



Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival

Dalkeith Country Park

Friday 3rd June 2016



Date/Time: Friday 3rd June 2016 (c.1000 - 1400 hours)

Travel to Event: From the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720) take the A6106(S) at the Sherriffhall Roundabout. Continue to follow the A6106 into Dalkeith, staying to the left at the mini roundabout. At the traffic lights turn left onto High Street (signed Dalkeith Country Park). When the road turns sharply to the right, the entrance to the Park is straight on. Proceed through the gates and into the Park. Marshalls will be in place inside the gates to assist.

Dalkeith Country Park, EH22 2NA

Coaches: There is parking and drop-off for competitors arriving by coach and minibus behind St Marys Church which is located just inside the gates to the Park. Competitors should then follow the marked route to walk to the assembly. It is only 250m to the assembly.

Parking: Competitors arriving by car should proceed through the gates into the Park, and follow signs to the Parking Field. Please note that competitors arriving by coach will need to cross the entrance road and Marshalls will be in place to assist with this. Please obey the instructions from any marshalls. The parking is in a large grassy field.

Assembly: The assembly area is in a large grassy area in front of Dalkeith House and the run-in to the finish bounds this area providing an ideal view for spectators, and a chance for competitors to cheer on their team mates. There is also a picnic area with tables and the area has plenty of space for football/sports games before or after runs.



Please note that there is no indoor space available. Shelters will be provided where competitors can leave bags and belongings but there will not be sufficient tents to shelter all competitors if the weather is bad.

Toilets: There will be 3 Portaloos located in the assembly area.

Registration: The responsible adult for each school should report to the Registration tent in the assembly area to collect the SI dibbers (timing devices), a list of start times and any other information for their children. Please take care to give the correct dibber to each child and make sure any unused dibbers are returned. Please warn the children that lost dibbers will cost the school £30. Can those orienteers who have their own SI dibber, please bring it to the event and use it. If it is forgotten hire dibbers will be available.

Starts: Start times will be between 10:15 am and 12:15 am. Competitors start at minute intervals on specific allocated start times. The starts are 450 m from Assembly. The route to the start will be taped, please keep to the right hand side crossing the bridge and do not impede any runners on their way to the finish. Please try to be at the start at least 5 minutes before your start time.

There will be a 4 minute call up: competitors must report to the start at least 4 minutes before their allocated start time.

Finish & SI Timer Download: The finish is adjacent to the assembly area. Every competitor must go to the download immediately after they finish, even if they retire. Download is in the same location as registration (in a tent beside Dalkeith House).

Courses: Where schools have entered pairs on courses the pair should only pick up one map at the start line and should stay together throughout their run. Please note that any mixed pairs must compete on the Boys course for the relevant school year age class.

The approximate course lengths are:-

Year Group	Girls	Boys
P5/6	2.3 km	2.4 km
P7	2.4 km	2.5 km
S1	2.9 km	3.1 km
S2	3.3 km	3.3 km
S3	4.0 km	4.0 km
S4/5/6	4.6 km	4.8 km

There is negligible climb on any of the courses.

First Aid: First Aiders will be in attendance, and can be contacted via the Registration tent.

Map: The map was updated in 2014 (scale 1:7,500 and 5m contours). The courses will be over printed on waterproof paper.

Please note that there will be NO loose control descriptions available. Control descriptions will be printed on the map.

Controls and Disqualifications: Please make your group aware that there will be a lot of controls in the area, so they might come across controls that are not on their course. They are meant to visit their own controls in the order specified, and should always check that the number on the control matches that of the control on their control description.

However, children who cannot find controls or punch the wrong controls will not be disqualified, but will have a ten minute penalty added for each of these controls. Children who deliberately miss a control may still be disqualified.

Terrain: Dalkeith Park is an old country estate whose terrain includes a mixture of woodland, fields and open parkland and an extensive network of paths and tracks. All fields within the area are out of bounds and competitors should not cross any fences. There are ditches / streams in the area but courses are planned such that these can always be crossed on a path or bridge. The River North Esk passes through the area, but courses will never require children to go close to the riverbank.

Hazards: A risk assessment has been carried out and will be on display at registration or the assembly. Please read the risk assessment and advise your group/children of the risks and how to stay safe. Should there be any Estate traffic within the area, please obey the Marshalls.

Take care around the ditches, steep slopes, rough terrain and slippery ground, including paths where mud and roots exist.

There will also be other people in the competition area perhaps cycling, walking dogs, etc., so please take extra care, give way and be courteous. Please also take the weather conditions/forecast into account and ensure your group/children dress accordingly.

Please note that participants take part at their own risk and are responsible for their own safety during the event.

Park Facilities: The Dalkeith Country Park toilets, cafe and adventure playground are currently being refurbished and are therefore closed and **no entry is permitted to this area of the park**. With this in mind encourage your pupils to bring adequate snacks, packed lunch and drinks with them.

Safety: Please wear appropriate clothing, especially full leg cover (no shorts) as there are areas of undergrowth containing nettles near to the routes runners may take and footwear with a good grip. It is recommended that competitors carry a whistle (for use in an emergency only - the call is 6 blasts, gap, repeat...). If the weather is bad it might be made compulsory to carry a whistle and cagoule/coat.

Leadership/Responsibility: Teachers, parents and other adults that bring a group/children are expected to manage and take responsibility for their group/children.

Privacy: When entering our events you are accepting that your name may appear in results on the web site or reports. We will not use it for any marketing purposes.

Results: It is hoped that live results will be published on the internet so that friends back in school as well as at the event can watch progress. Go to www.ssoa.org.uk/results/2016/

Trophies and Prize Giving: There are awards for the best individual performances on each of the courses as well as team trophies. The team trophies for each course are calculated from the total time of the best three from the school within that course. Overall Schools Trophies, Primary and Secondary, go to the school with the most runners within twice the winners time. Prize giving is expected to be about 1330 hours or soon after, in the assembly area. **Current Trophy holders should return the Trophies to registration on arrival.**

But most importantly - Have Fun!