified for the next round will be escorted from AFQ to the same pre-race quarantine they used for the Quarterfinals.

After the Semifinals, they will remain in the AFQ, before the start of the finals.

If a competitor has not qualified for the next round, they will leave the competition by exiting from AFQ to the team zone. Once a competitor has left AFQ towards the team zone, they will not be allowed to re-enter any quarantine or the competition.

There are warm up and cool down areas in AFQ. These are small paved areas.

Cool-down zone

It is only allowed to run in the area indicated on the cool-down map available at the AFQ. You are allowed to leave the arena, but only using the route marked on the embargoed area map.

Change of the embargoed area

A slight adjustment of the embargoed area will be made after the races at midnight to allow participation at the spectator race on the next day.



Photo: Severin Müller

16. SPRINT RELAY, Saturday 11th July 2026

Arena

Genova – Piazza Matteotti

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kAwLydVf5BHyFrut7>

Arena opens at 14.40. No team member or related person is allowed to enter the arena between Friday 19.00 and Saturday 14.40.

Format

Sprint competition with mass start, relay format. One team consists of 4 team members, who run consecutively.

The start list will be set up according to the results of the Sprint WOC 2024 Sprint Relay competition.

Participation

Each Federation may enter one team consisting of 4 team members of whom at least two must be women. The first and last legs must be run by women.

Incomplete teams and teams with competitors from more than one Federation are not allowed. Under no circumstances may persons other than accredited competitors participate in the competition.

Mass Start

15.38

Access to the quarantine and parking

The location for the parking of the quarantine is available on the embargoed area map: “Autopark Piccapietra” (toll parking)

<https://share.google/Gv3UB2pOKRqyXbqNz>

The multilevel parking is just under the quarantine; please walk up the stairs to the ground level.

Quarantine

Quarantine opens at 14.00 and closes at 14.40. It offers tents, toilets and drinking water. Teams’ own tents are not allowed to set up. Number bibs can be picked up at the quarantine info point.

GPS units will be distributed just before call-up. Competitors are encouraged to use their own GPS vests; otherwise they can collect one at the quarantine info point well in advance.

Check-in

By signing-in at the quarantine at latest at 14.40.

Team officials

Team officials can enter the quarantine before 14.40. Then they can leave it at any time, checking out at the bag drop tent and following a marked route to the arena. They can't re-enter the quarantine after 14.40.

Clothes

Bags will be transported from the quarantine to the team zone in the arena. Please leave your labelled bag at the bag drop in the quarantine. Please limit the size of your bags to avoid heavy transport.

Warm-up map

A warm-up map is available at the quarantine info point. Competitors can warm up in the area shown on the map only.

Pre-start

Distance from the quarantine info point to call-up is 50 meters. Team officials are not allowed to follow the athletes beyond pre-start/call-up.

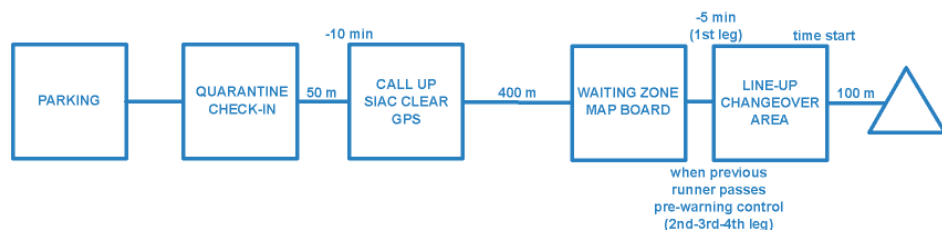
Detailed start procedure

Competitors will enter the call-up 10 minutes before the 1st leg start (at 15:28): here the number bib will be checked and SIAC will be cleared and checked.

Competitors will then be escorted to the waiting zone in the arena, where they will take their rolled map from a map board, without unfolding it. In the waiting zone there will be very limited space for warm up; 2 emergency toilets will be available upon request to organizers (without map!).

Competitors will move from the waiting zone to line-up when requested by the Start Director; start will be given by a start signal. Competitors are allowed to open the rolled map immediately after the start signal.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 100 meters from the start line; follow the marked route.



Control description

Only on the map.

Terrain

99% paved - 1% soft surface

The terrain features the historical city centre of Genova with a grid of narrow, hard to navigate streets (caruggi), and its hilly surroundings with parks and green areas, irregular road patterns and very steep slopes, which create interesting route choices.

Map

1:4000, 2.5 m, 2026 (ISSprOM 2019-2 version 2024)

Mapper: Samuele Curzio

Format: A4

Course information

Course setter: Alessio Tenani

Controller: Marcello Lambertini

Winning time: 60 minutes (15 minutes per leg)

Maximum running time: 120 minutes

Change-over

Competitors will enter the call-up 10 minutes before the first expected change over: here the number bib will be checked and SIAC will be cleared and checked.

LEG	CALL-UP TIME
2	15:43
3	15:58
4	16:13

All competitors of a certain leg will be then escorted to the waiting zone in the arena together, where they will take their rolled map from a map board, without unfolding it. In the waiting zone there will be very limited space for warm up; 2 emergency toilets will be available upon request to organizers (without map!).

At the change-over of the 2nd – 3rd – 4th leg, competitors will move from the waiting zone to the change-over area, when the previous leg runner passes through the prewarning radio control; in the waiting zone competitors can see prewarning times on a TV screen (approx. 3 minutes before the changeover). Competitors will step to the change-over barrier when they can see their teammate coming from the last control; the change-over will take place by hand touch after crossing the finish line. The outgoing runner is allowed to open the rolled map immediately after the change-over.

The starting point is marked with a control flag located 100 meters from the start line.; follow the marked route.

A mass start for 2nd – 3rd – 4th leg runners of slower teams will take place if needed approximately at 16.48. The exact time will be announced 5 minutes beforehand in the waiting zone.

Finish

Finish time is given by the SIAC-card crossing the finish line. In case of a head-to-head run in, the finish judges will rule on the final placings based on the order that the competitors' chest crosses the finish line, based on the photo-finish. The running times will be rounded down to the nearest tenth of a second. Fourth leg runners will need to have the relay number written with a marker on the arm by the quarantine staff, in order to have it visible in the photo-finish picture.

Cool-down zone

It is only allowed to run in the area indicated on the cool-down map available at

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the finish. You are allowed to leave the arena, but only on the route marked on the embargoed area map. After the last runners finished their race, the embargo is lifted.

Participating in the spectator race on 11th July

Since the spectator race on 11th July will take place inside the embargoed area, special rules will be valid to those accredited WOC athletes and team officials who want to participate here.

Runners and team officials willing to enter the quarantine of the Sprint Relay race can not participate in the spectator race as the area is still embargoed.

A special WOC class will be available for those who are willing to run. Only 50 places will be available for € 10 ((payment only by cash), please bring your WOC accreditation card. Entry can only be done on the competition day in the 5-days arena at Piazza Caricamento, just across the street from the Acquario di Genova. The embargoed area will be slightly adjusted on 10th July at midnight to help access. Free start times with punching start. It is not allowed to run off the course during the competition. Passing on any information about the upcoming Sprint Relay competition is also forbidden.

More information can be obtained at the Team Officials' Meeting.



Photo: Genova OWC 2024



WOC26 x Oland Merchandise

We're proud to present the collaboration between the World Orienteering Championships 2026 (WOC26) and Oland Sport. Together, we are creating an exclusive collection of WOC26 merchandise that celebrates the passion, performance, and spirit of world-class orienteering.



Oland's design approach, together with the spirit of WOC26, brings a collection made for participants, supporters, and everyone connected to the event. The apparel represents the championship in a simple and functional way. Explore the WOC26 x OLAND collection on Oland's website and find your piece of the event.



1. Classic O-top
2. Running singlet
3. Headband
4. O-backpack
5. Bandana
6. Training vest

Browse the full range at - olandsport.com/woc26

17. SPECTATOR RACES

The "Five Days of Italy" will be organised during the days of the World Championships, with three forest races and two sprint races. The timing and the locations will then allow you to follow WOC live.



Programme:

- From Saturday, July 4th to Sunday, July 12th – Self Training (Campo Ligure)
- Sunday, July 5th – Prologue Sprint (Sassello) – Model Event forest (Monte Beigua)
- Monday, July 6th – 1st Stage Long distance (Monte Beigua)
- Tuesday, July 7th – 2nd Stage Sprint (Pegli, Genova)
- Wednesday, July 8th – Orienteering & Tourism (Riomaggiore – Cinque Terre)
- Thursday, July 9th – 3rd Stage Middle distance (Passo del Faiallo and Urbe)
- Friday, July 10th – 4th Stage Middle distance (Piani di Praglia – Cerasesi)
- Saturday, July 11th – 5th Stage Sprint (Porto Antico, Genova)
- Sunday, July 12th – Free trainings on the WOC course

For further information check woc2026.com/2026-5-giorni-italia-orienteering-five-days-of-apennines-3rd-edition/ / e-mail spectator.races@woc2026.it

A Spectator bulletin for WOC 2026 is published on the website.

18. MEDIA, VIP AND IOF FAMILY

18.1. MEDIA

Accreditation

The deadline for application for media accreditation was 15 June 2026. Accreditation is only valid after confirmation of acceptance by the WOC 2026 Media Operations Manager. Accreditation will take place at the Media Centre in the arenas. A WOC 2026 ID card will be issued at accreditation and must be always worn at the race venues.

Media services

Accredited media personnel will have access to a Media Centre at or near each final arena.

Services for media will include:

- Facilities for working, including wireless internet access (fair usage policies apply)
- Displays showing the broadcast/arena TV production
- Race maps
- Start lists and results
- Coffee and tea
- Access to the photo and media zones
- Managed access to the mixed zone

There will be no car parking for media at race arenas. We are asking everyone to use public transport to get about within Genova.

Press conferences

Moderated press conferences will be held at the arenas directly after the medal ceremonies. Press conferences will be held in English. The three best teams or competitors in every competition will be interviewed.

18.2. VIP & IOF FAMILY

Accreditation

VIP accreditation is by invitation only. The deadline for IOF Family and IOF Guest registrations was 20 June 2026, but limited IOF Family places are still available

for a late registration fee of 80 EUR. Registration is not valid unless payment has been made. Accreditation will take place at the WOC Event Office during published opening hours or at the race arenas. A WOC 2026 ID card will be issued at accreditation and must be always worn at the race venues.

IOF Family & IOF Guest facilities

At the Sprint Qualification and Knock-Out Sprint Qualification races, there is no dedicated space for IOF Family or IOF Guests. Free copies of the race maps can be collected from the WOC 2026 merchandise stall after quarantine closes, by showing IOF Family or IOF Guest accreditation. At the Sprint Final, Knock-Out Sprint Finals and the Sprint Relay, there will be an IOF Family point, where IOF Family and IOF Guests can meet, collect race maps and basic catering.

18.3. VIP, MEDIA & IOF FAMILY RACE

The VIP, Media and IOF Family Race will take place on Saturday 11 July. Registration and starts will be between 10:00 and 11:00 CEST, at the arena of the 5 Days of Italy in Genova's Porto Antico, 1km from the Event Centre. There will be two urban courses (Short and Long). Full details will be available at accreditation.

SEE YOU IN GENOVA!

*we're waiting
for you*

 @wocgenova2026  @woc2026

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