



INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

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# **IOF ORIENTEERING WORLD CUP 2026**

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PRE-BULLETIN

# WELCOME TO THE IOF WORLD CUP 2026

**Dear athletes, Coaches and Fans of orienteering,**

During the 2026 season the IOF World Cup will reach a new level when it for the first time will compile 12 exciting Final races viewed by millions in TV. A milestone towards the positioning of the World Cup as a premiere event series and strong brand in the international sports calendar.

During 2026, all members of the World Cup Steering Group will host a World Cup round. It's fantastic to be able to offer the athletes such a strong program with the experienced organisers Switzerland, Sweden and Czechia taking the lead within the sport. The goal to keep on providing high quality competitions in suitable terrain for each format remains, where focus is placed upon quality in mapping and course setting. All presented in thrilling TV productions where we keep on pushing forward to make our sport even more well known and understandable by the wide audiences.

The program in 2026 will provide a good balance between forest and urban terrains to award the orienteers who best can perform across all formats and the variations of challenges that implies. The first rounds of Orienteering World Cup 2026 will be in the sprint format in Switzerland and Sweden. After the summer break we move into the forests of Czechia and the finals will be hosted in Lithuania late in September.

**Welcome to the Orienteering World Cup 2026!**



*Henrik Eliasson*

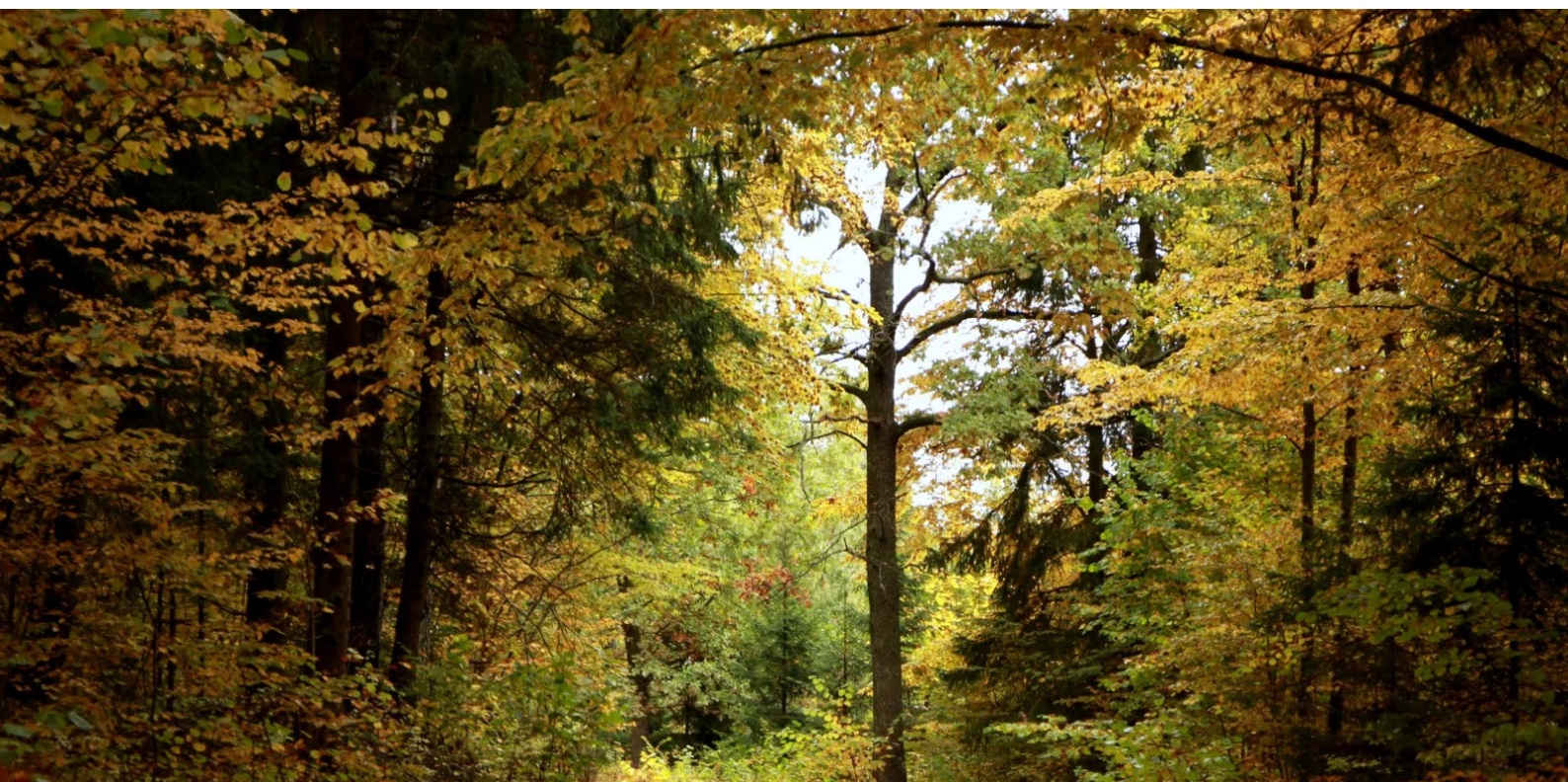
CEO – International Orienteering Federation

# THE PROGRAM

The World Cup 2026 will consist of the following 12 competitions.

Date	Format	Venue	Country
24 April	Sprint	Locarno	Switzerland
25 April	Sprint Relay	Locarno	Switzerland
26 April	Knock-Out Sprint	Locarno	Switzerland
28 May	Knock-Out Sprint	Skara-Lidköping	Sweden
30 May	Sprint	Skara-Lidköping	Sweden
31 May	Sprint Relay	Skara-Lidköping	Sweden
6 August	Long	Vyšší Brod	Czechia
8 August	Middle	Vyšší Brod	Czechia
9 August	Relay	Vyšší Brod	Czechia
24 September	Long	Druskininkai	Lithuania
26 September	Middle	Druskininkai	Lithuania
27 September	Relay	Druskininkai	Lithuania

All competition related details and updates are available in **IOF Eventor**.







# WORLD CUP 2026 BEGINS IN LOCARNO, SWITZERLAND

After the World Cup Final 2025, the World Cup comes back to Switzerland. In the end of April, Locarno and the region of Ticino is host region for **World Cup Round 1** in 2026.

The three World Cup sprint races will take place in the beautiful surroundings of Locarno on the border of Lago Maggiore. Even though Locarno and the Tessin is a part of Switzerland, the atmosphere feels mediterranean with narrow streets, beautiful Piazzas and a thrilling terrain for sprint races.

The preliminary program for World Cup 2026 Locarno/Switzerland contains all the three sprint disciplines. It's the best way to prepare for WOC in Italy only some months later. And as always in Switzerland: the great audience will make you running even faster to push you to the limit.

**We welcome you all to Locarno/Switzerland and the start of World Cup 2026!**



# CONTINUES IN SKARA & LIDKÖPING, SWEDEN

The two small cities of Skara and Lidköping, in the south-western part of Sweden, are our hosts for the Orienteering World Cup round 2 in an exciting sprint round and **offer new challenging and varying orienteering terrains and exciting experiences**. With Skara being one of Sweden's oldest cities, hosting a medieval central city structure including the oldest cathedral in the country and Lidköping, situated right by the southern lake shore of Vänern, providing many different types of challenging areas for sprint orienteering, never used for orienteering. The Event Center will be located in Skara.

The organising clubs, host venues and Svensk Orienteering Events are really excited to welcome the world's top class orienteers, families and spectators to an exciting event with a lot of activities and experiences in conjunction with the competition arenas, providing **more than just a competition**. Spectator races will include the popular sprint races Kinnekullesprinten and the spectacular Sommarlandssprinten, held in Skara Sommarland Water and Amusement Park, offering a well worth visit for all orienteers and providing a thrilling atmosphere for the event.

**A warm welcome to Skara and Lidköping in 2026!**





# RESUMES AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK IN CZECHIA

The Orienteering World Cup 2026 will move to the very south of Czechia, close to the Austrian border. The third round of the World Cup will be held in Vyšší Brod, a beautiful historic town also sought after by boaters. The athletes will rather orient themselves in the forest, because after the Sprint World Championships in July 2026, this will be the comeback event for forest Orienteering. The really demanding Šumava terrain will test all participants on the Long Distance, Middle Distance and Relay. The fans won't be on the sidelines either - quite the opposite. Four-stage popular Czech O-Tour races will be prepared for them, and at the same time there are a number of tourist activities nearby. Not far away is Lipno, the largest reservoir in Czechia with beaches and other activities such as the Treetop Trail. "We emphasize that athletes and spectators leave the Czechia very satisfied again," says Jan Pícek, CEO Czech Orienteering Federation.





# ...AND IS CONCLUDED IN DRUSKININKAI, LITHUANIA

The Orienteering World Cup Finals, including European Orienteering Championships will conclude the international season 2026. The Spa destination Druskininkai will serve as the perfect Event Centre location and offer challenging terrains, and well deserved recovery for both the athletes and the spectators.

Druskininkai is the capital of health promotion, recreation, an active lifestyle, and exceptional entertainment, one which is available all year round. Back in 2006, the strongest junior orienteers visited Druskininkai, when Junior World Championships 2006 was held here. The three World Cup races will be held in typical Baltic terrain, with many small details, negative landforms and various types of runnability and visibility.

**The Lithuania Orienteering Federation is looking forward to welcoming you to Druskininkai and Lithuania!**