

# Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival 2025 FAQs

## What are the timings for the day?

- Start times are between 10am and 12pm. You can request a start block for your school when completing the entry form: early 10-10:30, middle 10:30-11:30 or late 11:30-12. We recommend you arrive an hour before your start time to ensure you are not late. Courses close at 1330. The prize ceremony will begin at around 1300 to allow everyone to get home within a reasonable time.

## How much does it cost?

- £3 per pupil, which includes a high quality waterproof map and is to cover the costs of the putting on the event which is mostly staffed by volunteers from local clubs.

## Can pupils run with a friend?

- Yes. We allow pupils to run in pairs or threes if they wish. Pupils running together should be entered together in the same row on the entry form.

## What course do I enter the pupils on?

- There are courses for each school year, from P5/6 up to S5/6 so you should enter the correct course for your school year.

## What prizes are awarded?

- There will be a prize giving ceremony as soon as possible after the event. There will be prizes for individuals and school teams (3 pupils to count) in each year group, for boys and girls. The overall schools result is based on the number of pupils that achieve a time less than twice the winning time. Past results (and current reigning champions!) can be found on the [SSOA website](#).

## How do I enter?

- Entries are made per school so please enter all your pupils in one go. There is a Google Form that summarises your entries and a spreadsheet that should be completed with all individual pupils. You can find the form and spreadsheet on the [SOA website](#).

## When do I need to enter/pay by?

- The deadline for entries and payments is Monday 26th May.

## What skills do the pupils need to know before I come to the festival?

- We recommend you work through the [Let's Get Started Orienteering](#) resource before attending. This will teach your pupils the basics, including the concept of maps, courses and controls, and setting the map.

## Do the pupils need any specialist kit?

- No! All you need is comfortable clothes and suitable footwear that you are happy to run in and potentially get a little dirty. SI dibbers will be allocated to those that need them and can be picked up by the teacher at registration (there will be a fee

associated with any lost SI dibbers). There will not be compasses to borrow, but pupils are encouraged to bring their own if they feel it will help.

### **How are you ensuring the safety of the pupils?**

- The event is covered by [British Orienteering's public liability insurance policy](#), providing an indemnity of £15,000,000. A full Risk Assessment has been drawn up for the event, and courses are planned to mitigate any risks. There will be marshalls at all park exits to ensure pupils do not accidentally go beyond the park boundary.

### **What happens if the pupils get lost?**

- The event will be based on the large grassy area next to the Glen Pavillion. Pupils should be able to make their own way back here if they get lost. Otherwise, marshalls in hi-vis around the park and at park exits will be able to assist. If there are still pupils missing at course closing time (1330) then a search party will be rallied.

### **What happens if I get a control wrong or miss one out?**

- Unlike normal orienteering events, the SSOF has a policy that ensures no pupil will be disqualified from the results. If a pupil visits an incorrect control or misses one out, they will instead incur a 5 minute time penalty.

### **Do I have to run or can I walk?**

- There is no pressure to run at all - you can go at whatever pace you want. It is a race at the end of the day though so if you want to WIN you will likely have to run!

### **What facilities will be available?**

- There will be public toilets available for use throughout the day. There will also be a free maze for pupils to have a go at after their runs! There is a cafe next to the event assembly, but this could get busy so we recommend bringing your own packed lunch and a rug to sit on!

### **What happens in the event of bad weather?**

- Hopefully given the time of year there will be no issues with the weather, but in the case of bad weather, there is an indoor area that we have gained access too. In the case of extreme bad weather the event may need to be cancelled. This will be communicated with all entrants the night before the event.

### **Will there be space to bring a coach or minibus?**

- There will be ample parking on the day, including spaces for coaches and minibuses. You should inform us of the type of vehicle you plan to arrive in on the entry form so that we can plan to accommodate this.

### **What if I have any more questions?**

- Contact [louise@scottish-orienteering.org](mailto:louise@scottish-orienteering.org) with any further queries about the festival or orienteering in general. Read about last year's event on the [SOA website](#).