

Going to an Orienteering event

Great, you have seen a local orienteering event and you want to go. What do you have to do?

Here is some guidance – but the best way would be to chat to a club member soon and then arrange to meet up with them at the event so that they can guide you through the process.



First you will have to enter the event. Let's take the example of the [Moravian Club](#) Local event at [Altyre](#) on Saturday 22nd May. The event details tell you "SI Entries will open shortly". This is a pre-entry system used by many clubs; if you do not already have an SI Entries account, it is very easy to set one up. You will need to:

1. Chose which course to enter (ask advice!).
2. Hire a 'SI dibber' if you do not have your own. SI (SportIdent) is the electronic timing system used by all Scottish clubs.
3. Select a Start block / Start time.
4. Pay your money.



It is now the day of the event.

Before leaving, make sure that you have read any 'Final details' about the event on the club website. The club will often send out an email directing you to the Final details – check your Spam folder for it!

Work out your driving time to the event. Once you are parked (there is often someone to direct you to a space), find your way to Registration.

At **Registration** you will collect your hired SI dibber and – depending on the actual arrangements – your map. DO NOT LOOK AT YOUR MAP / COURSE at this point, you only look at it after you have started. There might also be loose control descriptions for your course, many people wear these on their arm to save unfolding their map to check the control & code.

Many people then return to their car to sort themselves out before heading to the Start.

- How far to the Start, how long will that take me, when do I have to leave the car?
- Orienteering shoes on?
- Correct clothing for the weather?
- 'Navigation' arm and 'Control' arm sorted out? (see picture below)

Control arm

Control description sheet

SI dibber – elastic round a finger and a 'safety leash' (it will cost you about £35 if you lose it!)



Navigation arm

Compass and map together.

You can continually check that the map is set to North.

Hold your hand level and by your belly button.

Now head to the **Start** following directions / tapes.

Once you are at the Start, maintain physical distance from others.

Look for the 'CLEAR' unit, insert your SI dibber until it beeps & flashes.

Into the Start box when it is your time (you will usually go into the Start box 2 to 3 minutes ahead of your Start time, this is just sorting people out and checking things). Move forward when asked to by the Start folks.

When on the Start line, the clock will count down to your Start time. On the Start time (often a long beep from a clock), punch (put your SI dibber in!) the Start unit and now you can look at your map.

Navigate carefully to the first control, make sure that your **PLAN** is sound; remember to use your compass. At the control, check the code and punch if you are in the correct place.

Enjoy the rest of your course, remember to **PLAN** every leg!

At the end of your course, you will punch the **FINISH**. Now relax and enjoy the fact that you have done your first orienteering course.

Make your way to **Download**, this will often be near to Registration. Even if you do not complete your course, you must still go to Download – otherwise the organisers will think you are still out on the course and might start a search for you.

At Download, you punch a Download unit which records your time – overall and to each control. You will also be told if you have successfully completed the course or have 'mispunched' (punch a wrong control or missed one out).

Head back to your car and home (yes, a visit to a coffee shop is allowed, you have earned it!).

Later that day, results will usually be on the club website so you can look and see how you got on. Many clubs also put up 'RouteGadget'; here you can draw in the route you took (or download your track from your GPS watch and import it into RouteGadget). You can also compare your route with that taken by others.

BASOC has a set of [SportIdent timing kit](#) – there are pictures on the website to show you what it all looks like.

Bring your course map along to the next BASOC Tuesday=O and let's all hear about your day out!

If you would like to find out more, [Derwent Valley Orienteers](#) have a couple of PDFs 'Your first event' and 'Your second event'.