

Types of Event

There are four levels of orienteering events: A, B, C and D. These levels indicate the purpose of the event, and all levels can involve different types of orienteering, eg. score, urban, relay.

- **Level A** events are the big events where the main purpose is serious competition – national championships and the like.
- **Level B** events are intended for more experienced orienteers who want a high level of competition and are prepared to travel long distances for it.
- **Level C** events provide opportunity to orienteer in a variety of terrains without travelling excessively far.
- **Level D** events are the local ones where enjoyment is key.

Level D events (Local Events):

The first events you attend are likely to be fairly low-key events, close to where you live, with plenty of club members around to help you.

A few courses will be available, usually selected from the table shown under Level C events.

Sometimes local events offer unconventional competition formats, or coaching and training activities.

Level C events:

These also use the colour coding system, and usually offer most of the range of courses shown below, with the hard courses being genuinely hard. If you're not sure about which course to choose, ask one of the organisers, or another club member.

Colour	Approximate Length (km)	Technical Difficulty (TD)
White	1.0 – 1.9	TD 1: Easy
Yellow	2.0 – 2.9	TD 2: Easy
Orange	2.5 – 3.5	TD 3: Medium
Long Orange	5.0 - 7.0	
Light Green	3.0 - 4.0	TD 4: Medium to Hard
Green	3.5 - 5.0	TD 5: Hard
Blue	5.5 - 7.5	
Brown	8.0 - 12.0	
Black	10.0 - 14.0	

Some events might offer short variations of some colours, eg. Short Blue, Short Green or even Short Brown.

In some areas it isn't possible to plan courses that present the hardest level of technical difficulty, but you should be told if this is the case. (Otherwise you could get a bit of a surprise when you go to an event in an area where they really can make it hard!)

These events will usually attract people from further afield, so there will be more people around. Sometimes leagues are organised across a number of events at this grade.

Non-members are welcome at these events but you might find that as a non-member you are asked to pay a higher entry fee than you would if you were a member of a club.

Level B events:

Many top club orienteers enjoy the greater level of competition available at Level B events, where they can run against people of their own age from across Scotland. Colour-coded courses are allocated to the age groups, for those who want to run competitively, but you can still choose whatever course suits you.

As with Grade C events, you don't have to be a member, but you will probably enjoy it more and do better if you join a club and go along with your clubmates.

Level A – National or Championship Events

Everyone competes in their age classes determined by their age on 31st December each year. For example, an M12 is a boy who will be 12 or under on 31st December. The youngest age group is M10. Juniors may compete in an A or B class (where B will be shorter and easier than the A class).

Adults aged 21-34 run in the open M or W21 class, and there are 5-year age bands for competitors aged 35 and above, eg. M40, W55. These classes usually offer Long or Short courses.

6 Day Event/Multi-day events

In alternate years (2011, 2013 etc.) there's the Scottish 6 Day event – a series of six Level 2 events which make a wonderful orienteering holiday for all the family. You'll meet orienteers from all over the world at these events, and enjoy some of the best orienteering you can imagine.

Other parts of Britain also host multi-day events, such as the Lake District and Wales (Croeso).

Jamie Stevenson

Jamie Stevenson was one of Scotland's top international orienteers (he retired from international competition in 2009), and the Scottish Junior Inter-Club competition is named after him. Juniors of all ages and all standards enjoy taking part in this annual event, which might be your first opportunity to represent your club in a team competition.

Relay Events

In most relay events, 3, 4 or sometimes more people compete together as a team – one handing over to the other. The start is normally a mass start (all teams start together). There are different rules for specific relay events.

There are separate classes for junior teams, and these events are very exciting and great fun.

Score Events

In a score event each control is worth a number of points. You decide which controls to visit and in what order, then go to as many controls as you can in a set time. There is normally a penalty of 10 points per minute if you are out for longer than the set time.

Night Events

Orienteering in the dark – for the more adventurous! You'll need a good headtorch! This form of orienteering is considered one of the most technically challenging, so it isn't recommended for beginners.