



2026 Israel Open Championships Orienteering Festival – 4 Days

March 4 – 7, 2026

Bulletin 2

Event Organizers

Israel Orienteering Association
Galilee Orienteering Club
Event Director: Shalev Feldman

Event Info and Updates



Event web page: [Israel O-Championship Festival 2026](#)

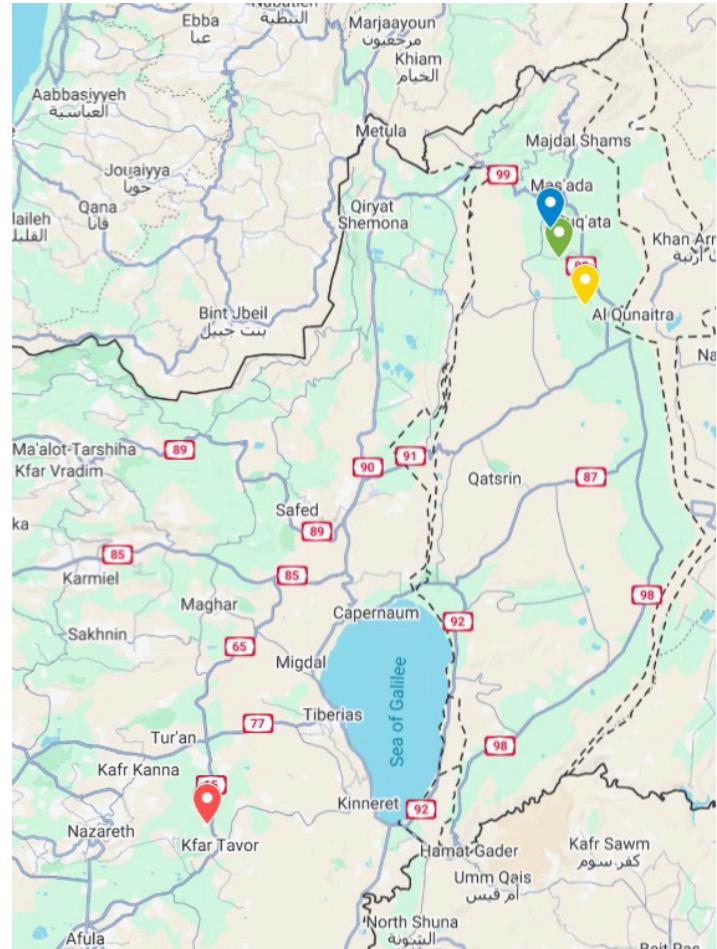
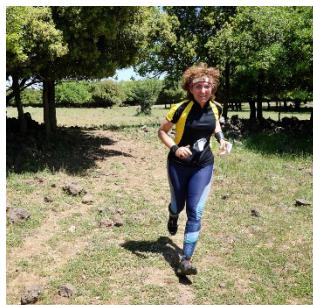
See the website for updated terrain, map and course information.



Israel Orienteering on Facebook for the latest news, updates, photos and links.

Venues

- Odem North
- Odem South
- Merom Golan
- Beit Keshet



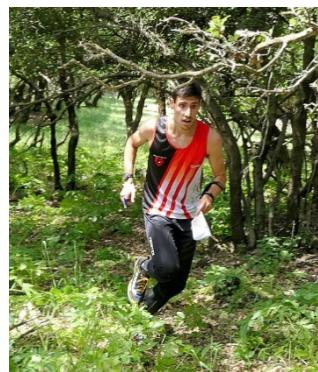
Driving Instructions to Championships Day 1 and Day 2

WAZE: [WAZE Driving Instructions](#) (from mobile phone)

GOOGLE MAPS: [Google Map Driving Instructions](#)

Turn off Road 978 onto the access road to Moshav Odem. After 1 km, turn right onto a dirt road heading south. The event center (assembly area) is on the right after 300 m.

Program Overview



Date / Time	Event	Notes
Wednesday 4 March 2026		
9:00 – 11:00	Start window – Beit Keshet Info TBD (ISOA Hebrew website)	No assigned start times. Control pickup at 12:30.
15:30 – 18:30	Event center open at Merom Golan. Collect model maps, event shirts and other info.	
16:30 – 17:30	Start window – Sprint at Merom Golan Info TBD (ISOA Hebrew website)	No assigned start times. Control pickup at 18:00.
Thursday 5 March 2026		
08:00 – 12:00	Event center open at Merom Golan	
10:00 – 16:00	Model at Odem Info TBD (ISOA Hebrew website)	Start anytime at your convenience. No timing.
Friday 6 March 2026		
7:30 – 13:00	Arena open at Odem Forest	
9:00 – 11:00	Start window – Day 1 – MIDDLE Israel Open Championships	Recreational courses available
Saturday 6 March 2026		
7:30 – 13:00	Arena open at Odem Forest	
9:00 – 11:00	Start window – Day 2 – LONG Israel Open Championships	Recreational courses available
13:00	IOC 2026 Awards Ceremony	

Course Planners

Israel Open Championships Day 1 Course Planner
Israel Open Championships Day 2 Course Planner

Dan Chissick
Asaf Avner

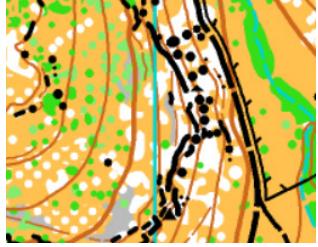
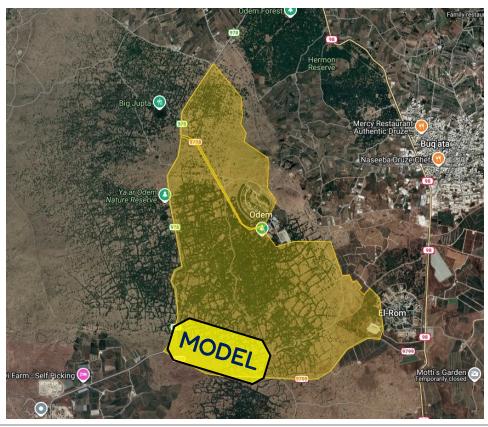
IOC Championships Classes and Courses

Age categories are determined by age on **31 December 2025**.

B and C courses are shorter than A courses, but of similar technical difficulty.
Short+ courses are different for men and women.



Courses/ Categories	Long	Med+	Med B	Med A	Med Y	Short+	Gold	Short	Shorty
Middle (km) (Day 1)	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	3.0	2.0
Long (km) (Day 2)	11	8.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Women (D)		D21A D21B D35	D18A D18B		D16A D21C D40 D45 D50 D55 D60 D65	D70 D75 D80	D14A D16B	D12 D14B	
Men (H)	H21A H35A	H18A H21B H40	H21C H35B H45	H50A H55 H60A	H16A H18B	H50B H60B H65 H70	H75 H80 H85 H90	H14A H16B	H12 H14B

<p>Punching System</p> <p>All events will be organized using the SPORTident electronic punching system. Competitors may use their own SI cards.</p> <p>SPORTident Air (SIAC) punching will be supported at all competitions.</p> <p>SIAC cards can be rented from the organizers at a cost of €5 per event.</p> <p>Note that loss of rented SI card will be charged at €80 each.</p>	
<p>Maps and Terrain</p> <p>Festival Events</p> 	<p>Map: Beit Keshet South (2020)</p> <p>Scale: 1:7500, 5m contours.</p> <p>Map maker: Ziv Noiman</p> <p>Israel Open Championships 2023 were held here. The terrain is a mix of natural and planted pine/fir forests with a network of paths and trails. Some steep hills. Some areas of heavy undergrowth and some areas with numerous rock features.</p> <p>The arena is near the Lower Galilee Regional Council administration building.</p> 
	<p>Map: Kibbutz Merom Golan (2026)</p> <p>Scale: TBD</p> <p>Map maker: TBD</p> <p>An Israeli communal settlement (kibbutz), including residential, agricultural and industrial buildings.</p> <p>Note: sample sprint map of kibbutz (<i>not Merom Golan</i>)</p> 
<p>Maps and Terrain</p> <p>Israel Open Championships</p> 	<p>Map: Odem Forest (2010, updated 2026)</p> <p>Scale: 1:7500/10,000 (TBD). 5m contours.</p> <p>Map maker: Dan Chissick</p> <p>Odem Forest is a remnant of the ancient forest that once covered most of the Golan Heights. It is covered mainly with evergreen oak trees, along with pine, terebinth, and other native Mediterranean woodland plants. The forest sits on the slopes of an ancient volcano. The ground is scattered with dark basalt boulders and red tuff rock. The forest is filled with numerous rock walls and formations.</p> 
	<p>Odem Forest Embargoed Area</p> <p>Odem Model</p> <p>An area at the southern end of the Odem Forest will be used for model training.</p> <p>Entry to the embargoed areas is prohibited for competitors and others who, through the knowledge of the terrain, could influence results of the Israel Open competition.</p>
	<p>Odem North – Israel Championships Day 1 – MIDDLE</p> <p>Odem South – Israel Championships Day 2 – LONG</p>

Transportation	Israel's main airport is Ben Gurion International Airport (TLV), midway between the major cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. International competitors are advised to hire a car from a recognized car rental company.																																																					
Weather	In general, you can expect cool but comfortable weather during the championships. Note that Odem forest is at an altitude of 1000m. Average March temperatures for this area range from lows of 5°C to highs of 15°C. Be sure to bring warm clothing, especially for evenings and rainy days.																																																					
Training Opportunities	There are many opportunities for training throughout Israel. The complete database of Israel Orienteering maps is at: http://www.nivut.org.il/English/Maps.aspx To arrange training in Israel, contact Israel Orienteering: office@nivut.org.il																																																					
Clothing	There are no clothing regulations. Competitors may wear the clothing of their choice. The organizers recommend that competitors wear long trousers/leg protection.																																																					
Health Services	The Event Organizer will provide first-aid at all venues. Emergency care services and a major hospital are within a 60 minute drive from Odem Forest. The Event Organizer will not bear responsibility related to medical costs for participants. Participants are responsible for their own insurance.																																																					
Visas	Visitors to Israel must hold a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date of entry to Israel. As of January 2025, visitors from visa-exempt countries are required to obtain an ETA-IL (Electronic Travel Authorization) to enter Israel. An approved ETA-IL indicates that you are allowed to travel to Israel and stay for up to 90 days per visit. For details: https://israel-entry.piba.gov.il/																																																					
Contact	Israel Orienteering Association POB 630, Kfar Vitkin, 4020000 Mobile: +972-54-3206156 Email: office@nivut.org.il																																																					
Registration	All competitors from abroad in all classes must register by registering through the Orienteering Online website.																																																					
Deadlines	The deadline for IOC entries is 28 February 2026 . Start lists for IOC will be published 1-2 days prior to the championships.																																																					
Registration Fees	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category (Age)</th> <th>Registration Period</th> <th>Per Stage</th> <th>Model</th> <th>All 3 Events</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="3">M/W 21 – M/W 55</td> <td>No later than 31.12.2025</td> <td>18</td> <td>5</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026</td> <td>20</td> <td>5</td> <td>59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026</td> <td>24</td> <td>5</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">M/W 16 – M/W 18, M/W 60 – M/W 70</td> <td>No later than 31.12.2025</td> <td>16</td> <td>5</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026</td> <td>18</td> <td>5</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026</td> <td>22</td> <td>5</td> <td>64</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">M/W 12 – M/W 14</td> <td>No later than 31.12.2025</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026</td> <td>14</td> <td>5</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026</td> <td>17</td> <td>5</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">M/W 75 – M/W 85</td> <td>Any time until 28.2.2026</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIAC Rental</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category (Age)	Registration Period	Per Stage	Model	All 3 Events	M/W 21 – M/W 55	No later than 31.12.2025	18	5	54	01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026	20	5	59	15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026	24	5	70	M/W 16 – M/W 18, M/W 60 – M/W 70	No later than 31.12.2025	16	5	48	01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026	18	5	54	15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026	22	5	64	M/W 12 – M/W 14	No later than 31.12.2025	12	5	37	01.01.2026 to 14.02.2026	14	5	43	15.02.2026 to 28.02.2026	17	5	51	M/W 75 – M/W 85	Any time until 28.2.2026	10	5	30	SIAC Rental	5		15
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Payment	All payments for entries must be made by direct bank transfer to Israel Orienteering Association. All bank commissions and fees must be paid by the payee. Bank Leumi le-Israel B.M. Name on Account: Israel Orienteering Association Bank Account No.: 21771380 IBAN: IL920109490000021771380 Swift Code: LUMILITXXX Routing Number: IL010949 Branch Number and Name: 949 - Ramat Hasharon Branch Address: 69 Sokolov Street, Ramat Hasharon, 4723630, Israel																																																					