

2021 New Zealand Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships Bulletin

18th to 20th April 2021. Central Otago.

Welcome

Welcome from Central Otago Orienteers and PAPO. We first held an MTBO Championship in January 2012. The extreme heat got to many competitors and rather spoiled the riding. The last major event was in April 2018 and much more enjoyable at that time of year, so we have opted for the cooler time again and will also show off the spectacular Central Otago Autumn colours.

The weather should be cold at night and cool during the day, but be prepared for extremes of heat, cold, rain and possibly even snow.

For the best weather forecast follow this link. https://www.yr.no/place/New_Zealand/Otago/Alexandra

Important Safety Information

Please note the majority of riding will be on two way tracks, and in areas open to the public during this event. THERE IS POTENTIAL RISK OF COLLISION! As such, please ride with care, ensuring you follow these rules:

- Keep to the left on tracks and roads.
- Downhill riders give way to uphill riders.
- Ride slowly on blind corners. Be prepared to give way in the event of traffic coming the other way.
- When passing, shout which side you are passing on (should usually be the right) to warn the person being passed.
- When stopping, keep to the left to allow other riders to pass – i.e. do not block the path of other riders.
- Shout warnings to riders or members of the public where necessary to avert collisions.
- IN ESSENCE, RIDE WITHIN YOUR ABILITIES, AND TAKE CARE NOT TO COLLIDE WITH OTHER RIDERS OR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC!

Entries on the day.

A limited number of maps of the Recreational courses will be available for entries on the day.

Classes Rec 1, 2 and 3. These will ride courses 4, 6 and 7 respectively. (E bikers welcome)

Riders on Rec 1 and 2 will start after the championship classes. Juniors may be shadowed by an adult.

Course 7 is a short, very easy course, entry on the day only, and free for juniors.

COVID

The event will be held if Otago, along with the rest of New Zealand is at Covid Level 1 or 2.

If anywhere in the country is a higher Level the event may still be held but would not formally be considered a National Championship.

If any of the country is at Level 2, the event will be held under Level 2 conditions, following ONZ and Ministry of Health guidelines. If this happens you will be reminded by email prior to the event.

In brief:-

If you have a cold or are feeling unwell keep right away from the event. Contact the organisation to negotiate a refund.

Scan the QR code each day of the competition.

Maintain hand hygiene and use hand sanitizer wherever possible.

Any queue at registration will be spaced out at 2 metre intervals, both competitors and officials should wear face masks.

There will be no gathering at the start, with competitors in a spaced-out queue in start order.

There will be a punch start to allow for the start to be spread over a long period.

There will be no results display.

Hire SI cards to be disinfected before issue and on return.

Programme

- Sunday 18th April Long distance event in Naseby Forest
- Monday 19th April Middle distance at Chatto Creek 15 min drive north of Alexandra.
Evening social event, meal and prizegiving at the Alexandra Bowling Club
- Tuesday 20th April Sprint Distance close to Alexandra.
Informal gathering at Monteith's Ale House to prepare for activities in the following three days.
- Wed / Thur 21 /22 April. MTBO technique training on competition maps close to Alexandra.
- Friday 23 April Social ride, possibly on the new Lake Dunstan trail from Cromwell to Clyde.
- Saturday 24th April South Island long distance foot O champs 8km from Alexandra
- Sunday 25th April (pm) South Island Sprint foot O champs in Alexandra
- Monday 26th April South Island Middle distance foot O Champs 5km from Alexandra.

Book your place at the meal and MTBO training on this link:- <https://forms.gle/qpNsZw8X3fP9iBXo7>

Services

Portaloos will be available at all of the events.

Espresso 2 Go will be selling coffee and other beverages each day so you can get your caffeine fix before you start.

Bike Shops.

If you get mechanical troubles, there are 3 excellent bike shops.

Hendersons Centennial Avenue Alexandra
Willbike Russell Street, Alexandra
Bike it Now Holloway Street, Clyde

Technical information for all MTBO events.

The event will be run in accordance with the [NZ MTBO rules](#) (July 2014) and the [Orienteering NZ rules](#) (March 2021).

E bikes are not eligible for any of the championship classes.

Ride safely!!! Some competitors will find the terrain technically challenging. Expect to encounter rocks, rabbit holes, erosion gullies and briar rose bushes close to the tracks. (Those bolder riders may need to consider full-arm cover).

In the sprint area some of the rose thorns are massive. We've done a lot of track clearing, however tubeless tyres containing lots of sealant are strongly recommended.

Courses at all events have been planned so that most riders will be travelling in the same direction most of the time on single track. However, you will meet other riders head on.

Keep to the left at all times and **do not stop in the middle of any track.**

Don't linger at controls. Allow space for other riders to punch.

Downhill riders must give way to uphill.

On single tracks let faster riders overtake you.

There is no drinkable water on any of the maps. Please carry your own.

Maps are printed on waterproof paper that will fold easily to put on your map board.

We are using Sport Ident Air (SIAC) for all events. If you do not own or have not hired an SIAC stick the old SI sticks will work, albeit a bit slower at each control.

Controls are labelled on the map with the first number indicating the order on the course, followed by a dash and a smaller number, in bold, indicating the control code. E.g. **3-57**

Start Procedure:-

6 min before start. Competitors called up. SI card checked.

3 min before start. Move to next box. Final safety instructions

1 min before start Pick up map

This may change if we are running under Covid Level 2 restrictions

Mapping information:-

A working group of NZ mappers has been trying to develop a consistent set of symbols within IOF guidelines. The particular issue is a way of showing ride-ability which will work for all maps from forest to open areas without tracks. The following symbols are used on all three maps:-

Pale Green. Forest – Do Not Ride. Ranges from mature trees to chest high semi open scrub.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Pale yellow (25 – 50%) | Open land including scattered scrub. Riding not allowed |
| Dark Yellow (50 – 100%) | Open land, usually good riding, you may ride anywhere. |
| White | Forest: ride anywhere. |

Dark yellow dots Semi open forest, **ride anywhere**

The cartographer uses an appropriate shade of yellow for each map. Small clear areas need a darker shade than large areas. There will always be a distinct difference between pale and dark.

Vegetation boundaries are not distinct, do not rely on them for navigation.

The mapping strategy for track quality is as follows: -

- Solid black. Very smooth surface, negotiable by push-scooter or roller skates.
- Long dashes Easy riding. Able to map read on the move, most of the time.
- Short dashes Slow riding, requires 100% concentration to keep moving.
- Very short dashes. Most riders will be walking, most of the time.

This assumes the track is on flat ground—look at the contours to predict riding speed.

In very complex areas some gaps between the dashes have been omitted to facilitate clarity.

- Thick black lines Tracks wider than 1.5m
- Thin black lines Single track.

All other “black” symbols e.g., rocks and fences, are printed as dark grey

Legend

| Tracks | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Wide | Narrow | |
| ————— | ————— | Fast riding |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Medium riding |
| - - - - - | - - - - - | Slow riding |
| | | Very difficult |

- Boulder cluster
- Large / small boulder
- Rocky Ground
- Rock pillar or cliff

- Single Tree
- Uncrossable watercourse
- Seasonal watercourse
- Large seasonal watercourse

- Open Land ride anywhere
- Semi open forest. Ride anywhere
- Open Land DO NOT ride
- Forest/Scrub Do NOT ride
- Out of bounds
- Uncrossable pipe-line
- Power Line
- Fence with crossing point
- Obstruction on track--dismount.
- Track crossing seasonal watercourse

SPORTident Air+ Timing System

SPORTident Air+ timing will be used for all events. This is a contactless system. The checkpoint boxes will register a competitor visiting a checkpoint when they are within 50cm proximity of the checkpoint with a beep and a small light flashing. It is critical to ensure you have registered a punch at the control – this will be signaled by an audible beep and a flashing light in the SPORTident stick (SPORTident Air Card or SIAC). The onus will be on the competitor to ensure their SIAC records them visiting a checkpoint. **Finish controls will not be Air+ activated. Competitors will need to punch the Finish control (ie insert the SIAC stick into the finish control).**

Ensure you clear, check and test your SI stick before each race, as this erases any previous race data and turns on the Air+ mode. Failure to do this may result in an invalid or no race result due to corrupted race data being stored on the SI stick or the stick not registering when you visit a control. Please ask if you have any questions.

Complaints and Protests

- If you wish to make a complaint regarding an infringement of the rules or the organiser's directions, please do so in writing at registration. This must be done within 60 minutes of you completing your course. The event controller will consider the matter that you have raised and let you have their decision. There is no charge for making a complaint.
- If you are not satisfied with that decision, you may ask that the complaint be considered as a protest. A fee equal to the entry fee that you paid for that day's course is then payable, but this fee will be returned if your protest is upheld.
- Protests will be considered by a jury of experienced MTBO controllers.

Championship Summary

The Sprint, Middle, and Long Distance events constitute the New Zealand Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships. NZ Championship titles can only be held by members of a NZ club who are also NZ citizens or have permanent residency. However, place getters will still be recognised with their placings in prize giving and in the results.

The Recreation, Children's and E-bike Grades will not be official championships grades, but place getters for Recreation and E-bike grades, and participants for Children's grades will be acknowledged.

Long Distance Sunday 18th April

Naseby Forest. Access by permission of Ernslaw 1

Mapper: Joe Sherriff

Planner: Conal Boland-Bristow

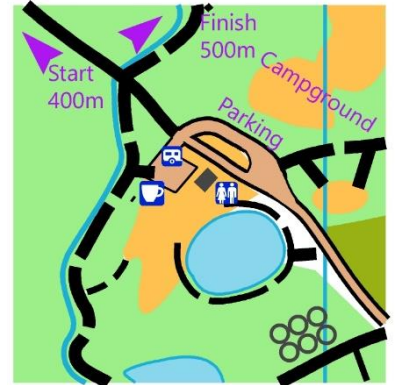
Controller: Matt Bixley

Directions.

From the recreation reserve in the middle of Naseby drive up Keswick Street, turn left at the T junction and then follow Swimming Dam Road to the Assembly area. Parking is limited so ride from your accommodation if practicable.

Start is 400m from assembly area

Finish is 500m from assembly area.



Map Scale: Courses 1 & 2 -- 1:15,000, Courses 3 & 4 -- 1:10,000, Courses 5 & 6 -- 1:7,500 all on A3 waterproof paper

Start times from 11am Course close 4 hours after the last start.

| | | Win Time. Min | Distance Km | Controls | Climb Metres |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Course 1 | M Open | 110 | 28 | 19 | 550 |
| Course 2 | M20, M40, W Open, | 100 | 23 | 17 | 450 |
| Course 3 | M16, M50, W 20, W40, | 90 | 17 | 17 | 370 |
| Course 4 | M60, W16, W50, Rec 1 | 85 | 13 | 17 | 350 |
| Course 5 | M70, W60 | 85 | 11 | 16 | 270 |
| Course 6 | M14, W14, W70, Rec 2 | 80 | 9 | 12 | 190 |
| Course 7 | Rec 3 | | 6 | | |

Hazards:-

Beware of cliffs, erosion grooves, rabbit holes, prickly vegetation, motorbikes, horses, runners and dogs.

It is dangerous, as well as cheating, to ride on the pale yellow.

Several of the tracks are disused water races. Some have a considerable drop off to one side. Be extra careful when meeting oncoming riders.

Expect to meet oncoming riders on the single tracks.

Carry a cell-phone, reception is good except in the deeper valleys.

Emergency phone number:- Matt Bixley 021 046 9255

Safety Bearing. Head south east, downhill, on most of the map and follow either the road network or the water race to the Assembly area.

You must report to the Finish

Technical and Mapping See Technical information applying to all events.

Map based on the 2005 MTBO drawn by Michael Wood.

Since then, much of the forest has been felled and large sections which were clear are growing again.

Some bike tracks have been lost in the felling, but many have been restored and new ones created.

They have all been resurveyed using GPS in Spring 2020.

The semi open forest symbol has been used in lightly wooded areas where riding is permitted off the tracks, which may be hard to see on the ground.

Middle Distance Monday 19th April. Chatto Creek. Private land, use by courtesy of Peter and June Schaap.

Mapper: Joe Sherriff **Planner:** Viv Prince **Controller:** Dave Armstrong

Directions

From Alexandra drive northeast up State Highway 85 for 16km. 1.3km after the Chatto Creek Pub take the first farm track right, Rapid no 1672. This will be signposted but watch out for roadworks at the farm entrance. Go 1.6km to the assembly area and park as directed.

Toilets. There are Portaloo's in the assembly area.

Cell-phone coverage should be fairly good over most of the map.

In case of emergency ring the Controller. Dave Armstrong 021 161 9912.



Map

Scale 1:7,500 with 5m contours for all courses. A3 waterproof Paper.

Based on LINZ 20m contours and Aerial photos 2013-2014. All contours, where it is not too steep to ride, have been surveyed on foot with GPS and altimeter.

Safety

Beware of rabbit holes concealed in long grass, some have long entrance ways which are ideal for parking your bike in – not ideal at high speed. Take care, especially riding downhill in the longer grass. Also rocks, erosion grooves and prickly bushes.

Safety bearing: Head north to the assembly area.

Technical and Safety Information.

Read the technical notes, above, which apply to all events.

Chatto Creek is different in terms of MTBO. You don't have to stick to tracks.

The whole map is rideable, except for steep rocky terrain which is easily identified from the map.

Most hills can be ridden; if it gets too steep, make your own zig-zags.

The planner and controller of the 2018 event visited all their controls without having to get off and walk at any stage.

It is heavily grazed by rabbits, goats and sheep, and the occasional deer.

Look ahead for rabbit holes, ruts and loose rocks.

The single tracks marked on the map are animal tracks and have been mapped as slow riding.

There are many other small animal tracks which have not been mapped.

The exceptionally heavy January rain (30% of annual rain fall in 2 days) has encouraged grass growth, but not enough to slow riding significantly.

Some tracks, particularly vehicle tracks, have become less obvious.

There will be sheep grazing the area. Try to ride around them to avoid them panicking and stampeding.

You are strongly recommended to take a compass and know how to use it. Even the mapper has been known to make a 90° error on the flatter part of the map.

Start

Instructions

Start times will be from 10:00 Courses close 15:00

Middle Distance

| | | Win Time. Min | Distance Km | Controls | Metres Climb |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Course 1 | M Open | 55 | 11 | 21 | 340 |
| Course 2 | M20, M40, W Open, | 50 | 9 | 21 | 315 |
| Course 3 | M50, W 20, W40, | 50 | 7.5 | 17 | 250 |
| Course 4 | M16, M60, W50, Rec 1 | 45 | 6.5 | 14 | 200 |
| Course 5 | M70, W16, W60, | 45 | 4.9 | 14 | 120 |
| Course 6 | M14, W14, W70, Rec 2 | 45 | 3.4 | 10 | 60 |
| Course 7 | Rec 3 | | 1.6 | 7 | 20 |

Sprint Tuesday 20th April Ngapara Ponds,

Use by kind permission CODC, and Alexandra 4 x 4 club.

Mapper: Joe Sherriff

Planner: Joe Sherriff

Controller: Alister Metherell

Directions:-

From the centre of Alexandra, take Highway 8 for 1.5km. Turn left into Boundary Road for 600m then right into McLean Rd and park as directed.

Assembly area, start and finish are 2 minutes walk/ride from car park.

Register at the caravan if you need to hire an SI stick.

Emergency phone number. Jo Wilson 021 328 708

Technical and Safety notes.

See the notes applying to all events, above.

This is a map of two halves. The upper part is open mature pine forest on a flat elevated river terrace with very fast riding despite loose sand on some of the tracks.

It is so open and tracks so close together that we are allowing you to ride anywhere. If you do go 'cross country', beware of getting disorientated.

This terrace is separated from the other half by a steep 25m bank with few access points. Courses 6 and 7 will not be using the lower part of the map.

State highway 8 forms the north eastern boundary of the map and is strictly out of bounds. Motor cyclists do use the area and could be encountered at any time.

The lower part of the map is the remains of gold dredge tailings. It has since been covered by willow forest with very dense undergrowth and successive layers of flood borne silt. A complex network of vehicle tracks has been established by the local 4 x 4 club.

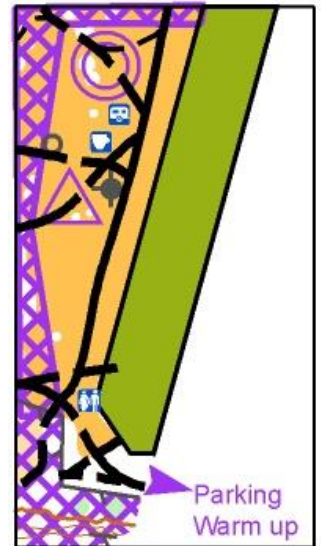
Briar roses, hawthorn and blackberry are abundant alongside the tracks. Work is in progress to clear them, but punctures and scratches are still possible. Arm protection and tubeless tyres well filled with sealant are strongly recommended.

Some tracks have wheel ruts up to 1 metre deep in short soft sections. You can ride alongside these with care.

Most of the tracks in the lower part are good riding, though some have long grass with rather indistinct junctions. Despite a lot of work with the weed eater and vehicle use, some are still not obvious.

The area is being prepared for a 4 x 4 National winching competition in May. Ignore all signage and tapes apart from orienteering controls.

Safety Bearing: Head east and find your way to the assembly area.



Start times from 10:00 Courses close at 14:00 Course combinations and distances.

| | | Win Time. Min | Distance km | Metres Climb |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Course 1 | M Open, M20 | 22 | 6.6 | 40 |
| Course 2 | M40, W Open | 22 | 5.6 | 40 |
| Course 3 | M50,W 40, W 20 | 22 | 4.5 | 40 |
| Course 4 | M16, M60, W50, Rec 1 | 22 | 3.7 | 40 |
| Course 5 | M70, W16, W60 | 22 | 3.3 | 40 |
| Course 6 | M14, W14, W70, Rec 2 | 22 | 2.8 | 10 |
| Course 7 | Rec 3 | | 1.5 | 0 |

Map Based on LINZ and CODC aerial photos 2013– 2018 and LIDAR contours supplied by Otago Regional Council. Ground survey 2020/21

Scale 1:5,000 Contour interval 5m. A4 size

Mapping notes

In the lower part of the map tracks cross a number of gullies containing seasonal watercourses. We expect these to be dry at the time of the race but in wet conditions they can fill with up to a metre of water. They are shown on the map as a short length of wide crossable watercourse. Information as to their aquatic status will be provided on the day.

You may ride anywhere on the upper terrace, on or off the tracks. Continuous forest cover has been mapped as white. Open and semi open areas are mapped in bright yellow with individual trees as white. The ground throughout is covered in low thyme or soft pine needles with generally slower riding than the tracks.

On the upper terrace there is an area of hard packed bare earth. This has been mapped as open (Yellow) rather than paved area (brown).

HELP – Volunteers Needed

We are running the whole event with very limited person power. Offers of help each day will be much appreciated.

Contact Jo Wilson (as soon as possible) : 021 328 708, jojoes@xtra.co.nz

Social Programme.

Monday 19th April

Social and prizegiving at the Alexandra Bowling Club.

Book and pay on-line following this link...<https://forms.gle/qpNsZw8X3fP9iBXo7>
Please do this by Tuesday 13th April at the latest.

Tuesday 20th April.

Informal gathering at Monteith's Ale House, Centennial Avenue, Alexandra from 6.30pm.

Details of the training on Wednesday and Thursday will be announced.

Wednesday /Thursday 21st, 22nd April

MTBO training on competition maps organised by Rob Garden and Marquita Gelderman

\$10 per person each day to cover costs.

Book and Pay on-line following this link. <https://forms.gle/qpNsZw8X3fP9iBXo7>

Please do this by Tuesday 13th April at the latest.

Friday 23rd April.

Ride some spectacular Central Otago Trails. Route still to be decided.

Watch the event website and keep in touch with Joe Sherriff. jojoes@xtra.co.nz 027 534 3513

Central Otago Orienteers is a satellite of Dunedin Orienteering. It may eventually grow into an independent club, but in the meantime, we are putting on 4 to 5 high quality events for DO each year.

We are most grateful to PAPO for their SI equipment and expertise, also for taking overall responsibility for the event. The planners and controllers are from Dunedin and Christchurch (PAPO)

As well as the planning and controlling team, particular thanks are due to Jeni Pelvin, Myles Thayer, Genevieve Webb and others in Dunedin who have looked after the entries.

Also, thanks to the MTBO Committee/ONZ and Pete Swanson for advice and support including Website, and Joolz Moore for publicity.