

Control descriptions using symbols

Symbols are used for control descriptions so we don't have to worry about reading difficult words.

For adults, these control descriptions sometimes look very confusing, but junior courses only use a few symbols. These notes will help you understand them, and you can learn more when you're ready.

Your control descriptions might look like this:

Santa Sprint 24/12/08						
course 2		2.4km			60m	
1	35	/	/	×		
2	42	/	/	∨		
3	64	■			┌	
4	111	↗			<	
5	52	↗	↗	∨		
6	114	▲			◦	
7	61	○			ḡ	
8	34	⋈				
9	72	⋈				
○< ---200m--- >◎						
courses close at 15:30						

Count the columns from the left... did you get 8?

The first two columns hold the sequence number and the control code. So what's the code for the first control?

You won't normally have anything in column 3.

10/08

Column 4 describes the main feature that your control is on. You're most likely to have one of these:

Path	↗
Road or track	/
Building	■
Wall	↗
Fence	↗
Boulder	▲
Hill	○
Single tree	⋈
Gate	⋈
Depression	⊖
Thicket	⊗
Forest corner	↙
Clearing	⊙
Pond	☪
Marsh	≡
Stream	~
Ride	⋈
Ruin	□
Tower	T

All these symbols can also be in column 5 if the control site has two main features. So now we know that our first control is number 35 and there are two tracks.

Then we can have a symbol in column 6 such as:

Crossing	×
Junction	∨

So control number 1 is a crossing of two tracks. Now you can work out what number 2 is.

Column 7 tells us where on the feature the control is placed. You might see these symbols here:

on top	ḡ
on the bend	<

or something that just shows which side to look:

on the north side	◦
at the northeast corner	┌

Now you can work out all your controls – what a lot of words for just a few symbols!

The bit with **200m** in the middle tells you how far it is from the last control to the finish (it's usually taped).

And the last bit tells you when courses close.

You'll notice that most of these symbols are like the symbols on the map, which makes it all quite easy.

From time to time symbols might be added, deleted or changed.

Check the IOF website for the latest version of the full information: www.iof.com and the SOA website for updates to this sheet: www.scottish-orienteering.org

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