

World Masters Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships (WMMTBOC)



8th – 12th September 2026
Moray, Scotland

Bulletin 1

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Bulletin 2 will be published in March 2026

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WELCOME

British Mountain Bike Orienteering (BMBO) and Scottish Orienteering Association (SOA) are delighted to welcome you to Morayshire in Scotland, renowned for its coastline, farmland and woodlands, scenic beauty and dry climate. It is home to the Speyside whisky industry with more than half of Scotland's distilleries located in the region. World class orienteering areas await.

The races are on some of the region's finest forests and country estates. Expect high speed competitions on intricate path networks with challenging route choice on areas of forested sand dunes and rolling hills.

Richard Oxlade, Chair SOA:

'The Moray coast in Northern Scotland is renowned for the quality of its orienteering forests having hosted 3 world championships in 1976. 1999 and 2015. The attraction for Mountain Bike Orienteering competitions is a better kept secret but we're looking forward to showing you all how wonderful this area is in September next year.

Under the expert leadership of Keith Dawson the team have already planned some great draft courses on a beautiful mix of terrain which varies from coastal forested sand dunes to inland moraines. The emphasis in 2026 will be on 'beep to beep' – a quality low frills event with outstanding competition areas, maps and courses.

However, that doesn't mean that there won't be lots of other things to do. Moray is a great holiday destination and we hope that you'll also be able to spend some time off your bikes visiting some of the great local sites, taking part in a ceilidh, visiting a distillery or two, or just enjoying the wonderful coastal scenery which benefits from its own micro climate. Welcome!'

Tony Brand Barker, Chair BMBO

'It is with great pleasure that British Mountain Bike Orienteering invites you to the scenic Moray region of northern Scotland to take part in the first World Masters MTBO Championship to be held in Great Britain.

A dedicated team has been hard at work seeking out some of the finest Mountain Bike Orienteering that Great Britain has to offer. Situated between the Moray Firth and the beautiful Cairngorm Highlands you will find forest and coastal sand dune terrain, with challenging path networks to test your navigational skills.

With all the natural beauty and the warmth of Scottish hospitality, we are confident that you will leave us with a smile on your face. Once your racing is over you could even take time to enjoy a 'wee dram' of Scotland's number one export. Why not stay a little longer and take time to explore the region some more. You will find that there is much to offer.

"Céad míle fáilte" is a traditional Scottish greeting meaning "one hundred thousand welcomes" and that welcome is extended to each, and every one of you. We look forward to greeting you.'

1 ORGANISATION

1.1 Organisers

British Mountain Bike Orienteering (BMBO) and Scottish Orienteering Association (SOA)

1.2 Organising team

Keith Dawson:	Event coordinator
Steve Smirthwaite:	Mapper/National controller
Bob Cherry:	Secretary/Mass Start Planner
Karena Hanley:	Treasurer/Entries
Mark Stodgell:	Timing and results
Linda Cairns:	Volunteer coordinator
Arnis Saltums:	Planner Middle
T. and A. Brand-Barker:	Organiser Middle
Richard Oxlade:	Planner Sprint
James Stewart:	Assistant Planner Sprint
Tim Evans:	Organiser Sprint
Kevin Pickering:	Organiser Mass Start
Emily Benham-Kvale:	Planner Long
Jane Chisholm:	Assistant Planner Long
Charlie Somers-Cocks:	Model event
David Ritchie:	Map printing (Your Omaps); Medical facilities

1.3 Event advising / event control

IOF Senior Event Adviser:	Tiago Fernandes, POR
National Controller:	Steve Smirthwaite

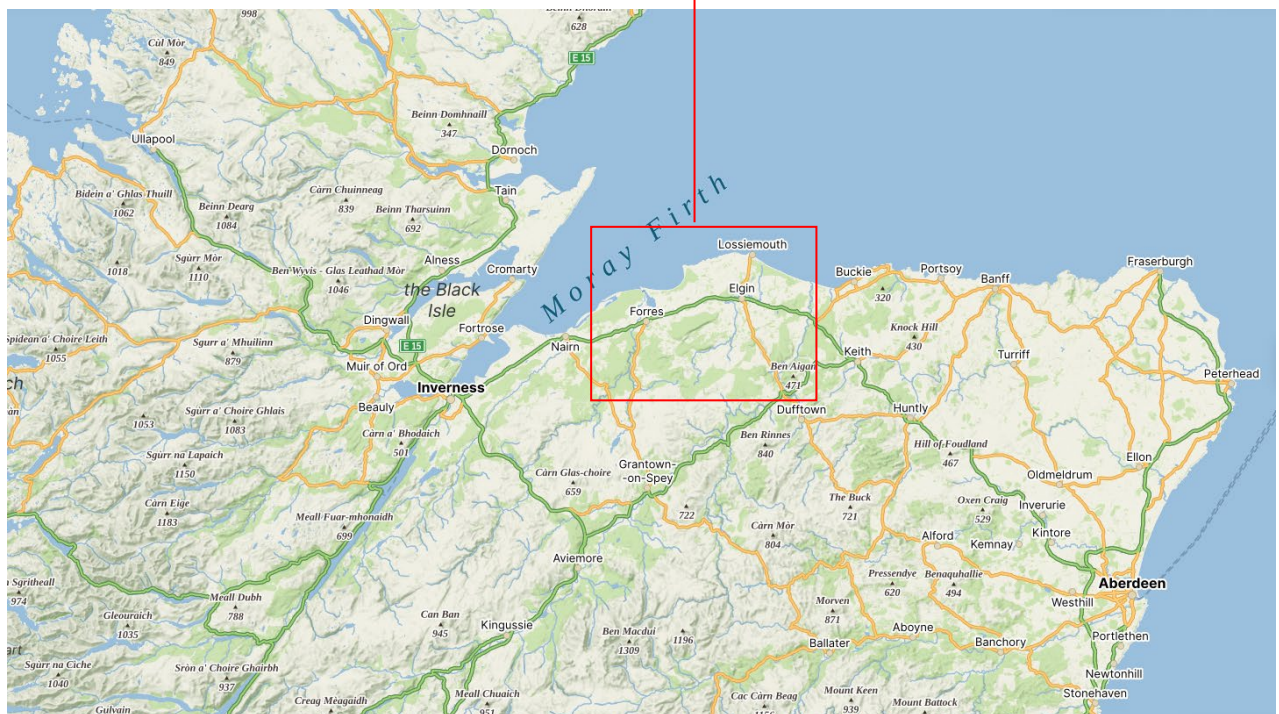
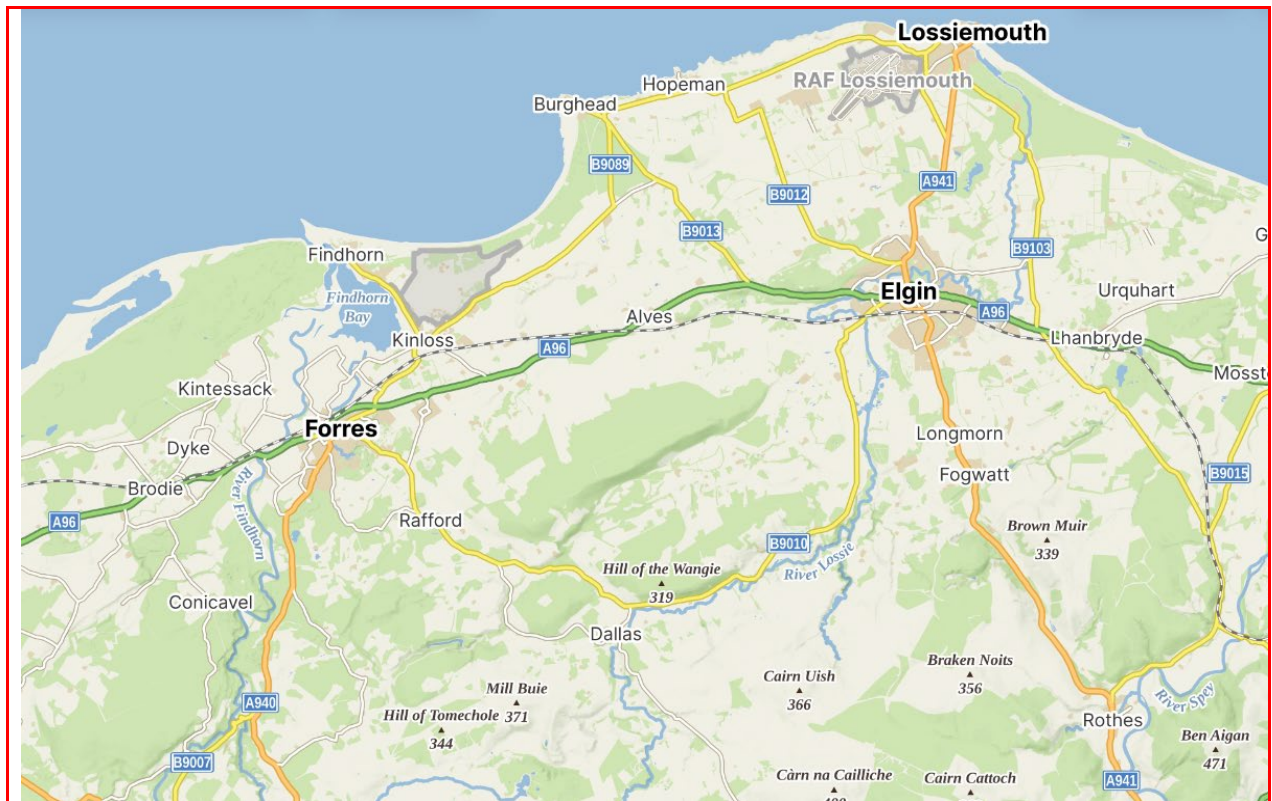
1.4 Information and contact

Website: www.mtbo2026.org
Email address of Coordinator: drkpdawson@aol.com

The WMMTBOC 2026 is 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)

There is no event centre. Registration is at Glasgow School of Art, Altyre Estate, Forres on Tuesday 8th September.

Forres is readily accessible by major roads.

Airports	<i>Distance by car</i>	
Edinburgh Airport	250 km – 3 hours	(many international connections)
Aberdeen Airport	116 km – 1 hour 40 minutes	
Inverness Airport	30 km – 30 minutes	(Amsterdam flights with KLM)
Glasgow Airport	290 km – 3 hours 30 minutes	

Ferries

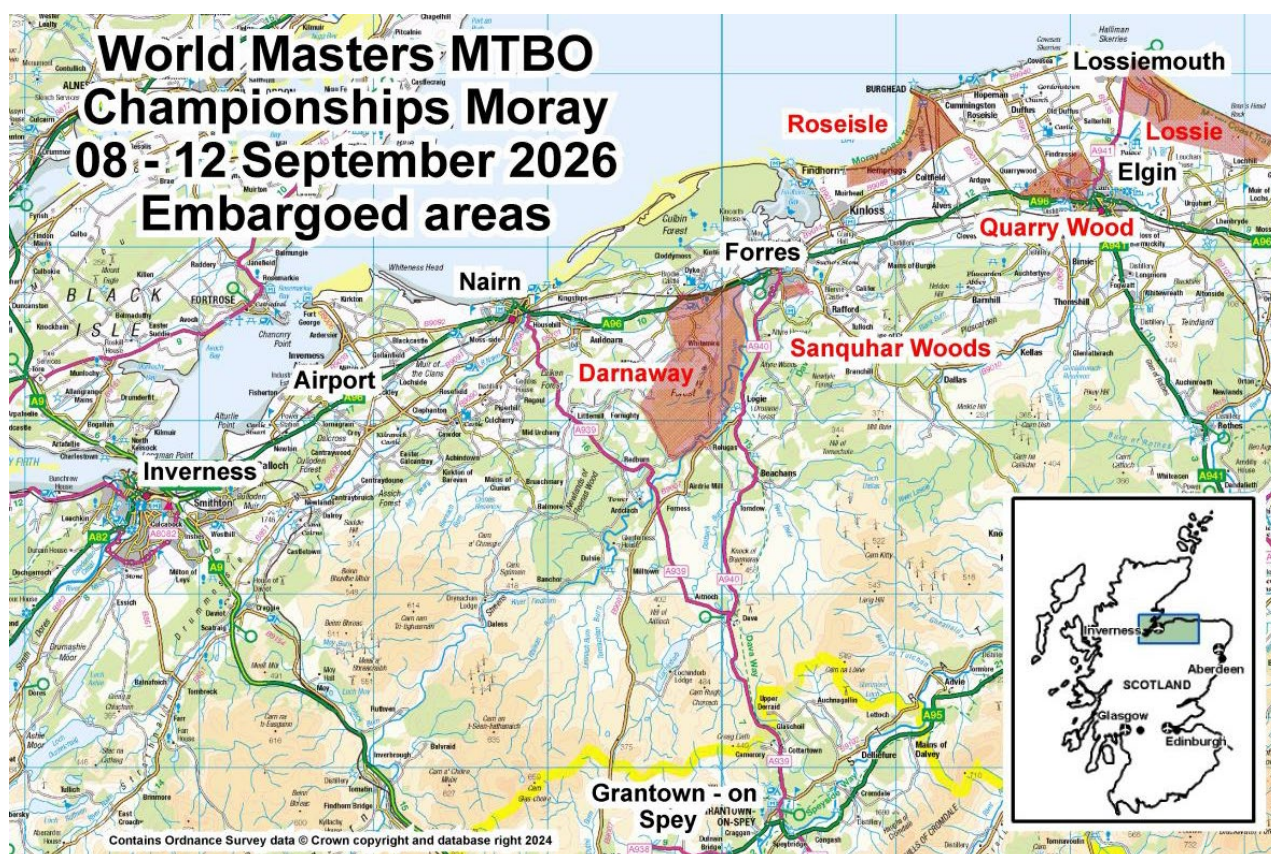
Newcastle to Amsterdam www.dfds.com
Hull to Rotterdam www.poferries.com
English Channel ferries numerous
Eurotunnel www.leshuttle.com

(These are the most relevant ferry routes to the UK. There are no ferries direct to Scotland from Europe.)

2.3 Directions for obtaining entry permits (visas)

Those coming from an EU or Schengen area country will not require a visa but will now need an electronic travel authorisation (ETA) to visit the UK. Other international travellers may require a visa depending on country of residence.

3 EMBARGOED AREAS



- The areas marked on the map are embargoed for all orienteering activities, unless specifically permitted by the organiser.
- The embargo extends to the use of drones and is in place until after the WMMTBOC 2026.
- All potential participants must observe embargoed areas. Other persons associated with a potential participant must also respect embargoed areas if their knowledge of the terrain could influence the results of the competitions.
- Public roads in the embargoed areas are also out of bounds.

4 EVENT PROGRAMME

Event programme

Date		Location
Sat 5/9 – Mon 7/9	Training opportunities	see section 12
Tuesday 8/9	Registration & Model Event	Glasgow School of Art, Altyre Estate, Forres
Wednesday 9/9	Middle Race	Roseisle, Burghead
Thursday 10/9	Sprint Race	Sanquhar Woods, Forres

Friday, 11/9	Mass Start Race	Lossie, Lossiemouth
Saturday, 12/9	Long Race Evening Ceilidh	Darnaway, Forres Mosset Tavern, Forres

(A Ceilidh is a traditional Scottish social party with live folk music and group country dancing. A 'caller' leads the participants through fun, easy to learn, dances. Food, drink, and a lively informal and fun atmosphere.)

This programme is preliminary and subject to changes.

All the races and training opportunities are within 20 miles (33km) of Forres.

5 MAPS AND TERRAINS

Terrain descriptions, map scales and map samples will be published in Bulletin 2.

The most recent versions of previous orienteering maps of the competition terrains will be accessible on the www.mtbo2026.org in Bulletin 2.

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/Contour interval	Terrain description	Map sample
Middle 1:10000 / 2.5m 1:7500 / 2.5m	Pine forested coastal sand dunes with a complex path network. Generally excellent visibility and good rideability.	
Sprint 1:5000 / 5m	Woodland and urban area. Intricate path network. Undulating with some short steep hills. Good rideability, Moderate visibility.	

Mass Start 1:10000 / 2.5m 1:7500 / 2.5m	Forested sand dunes area. Relatively flat. Very varied rideability with some challenging paths and tracks. Good visibility.	
Long 1:15000 / 5m 1:10000 / 5m	Country estate with extensive beech and coniferous woodland. Steep and hilly in parts. Variable rideability and visibility	

6 CLASSES AND PARTICIPATION

- The following classes are offered: W35, M35, W40, M40, W45, M45, W50, M50, W55, M55, W60, M60, W65, M65, W70, M70, W75, M75, W80, M80, W85 and M85.
- Two adjacent classes in the same decade will be merged if either or both have fewer than 5 entries. For example, if there are fewer than 5 entries in the W50 and/or W55 classes, the two classes will be merged to make a single W50 class. The classes W70, M70, W75, M75, W80, M80, W85 and M85 will always be offered in five-year age groups, regardless of the number of entries.
- Participation is open to all competitors according to their age classes. A participant may choose to enter for a younger age class but not older.

7 ENTRY

- Entries are made in **IOF Eventor** [<https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events/Show/8252>] and **Racesignup** [<https://racesignup.co.uk/>]. It will be necessary to sign up on both sites as Eventor doesn't have the necessary functionality. All participants need an IOF ID to enter in IOF Eventor. To get one, it is necessary to create an account in IOF Eventor.
- Entries will open on **8th April 2026**.
- Please submit the following **information**:
 - family name and first name
 - sex
 - year of birth
 - class
 - number of your electronic punching card (if you want to use your own card)
 - federation and club (optional)

Entry deadlines:

- Closing date for entries: **8th August 2026**

8 FEES AND PAYMENT

8.1 Participation fees

All fees are in Pounds and per person.

Accreditation (incl. Model Event)	£44
Sprint	£31
Middle	£31
Long	£31
Mass start	£31
Ceilidh	£31
Training maps	Small charge

8.2 Payment

Payment will be through **Racesignup** [<https://racesignup.co.uk/>].

8.3 Cancellation of the event

If the event has to be cancelled after 8th April 2026 the organiser will retain £10 per participant in order to partly cover committed costs.

8.4 Withdrawals and refunds

Refund of 50 % for withdrawals up to 8th August 2026.

9 ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD

There is no organised accommodation. Competitors should make their own arrangements. The event is not in school holidays, and cottages, hotels and B&B's will be readily available. Here are some websites which could assist:

www.morayspeyside.com/find/placesplaces-to-stay

www.booking.com

www.airbnb.com

Caravan and camping sites close to the competition areas:

- West Beach Caravan Park, Hopeman IV30 5RZ
- Findhorn Bay Holiday Park IV36 3TY

- The Loft Glamping and Camping, Forres IV36 2UD
- Riverside Caravan Park , Elgin IV30 8UN

10 COMPETITION RULES

10.1 Information about rules

The WMMTBOC 2026 will be organised in accordance with the *IOF MTBO Competition Rules* rules valid at the time of the event, see <https://orienteering.sport/mtbo/competition-rules>.

Further general MTBO rules:

- Cycling helmets are compulsory.
- The bicycle must be with the competitor at all times.
- A handlebar mounted bell is mandatory. No bell – no go.
- Roads or tracks marked on the map with purple crosses (ISMTBOM symbol 718) or purple zigzag lines (ISMTBOM symbol 716) are out of bounds.
- Riding outside the mapped area during the competition is not allowed.
- Competitors must follow national traffic rules. That means riding on the left on public roads in the UK.
- Competitors will ride on the right in the races except when on a tarmac public road when they must ride on the left (this is only an issue in the Long Race)
- The event will be run in compliance with WADA and IOF drug policies.

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

10.2 Information about off-track riding

Rules for riding off track may differ from day to day and there will be more information on this in subsequent bulletins.

10.3 Controls not situated on paths

On some courses there may be controls not situated on tracks or paths. They will be set so as not to require control descriptions.

11 COMPETITION INFORMATION

11.1 Punching system

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

- Limited number of SIACs and mapboards available. Deposit £70 per item.
- Competitors may use a second SIAC (of their own) as a backup card. In this case, 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/>.

11.2 Winning times

The winning times (according to the *IOF MTBO Competition Rules*) are the same for all categories, regardless of the competitor's age and gender. They are as follows:

Sprint	Middle distance	Long distance	Mass start
20 – 25 minutes	50 – 55 minutes	105 – 115 minutes	75 – 85 minutes

12 OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING

A few local areas will be available. Competitors will be able to pick up MTBO maps with suggested courses from a local distribution point. Detailed information will be available on www.mtbo2026.org and in Bulletin 2.

13 THINGS TO DO

General:	https://morayspeyside.com/
Local whisky distilleries (near Forres):	
Benromach	www.benromach.com
Dallas Dhu	
Dunphail	www.dunphaildistillery.com
Mountain biking:	
Moray monster trails	https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/moray-monster-trails
Glenlivet	www.bikeglenlivet.co.uk
Seven Stanes	https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/activities/mountain-biking/7stanes
Laggan Wolftrax	https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/laggan-wolftrax
Various:	
Cairngorms National Park	www.cairngorms.co.uk
Loch Ness monster	www.visitinvernesslochness.com/the-lochness-monster
Brodie Castle	www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/brodie-castle
Dolphins	www.moraydolphins.co.uk
Cawdor Castle	www.cawdorcastle.com
Culloden Battlefield	www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden
Findhorn Bay	https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/findhorn-p237641
Culbin Sands and Forest	www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/culbin-sands-p2568201
Clava Cairns	www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/clava-cairns

14 MISCELLANEOUS

14.1 Parallel events (open competitions/public races)

Open competitions for younger ages and those who are not participants of the WMMTBOC will be offered. Detailed information will be available on www.mtbo2026.org and in Bulletin 2.

14.2 Climate and hazards

Climate

Generally cool in September 8-15 degrees C

Moray has a favourable coastal microclimate and is drier and warmer than the rest of northern Scotland.

Description of any hazards

Ticks in the forests

Drive on the left in the UK

14.3 Insurance and liability

Competitors participate at their own risk. Third party and personal injury insurance is compulsory, and competitors must ensure that their insurance is valid for mountain bike orienteering.

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