



**Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club (ESOC)  
and the  
British Schools Orienteering Association  
present the  
BRITISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING  
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Hopetoun House Estate, South Queensferry**

This weekend's events are being staged in Scotland by Edinburgh Southern Orienteering Club, the Scottish Orienteering Association and the British Schools Orienteering Association.

These event details should be read in conjunction with the rules for this event found under National Competitions at [www.bsoa.org](http://www.bsoa.org)

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## BRITISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

**Sunday 16th November 2025 at Hopetoun House Estate, South Queensferry, near Edinburgh**

### FINAL DETAILS

#### Event officials

General Enquiries: Before the event to Melanie Elkington [bsoasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bsoasecretary@gmail.com) Tel no. 01926 854639 (9am to 9pm)

Organisers: Emma Anderson and Jayne MacGregor (ESOC)

Planner: Martin Caldwell (ESOC)

Controller: Terry O'Brien BEM (STAG)

#### Acknowledgments

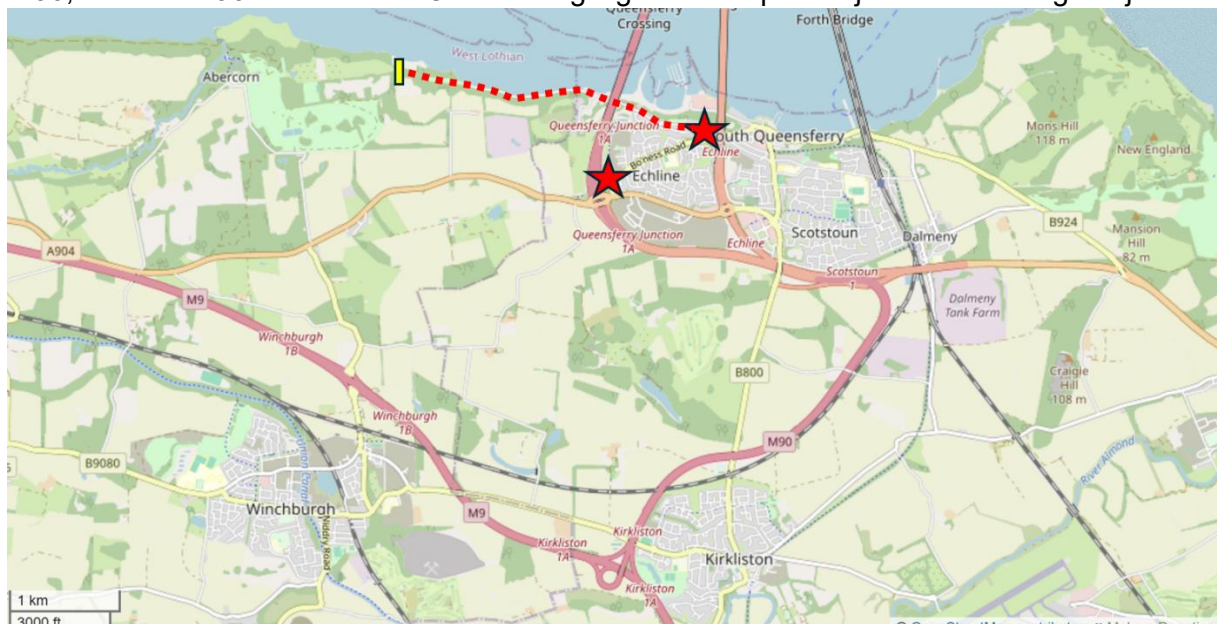
With thanks to Hopetoun House and Hopetoun Estate for hosting this event, and to Emma Parker, the Hopetoun House Ranger, for helping to facilitate organisation and access.

#### Cancellation

It is very unlikely that we will need to cancel either of these events, but if you are concerned about cancellation, please check the website <http://www.bsoa.org> or telephone enquiries on 07941 352053, before 9pm.

#### Getting there

Hopetoun House is close to the motorway network and can be accessed from junction 1A on the M90, then the A904 eastbound. Orienteering signs will be placed just after leaving the junction



O signs



Hopetoun House access road



Hopetoun House main gate

#### Location data (main estate gate)

Grid Ref: NT095790

Postcode: EH30 9SN

What3words: fiery.invents.withdraw

GPS coordinates: 55.995483, -3.4518099

Although the location data for the main entrance to Hopetoun House are given above, **YOU MUST follow the travel directions given below**, to avoid ending up at the wrong (closed) estate gate.

**From the South or North:** use the motorway system to access the M90 and exit the M90 at junction 1A, just south of the Queensferry Crossing bridge across the Firth of Forth. At junction 1A take the A904 east, signposted Queensferry and Kirkliston and then immediately turn left at traffic lights onto the B924, following the Hopetoun House brown sign. Follow this road through the residential area for approx 0.8 miles then turn left onto Farquhar Terrace (Post Code for Sat Nav EH30 9RT) following a grey Hopetoun House sign and an orienteering sign (the junction is right under the approach road for the old Forth Road Bridge). Follow this road for 1.5 miles to the main gate of Hopetoun House (fancy gate and lodge house) with a height limit of 15ft 1inch / 4.8m). NB The first half mile of this road follows a fairly narrow residential street and then a narrow country road for 1 mile, but the locals are used to coaches coming and going.

#### **From the East**

- From NW Edinburgh take the A90 Queensferry Road which merges onto the M90 then take the first exit 1A and proceed as above
- From the northern end of the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720), turn right at the Gogar roundabout then take a left onto the A902 signed Forth Road Bridge. After 1.2 miles turn left onto the A90 which after 3.5 miles merges onto the M90 then take the first exit 1A and proceed as above

#### **From the West**

- From the M8 – at junction 2 merge onto the M9 then the M90, proceed as above
- From the M9 - exit at junction 2, turn left, and then turn right onto the A904. Proceed for 3.5 miles to the next major roundabout, go straight ahead and then immediately turn left at traffic lights onto the B924, following the Hopetoun House brown sign. Proceed as above  
NB Do not follow the brown signs for the Hopetoun House Farm Shop or Gardens (1 mile after leaving the M9)

#### **Parking**

Vehicles will be located at the front (east side) of Hopetoun House. Coaches, minibuses and early arrival cars will be parked on hard standing, with overflow for cars on grass verges alongside the estate road. There is a height barrier on entry to the estate of 15ft 1inch / 4.8m which should only be a barrier to double decker buses.

All vehicles should follow the estate road from the main gate to the next gate, where a ticket booth is. A marshal there will collect parking fees,\* then proceed down the estate drive and follow marshals' instructions to the parking. There is one main parking area and 2 overflow areas all within a 300m walk of Enquiries.

**When parking please ask all passengers to take care on exiting the vehicle as there may be other vehicles moving in the vicinity.**

\*Parking charges (collected on the day). Coaches £10, Minibuses £5, Cars £3. **Payable by cash please.**

As the road into the estate from South Queensferry is narrow, there will be a one-way system ie

- All vehicles should be on site by 11:30.
- No vehicles will be allowed to leave before 12:30.

On exiting the estate, the first gate (where payment was taken on entry) will be unmanned and shut but will open automatically towards you on approach – be patient!

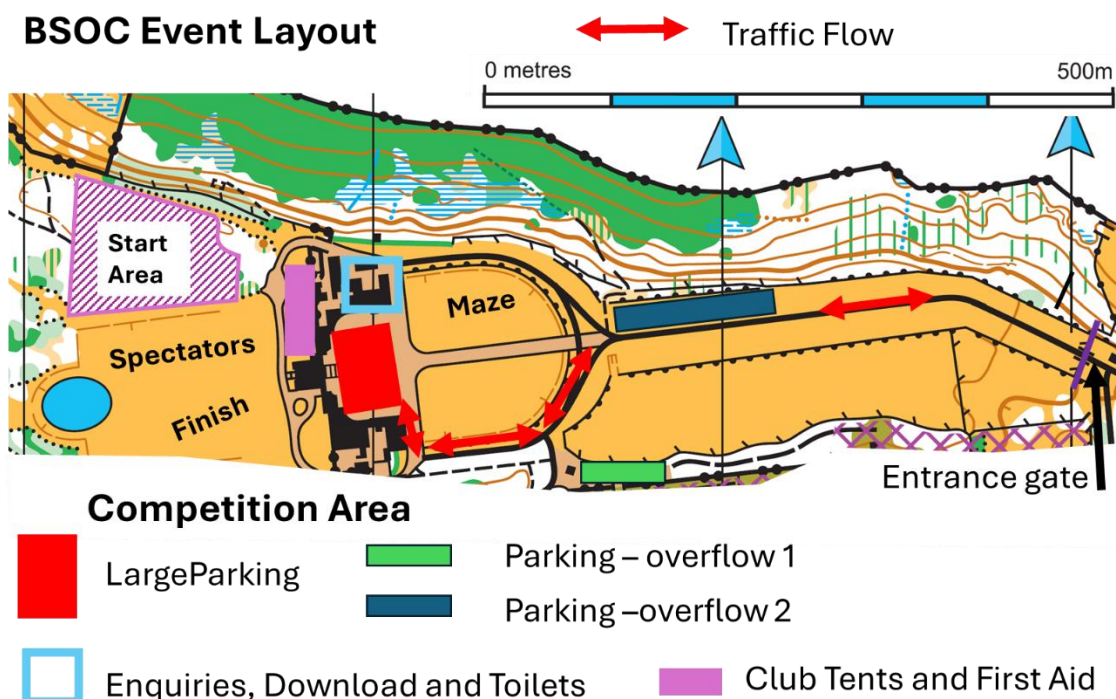
#### **Event Centre and Facilities**

Download and Enquiries will be in a dedicated building, on the north-east side of Hopetoun House and close to the main car park. Look out for the green ESOC sail banner and follow the Orienteering signs.

The Assembly Area, Start and Finish will all be close, and signed from the main car park.

- Toilets are available in a separate building close to the Enquiries/Download building and will be signed from Enquiries. Plus 2 portable cubicles will be sited on the way to the Start Area.
- Club First aid cover will be on hand in a gazebo near to the Finish.
- A grassy area close to the west side of the house can be used for club tents, and banners can be erected there or alongside the Finish funnel. The flat assembly field can be used for warming up, picnics etc
- There will also be free Maze close to the main car park for anyone to try courtesy of Scottish Orienteering.
- **PLEASE do not allow anyone to climb on or fix anything to the historic stonework or climb over any fences. Please obey any out of bounds (marked with cross-hatching), or any taped or roped-off areas .**

## BSOC Event Layout



Time	Description
09:30	Gates open to Competitors - collection of parking fee
10:45-12:15	Start Times
11:30	Gates closed to vehicles - no entry after this time
12:30	Vehicles may leave (gate set to automatic)
13:30	Prizegiving (approx)
14:00	Courses close
15:00	All competitor vehicles to have left

## Enquiries

A responsible adult from each school needs to come to Enquiries, to collect a school package consisting of race numbers, safety pins, and participation certificates for each child. Pairs will have a number and a map each, but only one SI card, issued at the start if hired on the entry form)

There is no entry on the day. However, if illness or injury requires substitution of a runner or runners, please enter the new names on the spare form provided in your school bag and hand it in to Enquiries. This should also include cases where only one of a registered pair now intends to compete.

If there are any mistakes or changes needed to an entrant's class, then this **MUST** be done before the event by email to [bsossecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bsossecretary@gmail.com)

Those borrowing SI cards will collect them during call up at the start. Lost SI cards will be charged to the school responsible at £20.

Competitors who declared their own SI card on the entry form should bring it. If you wish to use your own but haven't declared it, then you may use it but must let us know before you run.

## Race Numbers

Competitors must wear their numbers on their chest so that the number is clearly visible. For pairs, each runner will have the same race number. Pairs will be issued one race number with a black number and one race number with a black number and a red line. Please use only the black numbered one if a member of a pair drops out. If they are still running as a pair a red line will be put on the number without one at Enquiries.

## Terrain

Hopetoun House is a historic stately home near South Queensferry and is one of the finest examples of the work of the Scottish architects Sir William Bruce and Robert Adam. Some of the TV show *Outlander* was filmed here. The house and grounds occupy a commanding position overlooking the Firth of Forth to the north.

The landscaped gardens around the house have a good network of paths and many interesting woodland features. The wider Deer Park provides fast running on contoured slopes, and possibly sightings of deer in the distance. Access between the two sections of the map is through compulsory marked crossing points, which will be manned. The "ha-ha" (a type of landscape design that serve as a vertical barrier) separating parts of the two sections is "uncrossable" too, and marked with a red line.

**PLEASE do not allow anyone to climb on or fix anything to the historic stonework and please obey all out of bounds (marked with red hatching) or any taped or roped-off areas.**

## Safety

Whilst we will do everything we can to make this event as safe as possible, competitors do take part at their own risk.

It is your responsibility, as teachers or accompanying adults, to ensure that competitors are properly prepared for the event and clothed in a manner suitable for the conditions on the day. There are some brambles in the woodland, so leg protection is essential.

- Full leg cover (O trousers, tracksuit trousers or similar) is required. Not shorts.
- Arm cover over at least the shoulders must be worn. Not running vests. Anyone not wearing the appropriate clothing will not be allowed to start.

It is compulsory for whistles to be carried whatever the weather.

In the event of very bad weather the wearing or carrying of waterproof jackets may be compulsory – please come prepared. Notices will be put up at enquiries if they are required.

Although the estate is closed for the winter there may be some estate workers or members of the public, including cyclists (on National Cycle route 76), runners or walkers with dogs, especially in the deer park. Please respect their right to be there.

Some shorter courses (G5-G7 and B5-B7) stay within the estate grounds bordered by an uncrossable wall. All other courses exit (and re-enter) the estate grounds via 2 mandatory crossing points, visiting some controls in the Deer Park. Marshals will be monitoring the herd of deer to keep them away from competitors, they should just move away from the people once the competition starts.

There is large (but empty) water fountain close to Assembly and double ponds in the deer park all marked as uncrossable water and must be avoided.

There will be official event marshals in the area who will be wearing Hi-Vis jackets. These can be approached at any time if assistance is required by any child.

It is imperative that all competitors report to both the finish and download whether or not they have completed their course.

We will, of course, be monitoring the time that runners are out their course, but you can help us by letting Enquiries know if you are concerned about one of your team.

### **Map and Control descriptions**

A water-resistant five colour map at a scale of 1:7,500 with 5m contours, overprinted with controls and control descriptions in written format. Separate, loose control descriptions will not be available.

The map will have 3 boxes to punch, with the pin punch attached to the SI stake, should the competitor feel that any SI units have not beeped/flushed.

A blank map will be emailed to each school with the final details.

The uncrossable wall, the western section is marked with a solid red line, around the house grounds appears to be very low at some sections, to avoid blocking the view. Those sections of wall are, however, high on the other side and remain uncrossable. Black and yellow tape will be in front of those sections to warn competitors of the hazard. Competitors must not cross black / yellow tape.

There are two gates through the uncrossable wall, which will be open and marshalled. These are the only permissible way to cross the wall. The gates are mapped with a red crossing point symbol.

Some courses may pass through an area described as "broken ground". This is a cluster of small, shallow depressions.

### **Adults & Teachers**

Accompanying Teachers & Adults **must not enter the competition area or accompany competitors into the Start area**. If they do so, the competitor will be disqualified. **Please ensure that all adults accompanying your team are aware of this.**

## SI Control Punching

The SI electronic punching system will be used and SI cards will be provided at the event if required.

Competitors may use their own SI card, but this should have been indicated on the entry form. The SI card used must match the card number shown on their race number label. If not, Enquiries must be notified, and any changes made before the competitor proceeds to the start. In the interests of fairness, the ability to punch "contactlessly" with your own SI card (i.e. active SIAC) will be disabled by turning off all contactless SI cards in the Start lane.

## Starts

Start times are from 10.45 to 12.15.

**Please allow enough time to get to the starts. Start times cannot be adjusted for late arrival. You have been warned!**

There are two starts, one for girls and one for boys, which have the same gathering point less than 100m from Enquiries/Download and close to the Assembly area. Follow the signs from Enquiries/Download, look out for the big START banner which marks the beginning of the Start process.

You must adhere to your allocated start time. If you arrive late for your start, you will be able to start when allowed to do so by the start officials, but your start time **will not be adjusted**.

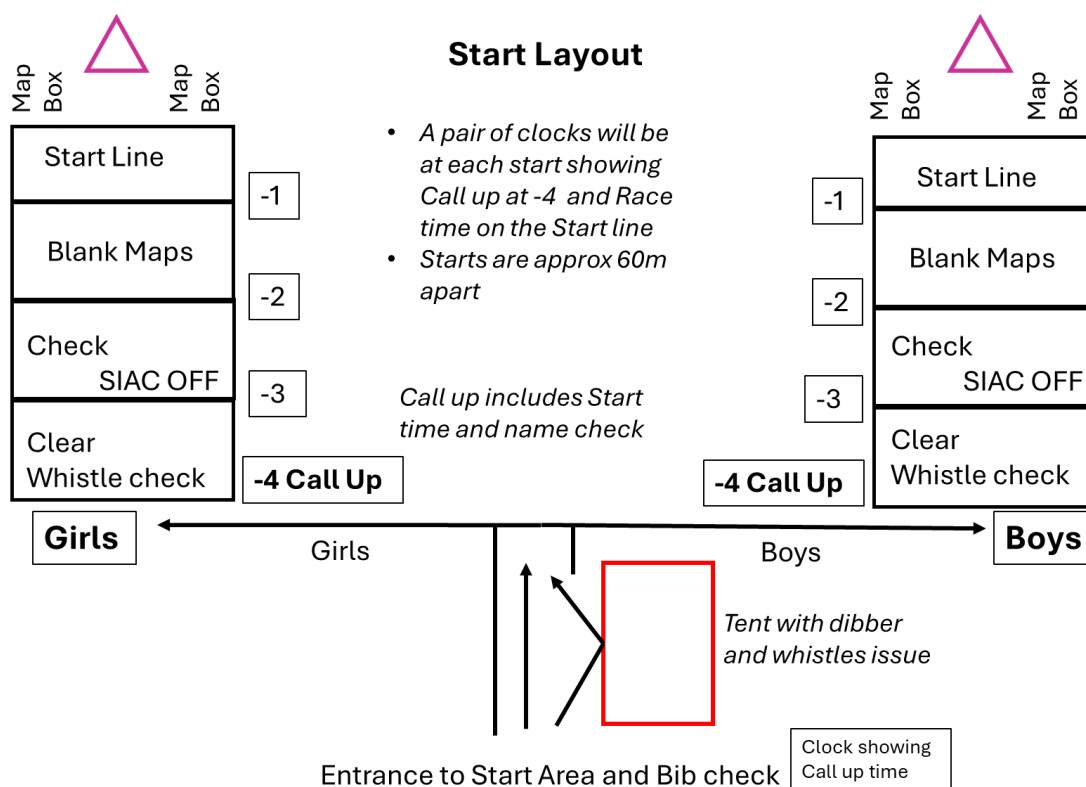
No spectators/teachers/parents are allowed beyond the entrance to the Start Area

The Start procedure is as follows and depicted in the diagram below

- A clock at the entrance to the Start area will display the current Call Up time. Do not enter the start area more than 3 minutes before your call up time UNLESS you need to collect a hired dibber or borrow a whistle, in which case allow 5-10 minutes.
- Make sure you have your bib (race number) pinned on and is visible before entering the Start Area. It has your course number and Start time on. A marshal here will check if you have a whistle.
- Pass by the yellow/grey tent, entering the tent only if you need to collect a hired dibber or whistle)
- After the tent turn left for the Girls start and right for the Boys start and proceed for a few metres to the Call up area. Wait for your Start time and name to be called.
- When your name is called enter the first box (labelled -4) and use the Clear station to clear your SI card. Have your whistle ready to be checked again.
- After 1 minute (after a set of beeps) move into the next box (labelled -3)
  - Use the Check box to ensure that your SI card was cleared
  - Put your SI card into the SIAC OFF box which will ensure all contactless punching has been disabled. All competitors need to do this, including those with a hired dibber
- After another minute move into the next box (labelled -2) where you will be able to look at a blank map of the area. It will contain a start triangle to show the location of your Start and the two concentric circles which are the Finish.



- After another minute move into the next box (labelled -1) and get ready to start. The Start marshal will point out the Start kite ie the Start Triangle on your map. There will be one beep at 5 seconds to go, then a countdown to a long beep, then you must dib the Start box.
- Move forward to the correct Map Box for your course, (eg G5 or B7) and pick one up (one for each person in a pair) and check it has the right course on. Please ensure you only pick up one map per person (can stick together if wet).



## Courses

Course	Technical Standard	Length	Height gain	No of Controls
G5	White	1.6km	10m	16
G6	White	1.8 km	20m	17
G7	Yellow	2.1 km	25m	13
G8	Yellow	2.7km	45m	16
G9	Orange	2.8km	45m	12
G10	Orange	3.1km	45m	12
G11	Light Green	3.6km	60m	14
G12	Light Green	3.7km	55m	16



G13	Green	4.6km	75m	17
B5	White	1.6km	10m	15
B6	White	1.8 km	20m	16
B7	Yellow	2.1 km	25m	13
B8	Yellow	2.7km	45m	16
B9	Orange	2.8km	45m	12
B10	Orange	3.1km	45m	12
B11	Light Green	3.6km	60m	14
B12	Light Green	3.7km	55m	16
B13	Green	5.3km	90m	19

### **On your Course**

Each control will have a control flag (kite) and an SI unit mounted on a yellow stake, the control number will be on top of the unit.

The map will have 3 boxes to punch, with the pin punch attached to the SI stake, should the competitor feel that any SI units have not beeped/flushed.

Rulings on mis-punching, possibly due to “dibbing” too quickly etc. will be strictly applied at these Championships.

**It is the competitor’s responsibility to register accurately and completely at all controls , listen for the beep**

There are many controls in the area, and competitors can expect to see some that are not on their course. Please make sure control codes are checked carefully. If, however, a competitor does mistakenly “dib” a control that is not the correct one, this will not matter as long as they also “dib” at all the right controls, in the right order.

### **Finish and Download**

There is a single final control and then a taped route to the finish which you must also dib into (there will be 2 units).

The run-in to the finish will be between two rows of fence posts with green tapes in between the posts, one row on either side of the run-in to the finish. There is space for spectators on the north side of the run in ONLY. The south side will be out of bounds as it is close to the competition area

Competitors competing in pairs must stay together and both be at finish when dibbing. If one of a pair arrives at the finish on their own, they will be asked to remain there until their partner arrives.

No water will be provided at the finish, so please bring enough in your own containers. Courses close at 2.00pm so please ensure everyone is back by 2.00pm and has reported to download to hand in their SI card whether they have completed their course or not.

After finishing, your map must be placed in a labelled school bag which can be retrieved from there after the last start. If a competitor had had to use a pin-punch to mark the map, ask the Finish official for an envelope to put the map in to take to Download

After handing in your map, you must proceed immediately to Download which is around the other side of the house with Enquiries. Follow the signs. At Download, you will get your print-out with all your split times and will be able to sort out any problems.

### **Results**

Results will be on display near to download and updated regularly during the race. They will also be available via the British Schools Orienteering Association website at <https://www.bsoa.org/>

### **Prizegiving:**

This will take place as soon as is possible. Extra medals for non-counters in winning teams will be available from a BSOA representative at £1.50 each once the prizegiving has finished.

### **Jury**

Ray Barnes, Brenda Morgan, Henry Morgan

Please note all complaints must be submitted within half an hour of the end of prizegiving otherwise they will not be considered.

### **First Aid and Local A & E Hospital**

First Aid will be available within the Assembly area.

The nearest NHS A&E hospital is St John's Hospital, Livingston at Howden West Rd & Howden W, Livingston EH54 6PP, 14 miles west along the M8.

### **Photographs**

As usual, Ray Barnes will be taking photographs in several places at BSOC so that they can be placed on the BSOA web site. The photos will be published without names or ages attached. If you wish to use any of the photos then please email [bsoasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:bsoasecretary@gmail.com) to ask for permission. If you include the photo's number we will email you a higher resolution photo and ask that Ray Barnes be credited.

### **Timings and Prizegiving**

Prizegiving will take place as early as possible, but provisionally should be at around 2.00 pm.

### **Awards and Trophies**

Medals will be given to the first three individuals in each age class, the first three teams (of three) in each age class, and the first three schools in each category of school.

Participation Certificates are awarded to all competitors and are included in your school package.

Trophies will be presented to the winning school for each age class and the winning school in each category of school.

If you hold a trophy from BSOC 2024 please return it to enquiries as soon as you arrive at the event on Sunday.

### **Dogs**

Dogs are welcome providing they are kept on a short lead in the parking and assembly area. Dogs are not allowed on the courses. Please clear up after your pet.

## BRITISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 TRAINING EVENT

Saturday 15th November 2025 at

**Beecraigs Country Park near Linlithgow**

### FINAL DETAILS

There will be training opportunities on the afternoon before the Championships for those competitors that register in advance. There is no entry on the day for the training.

#### **Who can take part?**

Anyone (seniors or juniors) can take part in this event; they do not have to be members of the British Schools Orienteering Association.

There are 2 options for the training being provided by Forth Valley Orienteers (FVO) who are holding a local event at Beecraigs Country Park, 10 miles west of Edinburgh and accessible from the M9 motorway.

- Enter the local event choosing a suitable course and start time (11am-1pm) and paying online via the FVO website [here](#) . GUARANTEED ENTRIES END: 13 Nov 2025 10:00AM  
FINAL DATE FOR ENTRIES: 15 Nov 2025 1:00PM (if maps available)
- Opt for more informal training ie maps for a selection of the courses (Yellow, Short Green and Green) same as for the local event can be ordered and paid for in advance. Starts between 2 and 3pm and the controls for these courses will be left out until 16:00 (but it will be quite dark by then). A timing option may be provided via a simple splits printer or groups may opt for self-timing. No dibbers will be available to hire.  
Map orders are very kindly being coordinated by SYO Juniors team captain Jacky and the closing date for ordering maps is **13<sup>th</sup> November at 10am**. Contact Jacky on [syojuniorteamcaptain@gmail.com](mailto:syojuniorteamcaptain@gmail.com)

Full details and entry information for the local event is on the FVO website [here](#) and details of all the other park amenities is [here](#) (café, toilets, Play area etc)

#### **Equipment Required**

As for the main championships. A compass is strongly recommended.

#### **Dogs**

Dogs are welcome providing they are kept on a short lead .

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND THE BRITISH SCHOOLS ORIENTEERING ASSOCIATION

### Other activities

For anyone bringing a school group to the event, there are numerous places of interest to visit in the area – the list below concentrates on activities to the south and west of Edinburgh. There are of course all the attractions of the City of Edinburgh (Castle, Arthurs's Seat, Dynamic Earth, Palace of Holyrood etc)

- Linlithgow Palace [Linlithgow-palace](#)
- Blackness Castle [Blackness Castle](#)
- Boat tours on the Firth of Forth (from South Queensferry) [Forthtours.com](#)
- Edinburgh International Climbing Centre (indoor) [Edinburgh-international-climbing-arena/](#)
- Edinburgh Surf Park (outdoor) <https://www.lostshore.com/>
- Bo'Ness and Kinneil Steam Railway <https://www.bkrailway.co.uk/>
- Hillend Ski slope and alpine coaster [Snowsports Centre | Midlothian Council](#)
- Kelpies (giant horse head sculptures near Falkirk) [The Kelpies Falkirk](#)
- Falkirk Wheel [Scottish Canals | The Falkirk Wheel Forth & Clyde](#)
- Bonaly Country Park with permanent O course) [Bonaly Park Anytime O](#)
- Pentland Hills Regional Park [Pentland Hills visitor guide and map – Pentland Hills](#)

### British Schools Orienteering Association

The British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA) exists to provide a link between schools and mainstream orienteering. It is affiliated to the British Orienteering Federation. Membership of BSOA is at present £0 and open to all British schools.