



Balaton MTBO
MTB Orienteering World Cup, Round 1
U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships

1 – 3 May 2026
Balatonfüred, Hungary

BULLETIN 3



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WELCOME

On behalf of the Municipality of Balatonfüred, I warmly welcome you to the Mountain Bike Orienteering World Cup, the U23 World Championship, and the Czech and Hungarian Cup sporting events taking place in our region.

We thank the organizers for once again thinking of us and holding this world-class event in the Balaton region, one of the most beautiful and attractive locations in Hungary. In recent years, Balatonfüred and its surroundings have hosted five MTBO Balaton Cups, one of which – the 2024 event – was also a World Ranking race, with 345 participants.

Balatonfüred is always happy to support high-quality sporting events like this. Over the past decades, we have hosted European and World Cup events and Championships in several sports.

However, these competitions are about more than just sports. Participants and their companions can enjoy the rich cultural heritage of the Balaton Uplands, the wonderful sights of Lake Balaton and its surroundings, and taste the region's deservedly famous local wines.

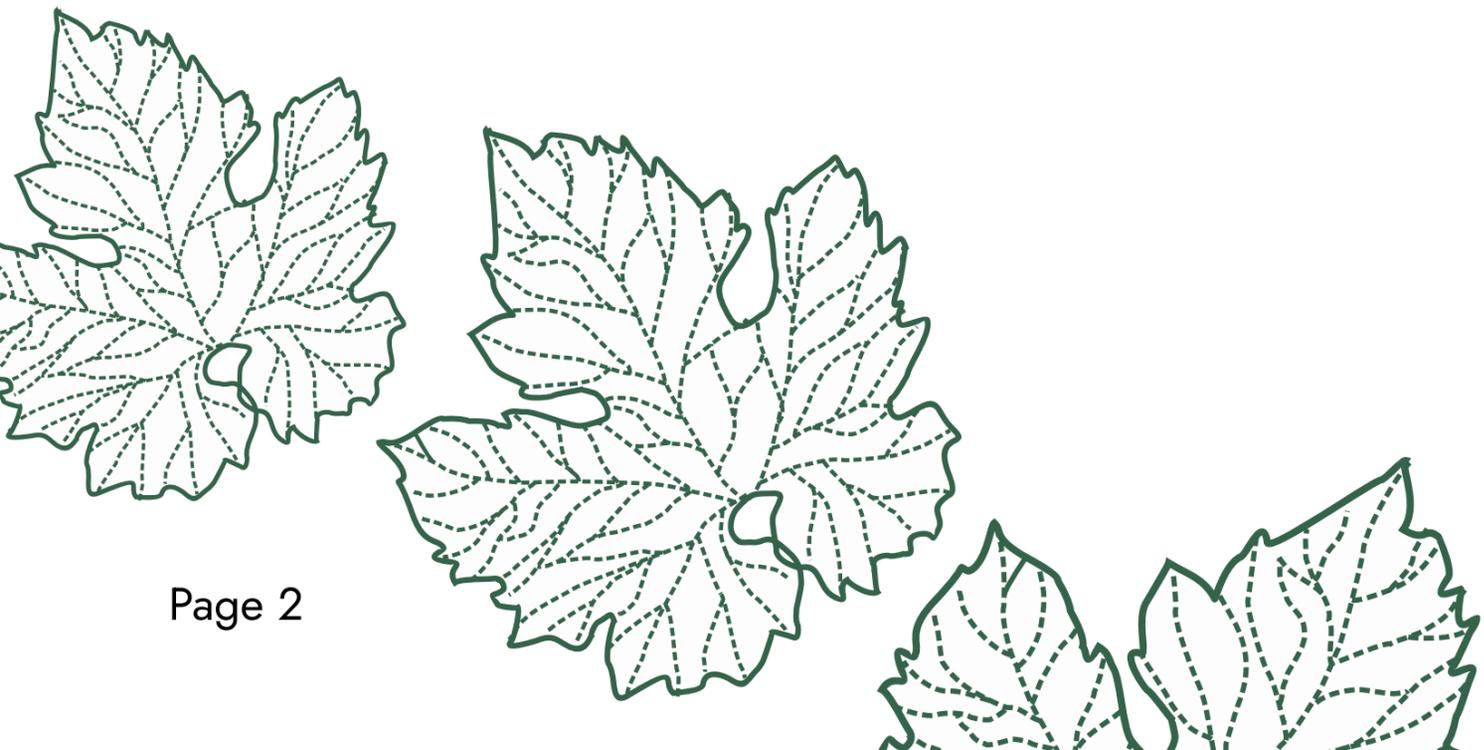
We are expecting 300 to 400 athletes from many countries around the world for the MTBO World Cup and associated events. I wish them a successful and accident-free competition!

We warmly welcome you now and in the future!

dr. István Bóka
Mayor of Balatonfüred



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "István Bóka". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the portrait of the mayor.



1/ ORGANISATION

1.1/ Organisers

Hangya SZKE and Balatonfüredi Sport Club
on behalf of the Hungarian Orienteering
Federation

The World Cup and the U23 World Championships
are organised under the authority of the
International Orienteering Federation (IOF).
www.orienteering.sport

1.2/ Organising Team

Event Director	Miklós Mets
Assistant Director	Sándor Tálás
Course Planner	Anna Füzy Miklós Mets Ágoston Dosek
Maps	Anna Füzy Miklós Mets
IT / Time keeping	Tamás Jankó
Media / Protocol	Sándor Hidas
Office	Katalin Lendvai
Finish	Péter Kocsis

1.3/ Event Advisers

IOF Senior Event Adviser: Gregor Raj (SLO)
National Controller: Ildikó Szivák

1.4/ Contact Information

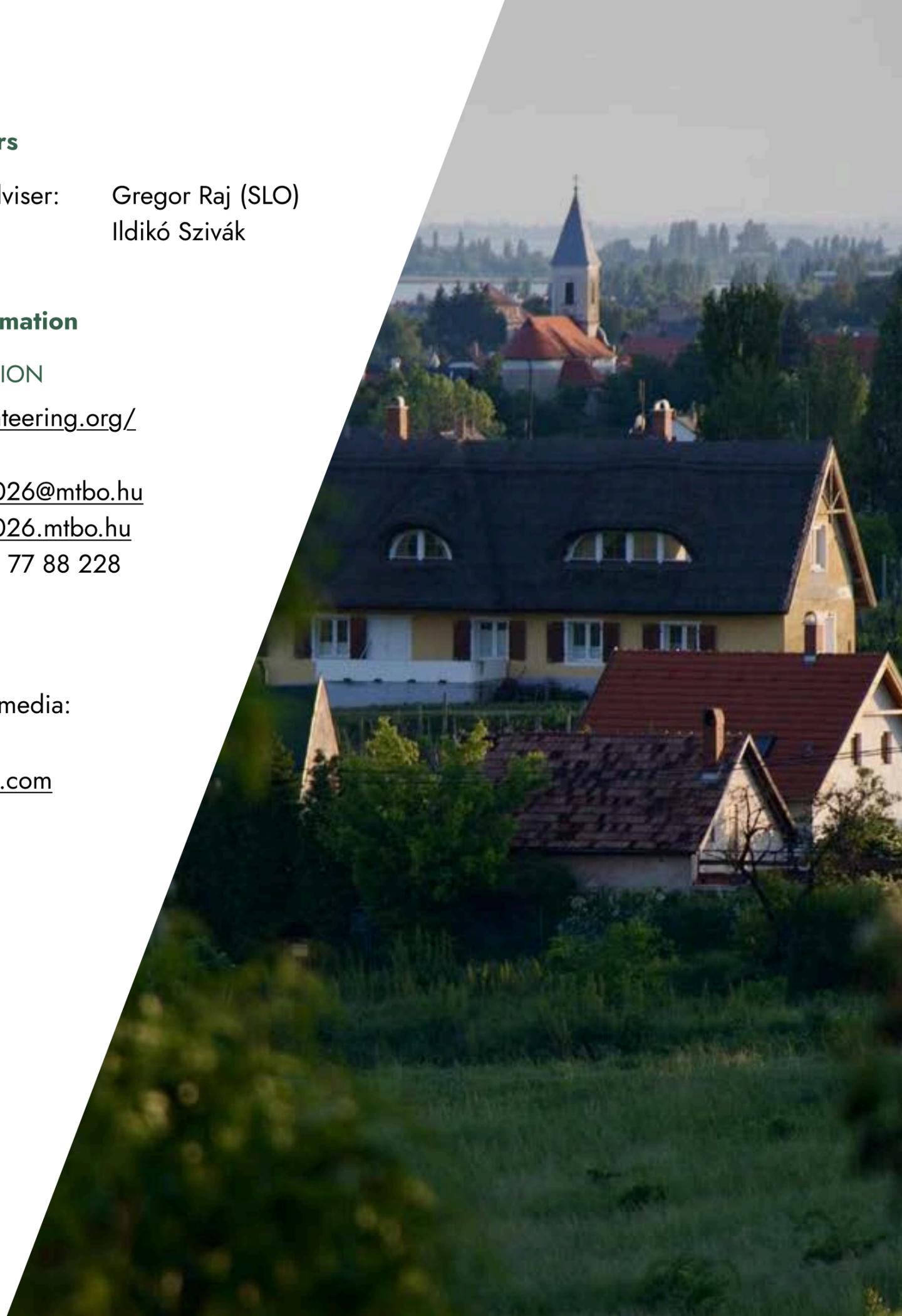
OFFICIAL INFORMATION

[https://eventor.orienteering.org/
Events/Show/8614](https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events/Show/8614)

Email wcup2026@mtbo.hu
Website wcup2026.mtbo.hu
Phone +36 70 77 88 228

MEDIA

Responsible for the media:
Sándor Hidas
hidas.sandor@gmail.com
+36 70 77 88 228



2/ VENUE

2.1/ Event Centre (EC)

The Event Centre (EC) will be located in Balatonfüred, at the Balaton Leisure and Conference Centre, at Horváth Mihály utca 64.

GPS coordinates: 46.951N, 17.877E

The EC is approximately 160 km from Budapest International Airport and 200 km from Vienna International Airport.

Getting to the Event Centre (EC)

The easiest way to get to the venue is by car. Public transport from the nearest airports is possible, but it is rather tricky. Email us if you need information and we are happy to assist. All requests must be sent to wcup2026@mtbo.hu no later than 1 March 2026.



Please note that the Event Office will be moving to the arena areas on competition days. Please refer to the detailed programme for planned opening times and locations.

2.2/ Directions for Obtaining Visas

Citizens of some countries must obtain a visa to enter Hungary. Hungary is part of the Schengen Area within the European Union.

Check if you need a visa at the following link:

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy_en

Potential participants are advised to stay up to date with the current regulations.

3/ TRANSPORT

The organisers do not provide transport from the airport(s) or railway station to the venue, nor from the EC to the competition or finish arenas.

Link for preferential rates for rental cars will be available on the event website <https://wcup2026.mtbo.hu/>.

4/ EMBARGOED AREAS

All potential participants (including competitors, coaches, team officials, etc.) must observe the embargoed areas. Other persons associated with a potential participant or a national team must also respect embargoed areas if their knowledge of the terrain could influence the results of the competitions.

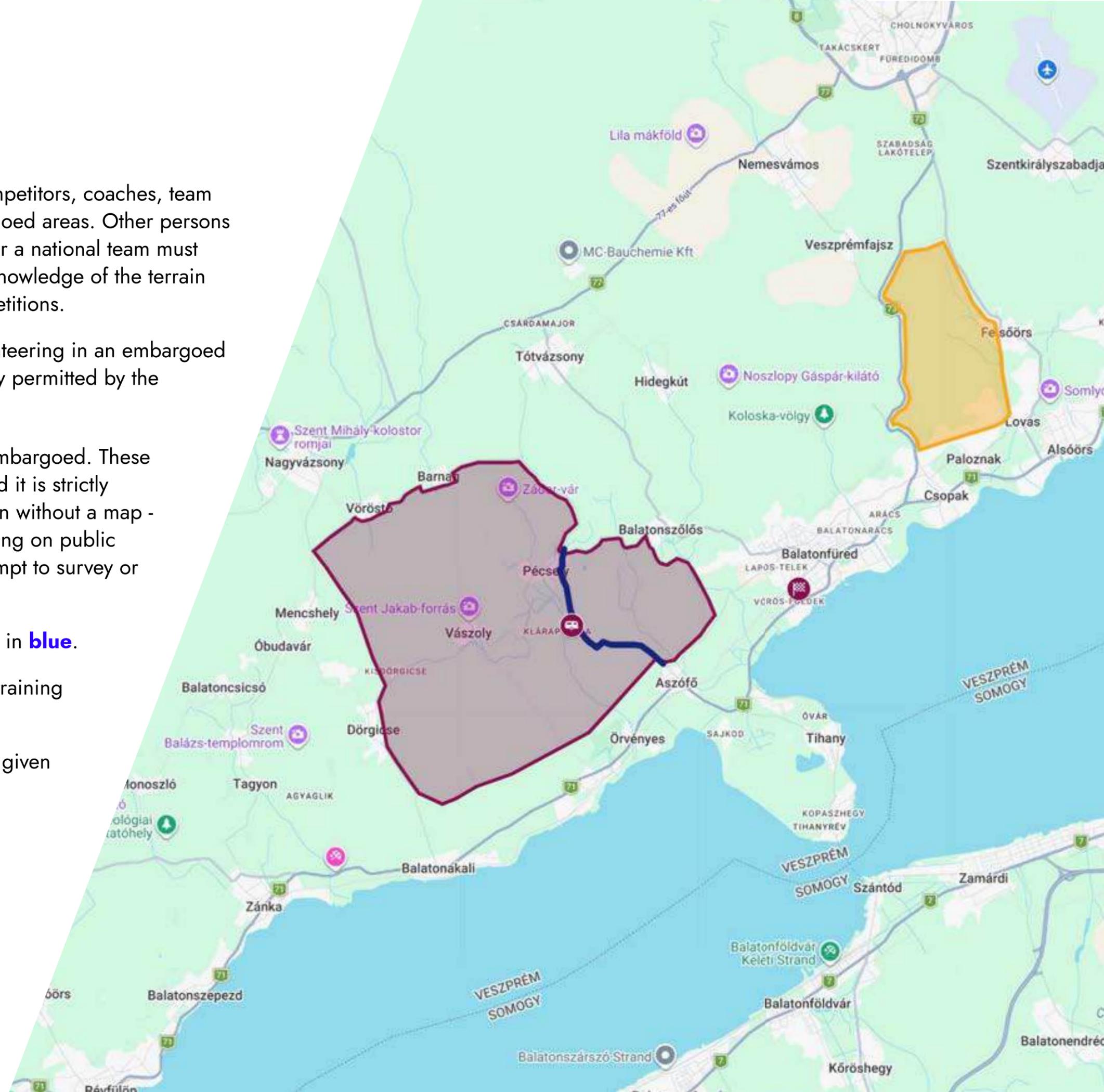
Any attempt to survey, train, or do orienteering in an embargoed area is strictly forbidden unless explicitly permitted by the organisers.

The areas marked in **purple** are fully embargoed. These areas are completely out of bounds, and it is strictly forbidden to enter these areas - not even without a map - or stay in accommodation there. Travelling on public asphalt roads is permitted, but any attempt to survey or train on permitted roads is not allowed.

The permitted through roads are shown in **blue**.

The area of the model event and open training on 30 April is shown in **orange**.

Full details about embargoed areas are given on [Google maps](#).



5/ EVENT PROGRAMME

Date		World Cup / U23 World Cup	U23 World Championships	Public events
Thursday	30th April	Arrival, Model event	Arrival, Model event	Open training
Friday	1st May	Sprint	Sprint	Sprint
Saturday	2nd May	Middle		Long (WMS)
Sunday	3rd May	Long	Long	Middle (WMS)

Planned detailed programme

Thursday	30th April	12:00	Deadline for name changes in teams
		12:00	Competition entry deadline for Sprint distance
		15:00 – 19:00	Model Event / Open training 1
		16:00 – 20:00	Event office open at EC
		19:00	Team officials' meeting at EC
Friday	1st May	10:00 – 16:00	Event office open at Sprint arena
		12:00	Competition entry deadline for Middle distance
		13:00 – 16:00	Public race Sprint
		14:00 – 16:00	World Cup / U23 Sprint distance competition
		18:30 – 20:00	Event office open at EC
		19:00	Team officials' meeting at EC
Saturday	2nd May	09:00 – 17:00	Event office open at Middle / Long arena
		10:00 – 14:00	World Cup Middle distance competition
		12:00	Competition entry deadline for Long distance
		12:00 – 17:00	Public race Long distance
		15:00	Prize-giving ceremony Sprint and Middle distances
		18:30 – 20:00	Event office open at EC
		19:00	Team officials' meeting at EC

Sunday	3rd May	08:00 – 17:00	Event office open at Middle / Long arena
		9:00 – 14:00	Public race Middle distance
		9:00 – 15:00	World Cup Long distance competition
		15:00	Prize-giving ceremony Long distance

- Notes:
- World Cup teams may directly go to the Model Event and pick up their maps
 - A Start Quarantine will be in effect on all three days. Teams may set up their own tents in the Start Quarantines at times specified in Bulletin #4.

6/ MAPS AND TERRAINS

Please note that all competition areas are new for orienteering, with no existing orienteering maps.

All maps will be made according to the International Specification for MTB Orienteering Maps ISMTBOM valid at the time of the event (see <https://orienteering.sport/iof/mapping>).

Competition Scale / Contours	Sprint 1:7 500 / 5 m	Middle 1:10 000 / 5 m	Long 1:15 000 / 5 m
Description of terrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A mix of forested and open areas – Tracks of different rideability – Combination of flat and hilly terrain with some steeper slopes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Highly varied area with large patches of forest, vineyards, and open areas. – Variable density network of tracks with mostly good rideability – A mix of fairly flat areas and steep hill sides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Highly varied area with large patches of forest, vineyards, and open areas. – Variable density network of tracks with mostly good rideability – A mix of fairly flat areas and steep hill sides

Recent map sample



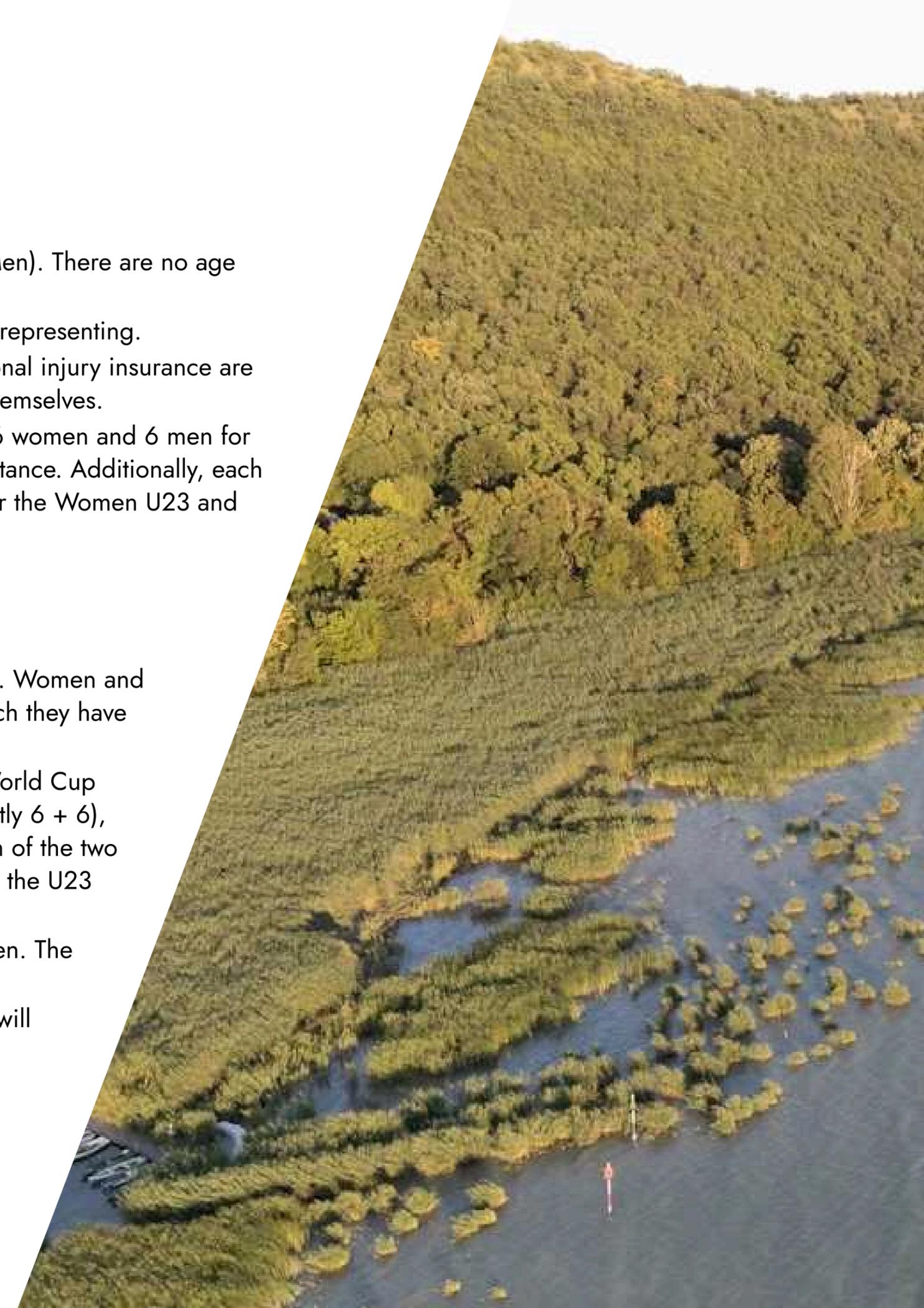
7/ CLASSES AND PARTICIPATION

World Cup round

- There is one class for women (called Women) and one for men (called Men). There are no age restrictions.
- All competitors must be citizens of the country of the federation they are representing.
- Competitors participate at their own risk. Third-party insurance and personal injury insurance are compulsory and are the responsibility of the competitor's federation or themselves.
- All competitors represent a federation. Each federation may enter up to 6 women and 6 men for all individual competitions, plus the current World Champions for the distance. Additionally, each federation may enter up to a further 2 women and 2 men, who qualify for the Women U23 and Men U23 classes respectively, in each individual competition.
- Each competitor must have a valid IOF Athlete Licence.

U23 World MTBO Championships

- There is one class for women (Women U23) and one for men (Men U23). Women and men belong to the U23 classes up to the end of the calendar year in which they have their 23rd birthday.
- In addition to the number of participants entered for the Men/Women World Cup competitions (published annually in the Special World Cup Rules, currently 6 + 6), every federation may enter up to 2 Women U23 and 2 Men U23 for each of the two individual competitions. Only competitors who are entitled to compete in the U23 classes may be entered.
- The additional U23 competitors are entered for the classes Women or Men. The entry procedure is the same as for Women and Men.
- All competitors entered in Women or Men who are aged 23 or younger will automatically also be ranked in Women U23 or Men U23.
- In 2026 the titles of Women U23 World Champion and Men U23 World Champion are awarded in Long and Sprint.



8/ ENTRY

8.1/ Entry procedure

Entries for the World Cup and the U23 World Championships are made in IOF Eventor.

<https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events/Show/8614>

Participants may only be entered by their federations.

8.2/ Entry deadlines

Team size deadline: 1 March 2026

Entries must be submitted no later than 1 March 2026 and with the following information:

- total number of male and female competitors in the team
- number of male and female competitors in each individual competition
- name of team manager (chosen from a list in IOF Eventor), including email address and mobile phone number
- number of team officials (there is no maximum number of officials per team)

Team names deadline: 20 April 2026

No later than 20 April 2026 the following information must be submitted:

- each competitor's name, year of birth, gender resp. class, and the competition/s in which he/she will compete
- each competitor's number of the electronic punching card (if competitors have a SIAC and want to use their own card)
- names of all team officials

Late entries and name changes

Late entries and changes will be accepted but an additional fee will be charged. Changes must be communicated directly to the organiser via wcup2026@mtbo.hu. The organiser will make the changes in IOF Eventor.

After 26 April 2026, no entries will be accepted.



9/ FEES AND PAYMENT

9.1/ Participation fees

	World Cup U23 World Cup U23 World Championships	Team Officials
Sprint	60	–
Middle	60	–
Long	60	–
Accreditation (incl. Model event)	60	60

All fees are in Euros and per person.

9.2/ Late entries and changes

Entries after the deadlines (but no later than 26 April 2026) and name changes will be accepted. For late entries and changes an additional fee will be charged:

- surcharge of 20 % for entries after the team size deadline
- surcharge of 50 % for entries after the team names deadline
- fee of 10 € for name changes after 20 April 2026.

9.3/ Payment

Please transfer the fees to:

Hangya Szabadidősport és Környezetvédő Egyesület

Address: 1121 Budapest, Hangya utca 20.

Tax number: 18234725-1-43

IBAN: HU02 1040 1093 0000 3726 0000 0002

BIC (SWIFT) code: OKHBHUHB

Deadline for payment

Full payment of all entry and accreditation fees must be made no later than 20 March 2026. Late payments will be subject to an additional fee of 10 % of the total amount.

Competitors or teams may not be allowed to participate if their entry fee is not paid.

9.4/ Cancellation of the event

If the event has to be cancelled after 1 April 2026, the organiser will retain a minimum proportion of the entry fee (competitor or team official) in order to partly cover committed costs.

9.5/ Withdrawals and refunds

Refund of 80% for withdrawals after the team size deadline of 1 March 2026 and before the team names deadline of 20 April 2026.

Refund of 50% for withdrawals after the team names deadline of 20 April until 26 April 2026.

10/ ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

10.1/ Accomodation

No official accommodation will be provided by the organisers, but Balatonfüred and nearby towns offer a wide variety of accommodation possibilities, including private rentals, hostels and deluxe apartments, and hotels ranging from budget to five-star. All of these can be found through well-known booking sites.

However, some accommodation is within the embargoed areas. It is the responsibility of every participant to ensure that they comply with the embargoes. If you need advice regarding accommodation, please contact the organisers via wcup2026@mtbo.hu as soon as possible.

A list of recommended accommodations will be included on the webpage wcup2026.mtbo.hu. The following accommodations are known to be bike friendly in Balatonfüred.

Kosztolányi Apartmanház Balatonfüred

8230 Balatonfüred, Kosztolányi sétány 6-8

Web: kosztolanyi-apartman.hu

E-mail: info@kosztolanyi-apartman.hu

Please note that the online booking system for 2026 will be available only after 1 January, but you may make a booking via email before that date.

Hotel Margaréta

8230, Balatonfüred, Széchenyi u. 53.

Web: www.hotelmargareta.hu

E-mail: info@hotelmargareta.hu

Camping possibility with limited basic facilities will be available near the Finish areas of each day. Access for the Day 1 area will be available only from Thursday late afternoon till Friday evening. Access for the Day 2 and 3 area will be available from Friday late afternoon only till Sunday evening. Please book your place via the organisers (wcup2026@mtbo.hu) before 1 April 2026.



10.2/ Food and catering

Hot and cold food and beverages will be served in the finish arenas. The menu for each day is available on the organiser's website (<https://wcup2026.mtbo.hu/>) 10 days before the event.

Dinner can be enjoyed in one of the numerous restaurants of the region.

- Riding outside the mapped area during the competition is not allowed.
- In Hungary, one drives on the right side of the road. Competitors must therefore ride on the right side on all roads and tracks.
- National traffic rules must be followed.

Non-compliant competitors or competitors who break any rule may be disqualified.

11/ COMPETITION RULES

11.1/ Information about rules

The World Cup will be organised in accordance with the following rules valid at the time of the event:

- IOF MTBO Competition Rules
- Special Rules MTBO World Cup

All the rules can be found at <https://orienteering.sport/mtbo/competition-rules>.

Further general MTBO rules:

- Competitors must get to all control points with their bikes.
- The bicycle must be with the competitor at all times.
- Wearing a rigid safety helmet is compulsory during competitions and training sessions.
- It is forbidden to use roads or tracks marked on the map with purple crosses (ISMTBOM symbol 718), a purple zigzag line (ISMTBOM symbol 716), or the ISMTBOM symbol 709 Out-of-bounds area.



11.2/ Deviations from the rules

Please observe the following deviations from MTBO mapping specifications:

- Only the major, high-voltage power lines are mapped to avoid cluttering the map.
- Map symbols used in addition to ISMTBOM 2022



Cultivated land

Based on Symbol 412 of ISOM 2017 with 60% black dots



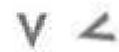
Open land with scattered trees, permitted to ride

Based on symbol 404 of ISMTBOM 2022, orange background



Open land with scattered bushes, permitted to ride

Based on symbol 404 of ISMTBOM 2022, orange background



Rocky pit or cave

Based on symbol 203.1 of ISOM 2017, 60% black



Significant pile of rocks

Based on symbol 207 of ISOM 2017, 60% black



Pit

Based on symbol 112 of ISOM 2017



Ruin, small ruin

Based on symbol 523 of ISOM 2017, 60% black



Ruined stone wall, linear stone pile

Based on symbol 514 of ISOM 2017, 60% black

11.3/ Information about off-track riding

Riding off the track, trail or path is generally forbidden. It is only allowed in areas marked as 'rideable area' on the map according to ISMTBOM 2022 and symbols listed in this bulletin. Off-track riding is prohibited in all other areas, including settlements, cultivated land, orchards, vineyards, and all other open areas not marked as rideable.

It is strictly forbidden to enter forbidden areas mapped as olive symbol 520, and use roads and areas overprinted with purple symbols 709, 716, and 718 as specified in the latest MTBO mapping specifications (ISMTBOM 2022 Revision 4).

Routes that offer sensible route choices are shown as roads, paths, and with symbols 824 – 830.

All other areas are unlikely to offer sensible route choices.

11.4/ Controls not situated on paths

On all days, there may be controls not situated on tracks or paths in areas permitted for riding. They will be set so as not to require control descriptions.

11.5/ Anti-Doping

Doping is strictly forbidden and the organisers of the World Cup are dedicated to supporting the anti-doping authorities in their work. Doping tests are always carried out in accordance with the procedures described in the WADA International Standard for Testing. The IOF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code apply. Athletes who are selected for the doping tests must bring an official identification (with photo) to the doping test area. The athlete should

also bring along their therapeutic use exemption (TUE) if applicable. In general, it is advisable that the athletes bring along their ID to all the competitions and events. For more information and anti-doping documents, please consult: <https://orienteering.sport/iof/anti-doping>

12/ COMPETITION INFORMATION

12.1/ Punching system

SPORTident AIR+ (system for contactless punching with SI Active Cards SIAC) with a working range of 150 – 180 cm will be used.

The organisers will **not** provide a backup SIAC to competitors. Competitors who prefer to use a backup SIAC of their own may do so.

Rental SIACs will be available at € 2 per day.

Participants are advised to study the *Guidelines SPORTident AIR+ in MTBO*, which are available at <https://orienteering.sport/mtbo/internal/event-organising/organise-mtbo-events/>.

12.2/ Winning times

Winning times in minutes (according to the *IOF MTBO Competition Rules*)

Format (distance)	M/W 21 and older
Sprint	20-25
Middle	50-55
Long	105-115

12.3/ Preliminary course data

Competition	WMTBOC Men	WMTBOC Women
Sprint	7 km / 110 m / 16	5.8 km / 95 m / 14
Middle	15 km / 300 m / 18	12 km / 240 m / 15
Long	29 km / 600 m / 21	23.5 km / 450 m / 19

(length / total climb / controls)

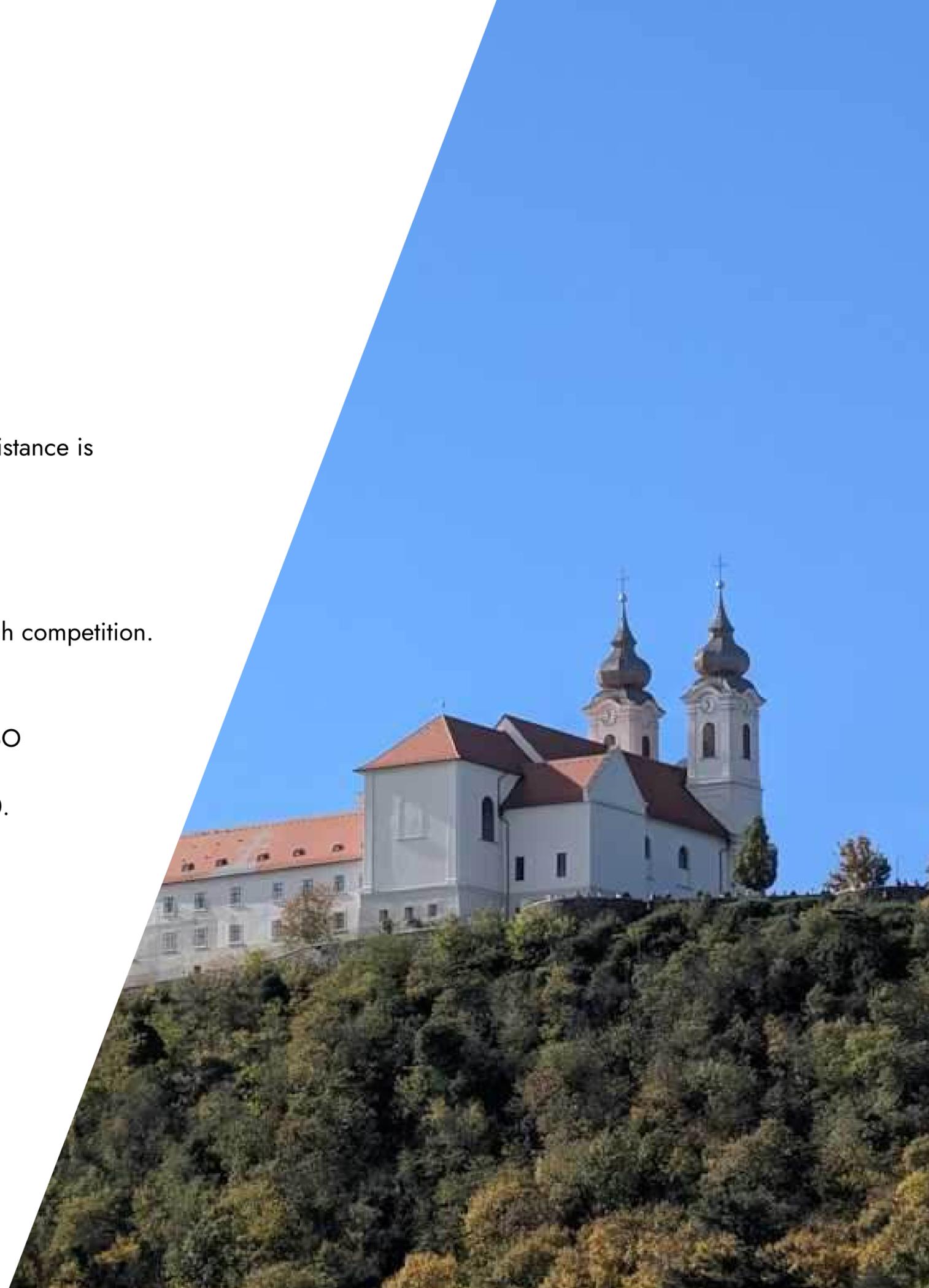
This course data is preliminary. The distance given is air distance. Riding distance is approximately 30% longer. Definitive data will be published in Bulletin 4.

12.4/ Team officials' meetings

- The team officials' meeting will be held at 19:00 on the day prior to each competition.
- The meeting will take place at the EC, Balatonfüred.
- A maximum of 2 team officials per federation may attend the meeting.
- The agenda for the meeting will be according to appendix 5 of the MTBO Competition Rules.
- The information from the meeting will be published in eventor by 22:00.

13/ OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING

Organisers are happy to provide maps and help organise training for teams who requested it before 1 March 2026.



14/ MISCELLANEOUS

14.1/ Parallel events

Public races, part of the Czech Cup, Hungarian Cup, and World Master Series, will be organised in conjunction with the competitions each day.

Detailed information on public races will be given on the organiser's website: balaton.mtbo.hu.

14.2/ Balatonfondo mass cycling event

A 177 km long road cycling event with partial road closures takes place in the Balatonfüred area on 1 May. More details on the relevant restrictions will be published in Bulletin 3.

<https://www.balatonfondo.com/en/races/granfondo>

14.3/ Climate and hazards

Climate

The weather near Lake Balaton tends to be very pleasant in late April and early May, characterised by lots of sunshine and little rain. The temperatures are pleasant with highs between 18 and 26 °C and lows between 8 and 15 °C. The chances are quite good that the weather will be ideal for mountain bike riding during the event.

Description of any hazards

Wild animals like deer, wild boars etc. might be present in the forests of competition areas, but they are unlikely to attack riders unless provoked.

Ticks are commonly found in deciduous forests. They can spread Lyme disease or borreliosis, and tick-borne encephalitis (TBE). Competitors are asked to protect themselves and to check for ticks after every ride in the forest. Information is given on the IOF website at <https://orienteering.sport/tick-borne-encephalitis-tbe-dont-run-the-risk/>.

14.4/ Media

We welcome all media representatives to cover the competitions. For media accreditation and related requests, please contact Sándor Hidas, the person responsible for the media, by email hidas.sandor@gmail.com or by phone +36 70 77 88 228.

Media accreditation is free, but all media personnel must be accredited, and the accreditation must be made by 1 April 2026.

14.5/ Competition clothing

Competitors must wear the team clothing of their federation during all official events.

14.6/ Insurance and liability

Everybody participates in competitions and other activities associated with the event at their own risk, and each person is responsible for their own insurance coverage (illness/accident and third party insurance).

The organisers decline any liability; they are not responsible for theft or similar incidents either. Participants are encouraged to take necessary precautions.

15/ SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DEADLINES

The deadlines to submit entries, make payments, book accommodation etc. are summarised in the table below.

Please note that additional fees may apply if the deadlines are not met.

	Deadline
Team size entry	1 March 2026
Payments	20 March 2026
Accreditation media	1 April 2026
Team names entry	20 April 2026
Late entries and changes	26 April 2026
Entry public races	26 April 2026





**WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU IN HUNGARY!**

