

Orienteering Jargon

These are the main terms that you might see or hear.

Bearing	Most experienced orienteers use a compass to take a bearing so they know which direction to go. But you can start orienteering without being an expert with a compass.
BOF	British Orienteering Federation – the British governing body. http://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/
Closed event	An event or competition which may be entered only by particular people; e.g. an event just for schools.
Closing date	The last date for acceptance of entries. This applies only to those events that you have to enter in advance.
Contour interval	The distance between heights shown by contour lines – usually 5m.
Control	Each point marked with a circle on the map, which a competitor is required to visit. Controls are usually marked by a <i>kite</i> and have a <i>punch</i> .
Control code	The unique code that identifies a <i>control</i> . The control code will be clearly visible on the control, and you should always check the code of each control to make sure it really is the one you are looking for.
Control description	The description of the feature where the control is placed.
Controller	The person who has ultimate responsibility for the fairness and correctness of an event.
Crossing point	To avoid damage to walls and fences, you sometimes have to cross these obstacles only at specific points. These will be shown on your map, and your control description sheet will say "use crossing point".
Embargo	For major competitions, competitors are not allowed to go on to a specific mapped area for 6 months before the competition. We say the area is embargoed.
EOD	Entry on the Day – turn up at the event and enter there and then. For events with pre-entries, there might be a surcharge for Entry on the Day.
Fixture list	The list of all events or <i>fixtures</i> currently in the calendar. See http://www.scottish-orienteering.org/index/soa/fixtures/ .
Form line	A land shape might not be quite high enough to merit being shown with a contour line, but it is noticeable on the ground. It will be shown by a dashed contour line, known as a form line.
IOF	International Orienteering Federation – the worldwide governing body for the sport: www.orienteering.org
Junior	All participants under the age of 21.
Leg	A 'leg' is the section of a course from one <i>control</i> to the next.
Line feature	Something like a path, track, fence, wall or stream, which you can follow easily.

Map	<p>Orienteering maps are very detailed and are produced by specialist map-makers.</p> <p>Colours carry different meanings from Ordnance Survey maps – e.g. white on an orienteering map indicates trees. See Map Legend</p>
Map corrections	<p>If features or vegetation have changed, e.g. trees have been felled, or new tracks created, since the maps were printed, there will be a map showing these corrections. You should copy these on to your own map.</p>
Mass start	<p>At most events, competitors start at intervals of usually 2 minutes. Sometimes e.g. for relay events, some of the competitors start at the same time - called a mass start.</p>
Master map	<p>At some events you will need to copy your course from a master maps. DO THIS VERY CAREFULLY! Remember to mark any <i>map corrections</i> as well.</p>
NOC	<p>National Orienteering Centre. Located at Glenmore Lodge, the NOC organises training and coaching sessions. It provides access to many excellent areas for individual or group practice: www.nationalorienteeringcentre.org. Tel. 01479 861374</p>
Organiser	<p>The person who sorts out all the administrative bits to make an event happen.</p>
Planner	<p>The person who designs the courses and puts out the controls. He/she works closely with the <i>Organiser</i> and <i>Controller</i>.</p>
Re-entrant	<p>A land shape somewhat like a small valley. On the map it usually shows as an indented contour line.</p>
Scale	<p>The scale of most orienteering maps is 1:10,000 or 1:15,000. A scale of 1:10,000 means that 1cm on your map shows 100m on the ground, i.e. the length of a football pitch.</p>
Scottish Schools Orienteering Association	<p>You can get details of how to contact the secretary from the National Orienteering Centre (see above).</p>
String course	<p>A short course for very young children, in which the route is marked by a continuous line of string.</p>
Stub	<p>Tear-off part of control card that is kept by start officials while the participant does the course, and is later used for temporary display of results.</p>
Taped route	<p>There is usually a taped route to the start for everyone. Also, some courses, particularly those for younger children, might have a section where it might be difficult for them to find the right way on the map, so they have to follow bits of plastic tape hung from trees etc..</p>
Triangle	<p>The start point of the orienteering course is marked on the map with a triangle. It is usually marked on the ground with a control kite.</p>
Trail O	<p>Also known as Precision-O, this form of orienteering does not rely on speed and mobility, but challenges your ability to read the map accurately. Usually suitable for everyone, including people in wheelchairs.</p>