



MTB Orienteering World Cup Round 3

U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships

BULLETIN 2.2

18 – 21 September 2025
Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

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WELCOME

The **Bulgarian Orienteering Federation** and **SKO Variant 5 Targovishte** are pleased to welcome the participants of the MTB Orienteering World Cup, round 3 and U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships to Kazanlak and Stara Zagora in Bulgaria - well known areas for MTBO and foot orienteering races.



Dear Participants, Officials, and Orienteering Enthusiasts,

On behalf of the Bulgarian Orienteering Federation, it is my great honor and pleasure to invite you to the **MTB Orienteering World Cup and the Under 23 World Championships**, to be held in the breathtaking landscapes near Kazanlak and Stara Zagora.

This prestigious event represents the pinnacle of athleticism, strategy, and passion for orienteering. It is a unique opportunity for the world's best competitors to challenge themselves in the heart of Bulgaria's natural beauty, where rolling hills, dense forests, and the historic Valley of the Roses provide the perfect backdrop for a world-class competition.

We are proud to host this event and are committed to offering you an unforgettable experience. Our dedicated team is working tirelessly to ensure fair, exciting courses and a warm, welcoming atmosphere for all. Beyond the competition, we encourage you to explore the rich cultural and historical heritage of the region, from the ancient Thracian tombs to the vibrant traditions of the Bulgarian people.

Whether you are an elite competitor, a young athlete aspiring for greatness, or a supporter cheering from the sidelines, we are thrilled to share this incredible journey with you.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bulgaria in September 2025 and wish all participants success, determination, and unforgettable memories.

Warm regards,

Krasimir Danailov

President of the Bulgarian Orienteering Federation

1 ORGANISATION

1.1 Organisers

Bulgarian Orienteering Federation
Variant 5 Orienteering Club Targovishte
Stara Zagora Municipality
Maglizh Municipality
Kazanlak Municipality



1.2 Organising team

Event Director:	Ivan Sirakov
Event Secretary:	Petranka Angelova
Technical Director:	Dian Bonev
IT/time keeping:	Milen Marinov



1.3 Event advising / event control

IOF Senior Event Adviser:	Nermin Fenmen (GBR)
National Controller:	Ilian Dyankov

1.4 Information and contact

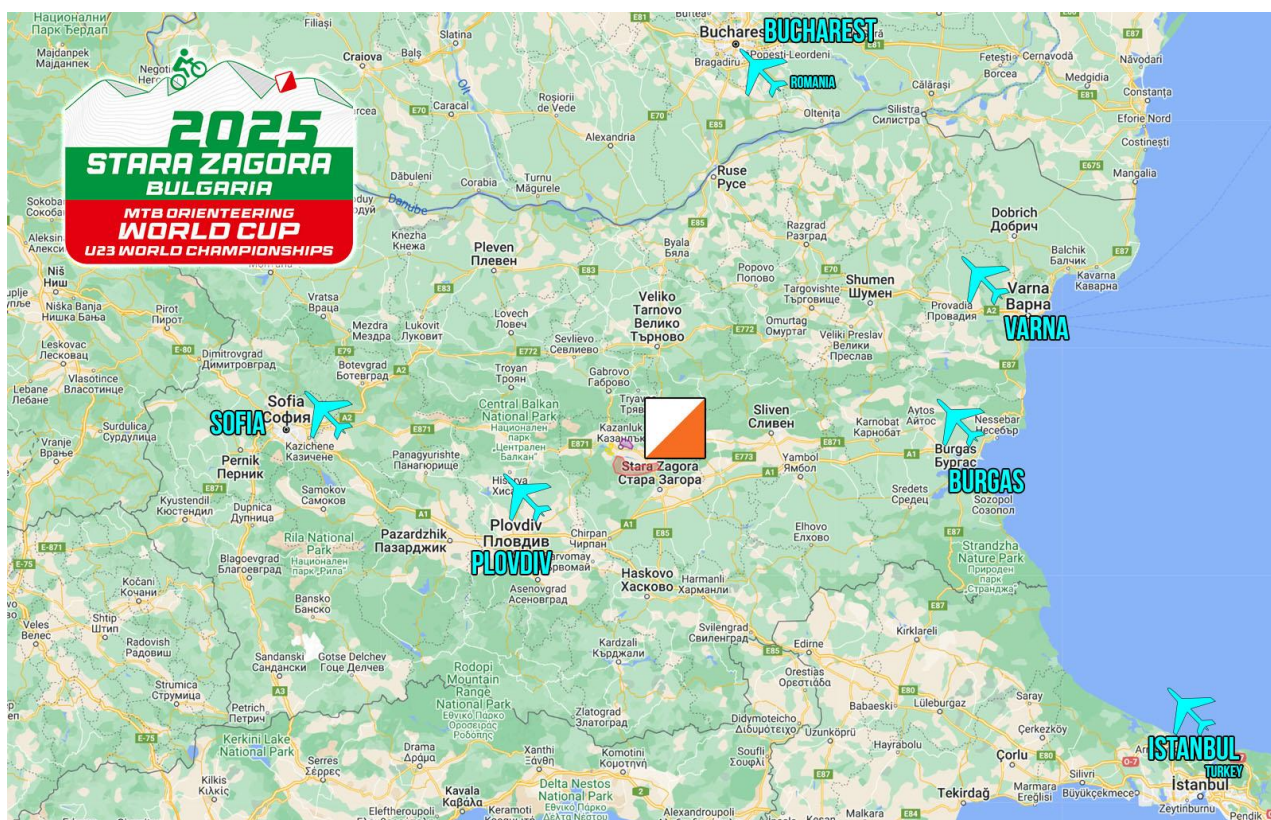
Website:	www.mtbo2025.com
Email address of organiser:	teamcontact@variant5.org
Telephone number:	+359 878561166

The MTB Orienteering World Cup, Round 3 and U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships are organised under the authority of the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) www.orienteering.sport.



2 VENUE

2.1 General map of the region



2.2 Event Centre (EC)

Information about the EC

- The EC will be located in [Spa Hotel MINERAL](#), Yagoda village, Stara Zagora
- Address: Str. Banenska 13, 6167 Yagoda, Stara Zagora, Bulgaria;
- GPS coordinates: [42.546029, 25.571920](#) (google maps).

How to get there

The EC is readily accessible by major roads and public transport.

	Distance by car
Sofia airport	250 km – 140 minutes
Burgas airport	190 km – 110 minutes
Plovdiv airport	120 km – 90 minutes
Varna airport	300 km – 210 minutes
Istanbul airport (TURKEY)	360 km – 250 minutes
Bucharest airport (ROMANIA)	280 km – 300 minutes

3 TRAVEL AND TOURIST INFORMATION

3.1 Getting to the venue / Event Centre

The easiest way to get to the venue is by car. The organisers do not offer any transport, but if you need information on public transport, please send an email to teamcontact@variant5.org.

3.2 Directions for obtaining entry permits (visas)

If you come from the EU or Schengen area country, you do not need a visa. Other international travellers may be required to hold a Bulgarian visa prior to travel to Bulgaria, depending on their country of residence. For visa information, please visit the government's travel website at <https://www.mfa.bg/en/services-travel/consular-services/travel-bulgaria/visa-bulgaria>. If you need visa help or special documentation, such as an "Invitation Letter", please send an email to teamcontact@variant5.org no later than 31.05.2025. Please make sure that you allow for sufficient time (at least 3 months) for invitation letters and visa processing. Also note that visa regulations are subject to change. Please double-check your specific visa requirements.

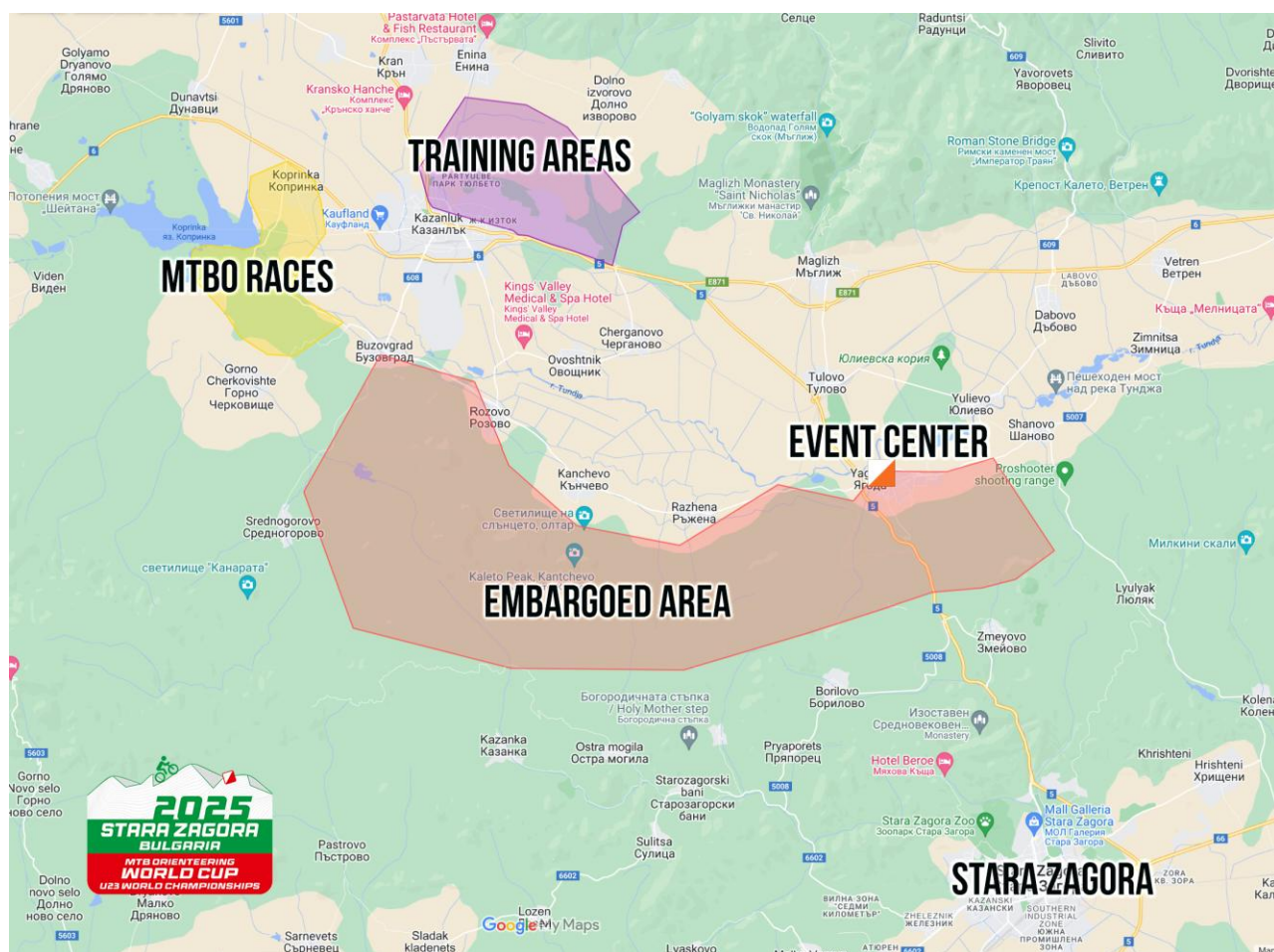
4 TRANSPORT

We recommend car rental as the best way to come to the EC and move during the event. If you need information on transport, please contact the organisers teamcontact@variant5.org.

The organisers do not offer any transport from the airports to the venue nor from the EC to the competitions/finish arenas.

Information on the distances from the EC to the arenas will be published in January 2025 in an updated Bulletin 2. You might not need transportation but rather use your bikes.

5 EMBARGOED AREAS



You may click on the link to google maps of the [embargoed areas and overall scheme](#).

The areas marked in red on the map above are **fully** embargoed for all potential participants and team members, including competitors, team leaders, coaches, doctors, escorts, and any other person who through their knowledge of the terrain may influence the result of the competitions. This means:

- no one with potential connection to a team (athletes or others) may visit the areas,
- no organised orienteering activity may take place in the areas,
- no training sessions may take place in the areas.
- Driving on the main road E85 (Starza Zagora – Kazanlak) is allowed.

6 EVENT PROGRAMME

Day	MTBO World Cup #3 & U23 World Champs
17.09. Wednesday	Arrival
18.09. Thursday	Model event
19.09. Friday	Sprint
20.09. Saturday	Long distance
21.09. Sunday	Mixed Relay

7 MAPS AND TERRAINS

The most recent versions of previous foot-orienteeing maps partly covering the competition terrains are accessible on the organiser's website www.mtbo2025.com.

All maps will be made according to the IOF International Specification for MTB Orienteering Maps ISMTBOM 2022 (see <https://orienteering.sport/iof/mapping>).

Competition Scale / vertical contour intervals	Description of terrain
Sprint 1:7500 / 2.5 m	Generally, rather flat urban terrain with lots of tracks of very good rideability with some moderately hilly forested areas.
Long 1:15 000 / 5 m	Moderate to hilly forested and open areas with tracks of different rideability.
Mixed Relay 1:12 500 / 5 m	Moderate to hilly forested and open areas with tracks of different rideability.

8 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.
- 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.
- In the Mixed Relay each federation may enter a maximum of 4 teams of 3 riders. Each team must include at least 1 woman.
- Each federation may enter a maximum of 10 team officials.
- Each competitor must have a valid IOF Athlete Licence.

U23 World 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.
- 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 2025 the titles of Women U23 World Champion and Men U23 World Champion are awarded in Sprint and Long distance.

9 ENTRY

9.1 Entry procedure for MTB Orienteering World Cup 3 (incl. U23)

- Entries for the MTB Orienteering World Cup, round 3 and the U23 World MTBO Championships are made in **IOF Eventor**.
- Link to the event in IOF Eventor: <https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events/Show/7898>
- Entries will open on 1st March 2025.
- Participants can only be entered by their federations.

9.2 Entry deadlines

Team size deadline = 31st July 2025.

Entries must be submitted no later than 31st July 2025 and with the following information:

- total number of competitors of each gender
- number of competitors in each individual competition
- number of relay teams
- number of team officials
- team manager's name, email address and phone number

Team names deadline = 8th September 2025.

No later than 8th September 2025 the following information must be submitted:

- each competitor's name, year of birth, gender resp. class, and the competition 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 by the organiser if possible but an additional fee will be charged → 10.2.

After **14th September**, no entries will be accepted.

10 FEES AND PAYMENT

10.1 Participation fees

All fees are in Euros and – except for the Relay – per person.

	World Cup & U23	Team officials
Sprint	45	-
Long	60	-
Relay (per team)	135	-
Accreditation (incl. Model event)	60	60

A banquet at € 40 per person will be offered. Details will follow in Bulletin 3.

10.2 Late entries and changes

Entries after the deadlines but no later than **14th September 2025** 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 8th September (team names deadline).

<i>all fees are in €</i>	World Cup & U23		
	by 31/7 team size	after 31/7 team size	after 8/9 team names
<i>deadlines</i>			
<i>surcharge/reduction</i>		+ 20 %	+ 50 %
Sprint	45	54	68
Long	60	72	90
Relay (per team)	135	162	200
Accreditation (incl. team officials)	60	72	90

10.3 Payment

Deadline for payment

- Full payment of all entry and accreditation fees (and possible other fees, e.g. rental fee for punching card) must be made no later than **31st July 2025**.
- Late payments will be subject to an additional fee of 10 % of the total amount.

Payment by bank transfer to the bank account of Variant 5 Orienteering club:

IBAN: BG57TEXI95451006287800

BIC: TEXIBGSF

Sdruzenie "Variant 5" Sporten klub po orientirane Targovishte
Texim Bank AD, Targovishte, Bulgaria

All charges and bank fees are to be paid by the payer.

10.4 Cancellation of the event

If the event must be cancelled after **31st July**, the organiser will retain 15 € per participant (competitor or team official) in order to partly cover committed costs.

10.5 Withdrawals

For World Cup & U23 Championships participants:

- Refund of 80 % for withdrawals after the team size deadline (from 1/8 until 8/9/2025);
- Refund of 50 % for withdrawals after the team names deadline (from 9/9 until 14/9/2025).

11 ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

Hotel	Single room	Twin room (single beds)	Double room	Triple room	Apartment 2x 2	Apartment 1x 3 + 1x 2
	Price is in euro and per room and night incl. breakfast and dinner					
Spa Hotel Mineral (Event center) Yagoda village	100	145	145	205	280	
Spa Hotel Valentina Yagoda village, 50m from EC	100		145		280	360
<i>All prices are in Euro and per night and per room.</i>						

Both hotels have *Spa facilities with mineral water*.

Spa Hotel Mineral has capacity of about 90 beds.

Spa Hotel Valentina has 9 double rooms, two apartments with capacity of 4 and one apartment with capacity of 5.

There is an option to order lunch as well for an additional cost.

For availability and reservation email us at teamcontact@variant5.org with the accommodation form filled up. Accommodation form with more details about reservation can be downloaded from [HERE](#) or from Eventor.

During the competition period there is a national holiday so it might be difficult to book accommodation. Please don't postpone your reservations.

The organizers will keep the rooms in both hotels blocked for participants in the MTBO event until end of July. After that any available rooms will be released for the public.

Meals at arenas

There might be a bar restaurant at the arenas which will serve various food and drinks.

Banquet

A banquet at € 40 per person will be offered. Booking during accreditation in Event center is possible. More info to come in Bulletin 3.

12 COMPETITION RULES

12.1 Information about rules

The MTB Orienteering World Cup, round 3 and the U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships 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 with purple crosses or a purple zigzag line on the map.
- Riding outside the mapped area is not allowed.
- In Bulgaria 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.

12.2 Info about off-track riding

Riding off the track, trail or path is generally allowed, but it is forbidden in cultivated land such as orchards, vineyards and similar. Off-track riding speed may vary a lot.

12.3 Controls not situated on paths

On some courses there may be off-track controls in rideable open areas. They will be set so as not to require control descriptions.

12.4 Anti-Doping

Doping is strictly forbidden and the organisers of the 3rd round of the CX80 MTB Orienteering 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>

13 COMPETITION INFORMATION

13.1 Punching system

SPORTident Air+ (system for contactless punching with SI Active Cards SIAC) with a working range of 150 – 180 cm will be used. Competitors may use their own SIAC.

Rental SIACs will be available at **€ 3 per day** – deposit **€ 80**.

13.2 Winning times

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

<i>Format (distance)</i>	<i>Times</i>
Sprint	20 – 25
Long	105 – 115
Relay: average for each leg	40 – 45
total winning time	120 – 135

14 OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING

MTB Orienteering events will be held right before the World Cup #3 in the region which will be a great opportunity to get to know the terrains in the area and prepare for the main event. For more information follow our website or contact us by email.

The Bulgarian MTB Orienteering Champs 2024 were held in the area and organisers are happy to provide maps and help organise trainings upon request.

Please send your request to teamcontact@variant5.org. Fee for a training map: 5 Euro.

15 MISCELLANEOUS

15.1 Public races

There will be public races right after the World Cup races. More details to come in Bulletin 3 or on the website www.mtbo2025.com.

Preliminary programme:

19.09. – Sprint distance

20.09. – Long distance

21.09. – Middle distance

Classes:

Men and Women 14; 17; 21; 35; 40; 45; 50; 55; 60;

If there are too few entries in a class, the organisers reserve the right to combine classes.

15.2 Climate and hazards

Climate

September usually offers great weather for MTBO although there is no bad weather for orienteering. Usual precipitation during that period in Stara Zagora area is 51mm. The average minimum and maximum temperatures in September vary between 13,5 and 23.9 ° Celsius. So the chances are quite good that the weather will be ideal for mountain bike riding during the event.

Hazards

Wild animals like deer, wild boars etc. might be present in the forests of the competition areas.

15.3 Media

We welcome all media representatives to cover the competitions of MTB Orienteering World Cup, round 3 and the U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships in Bulgaria. For media accreditation and related requests, please contact teamcontact@variant5.org.

- Media representatives and team officials are encouraged to bring their own Internet-enabled devices, as neither computers nor Wi-Fi services can be offered by the organisers.
- Accredited media representatives are given the opportunity to take part in the Model Event and access to some controls in the competition areas.
- If desired, the organisers will assist media representatives with hotel accommodation booking.

15.4 Competition clothing

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

15.5 Insurance and liability

The organisers decline any liability that might occur through participation in MTB Orienteering World Cup-Round 3 and U23 World MTB Orienteering Championships and training. Everybody participates at their own risk and is responsible for their own insurance coverage (illness/accident and third party insurance). Organisers are not responsible for theft or similar incidents. Participants are encouraged to take necessary precautions.

