

MAP EVALUATION 2008

Comments on courses are included in italic

European Trail Orienteering Championship (Latria, 25-28 May 2008)

Drawing

Drawing according to rules (symbols and symbol size)

Printing

Printing is different from one map to the other, generally poor (too coarse).

- a) Model event. Colours not according to rules (blue too dark, yellow too dark, contours red and not brown)
- b) First day. We have one map only. Colours are not according to rules (blue too dark, yellow different from specification, brown too yellow, difficult to see on yellow). Course overprint close to specification.
- c) Second day. Two different maps, probably one for colour blind competitors. This second map has been printed as the model one, but with course overprinting violet. The other one is totally similar to the one of the first day.

European orienteering championship in Foot-O (Latvia 25 May- 2 June 2008)

Sprint

Qualification

Maps are printed offset with brown spot colour and the other colours 4-colour printing. Yellow is a little too pale and shifted to grey. The drawing and symbol size appear good. However, it was introduced a symbol for benches and some areas in parks are overloaded with unspecified black crosses. Also, two levels of brown for streets versus sidewalks and some trail (the difference is unspecified). Paper contains many little black dots.

Some comments on courses:

- *we have only one sample for men and one for women*
- *there are no significant route choices (just equivalent left versus right on very short legs)*
- *the course overprint is not perfect (up to 1 mm shift)*

Final

Maps and paper are the same as for qualification.

Some comments on courses:

- *non significant route choice*
- *again, the overprint is not perfect (up to almost 1 mm)*

Middle

Qualification

Maps, printing, paper and drawing are the same as for sprint. Green is slightly different from specification, but quite acceptable (in sprint, the difference cannot even be appreciated). Excessive use of form lines even when they do not add any significant information: as a result, in some detailed area the map is poorly legible. In at least one case form lines turns in a contour line. No use of index contours.

Some comments on courses:

- *we have only one sample for men and one for women*
- *many short legs, little route choice*

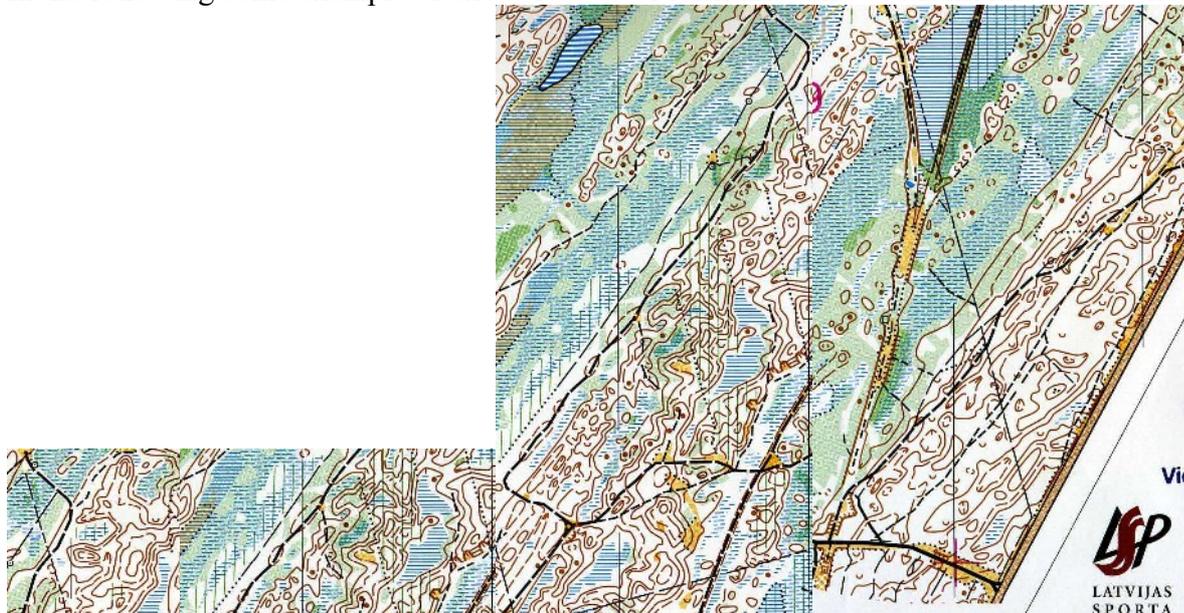
Final

Maps, printing, paper, colours and drawing are the same as for qualification. Many cases of two form lines between two contours (in a 2.5 m contour interval map!!!). Here again in at least one case a form line turns in a contour line. No use of index contours.

Some comments on courses:

- *the longest leg in men course is 800 m, in the women course 600 m.*
- *in the men course most of the legs are shorter than 400 m (21 out of 23)*

In the following some example of excessive use of form lines and two form lines between contours.



Long

Qualification

Maps, printing, paper, colours and drawing are the same as for middle. However, the foolish use of form lines makes the map unreadable in areas with control points. In some case brown symbols touch each other, even contours and form lines. Of course green areas make things worse.

Some consideration on courses.

- *just one long leg for men (about two km, the first leg), no one for women*
- *lots of very short legs*
- *four close controls in men's final part.*

Final

Maps, printing, paper, colours and drawing are the same as for qualification. Again excessive use of form lines, but the land forms are less troublesome than for qualification.

Some consideration on courses:

- *lots of controls in the final part (6 for both men and women)*
- *the butterfly with two wings and 8 controls for men could be better with three wings (7 controls is the minimum)*
- *the position of the fork for both men and women is at about one third of the course. There was no problem to put it more close to the finish.*

One example of map hardly readable

CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Ventspils, Latvia. 25 May - 2 June 2008

Iārgales pagasts
Liepene

Scale 1:15 000
Contour 2,5 m

LONG QUALIFICATION			
W 1	6.6 km	85 m	
▷			
1 53	↘		
2 69	•		
3 70	∪		
4 73	∪		
5 45) (⚡
6 75	∪	⋯	
7 78	∪		
8 79	∪		
9 80	⊖		♻️
10 81	← ⊖		⊖
11 85	∪		
12 87	↑ ∪		

- × - sakne / rootstock
- - izcils koks / single outstanding tree
- - krūms / bush
- × - skudru māja / ant-hill
- ↘ - dzelozdrātis / barbed wires

Typical example of last part of course (it is becoming a standard, but do we really want it?):

19 47	⋯	10x10	
20 48	↘		⊖
21 49	∪		⚡
22 50	⊖		
23 51	○		⊖
24 52	⋯		⊖
25 53	⋯		⊖
26 54	•		⊖
27 55	⊖ ⋯		⊖
28 56	×		⊖ ♻️
29 79	∪		
30 58	∪		
31 59	∪		
32 60) (
33 100	⊖		⊖

230 m

Latvijas orientēšanās federācija
 Kārti sagatavoja:
 Leonīds Malānkovs 2009. g.
 Notinātais, oriģinālais, šķidrais Daariss.
 Karte sagatavota izmantojot
METRUM materiālus.

- × - sakne / rootstock
- - izcils koks / single outstanding tree
- - krūms / bush
- × - skudru māja / ant-hill
- ↘ - dzelozdrātis / barbed wires

Relay

Same considerations are valid as for the middle and for the long. Of course the 1:0000 scale helps. *Some comments on courses.*

- as noticed many times, course setters like to use very tiny details for control points. This is foolish if it is coupled with misalignment of map and course as in the samples we have (more than 1 mm).

World Cup 09 Norway, June

General considerations

Only one map available in two scales (1:15000 and 1:10000)

The print is offset, spot colour. Good colours and symbols, may be the brown a little pale. The drawing is readable. Moderate use of from lines, however in some case use of two from lines between contours.

Considerations on Courses

Event 4 (men and women)

This is a middle length course. The longest leg is about 1 km. Many controls, especially in the final part of the course after the spectator control.

Event 5 (men and women course B)

This is a long distance course. The longest leg is less than 1.5 km for men and 1.2 km for women. A wonderful 4 wing butterfly (24 combinations!) but I do not understand:

- *the need to utilize two controls twice: this makes it easy to take a wrong direction (is it not orienteering meant just to test navigation ability?)*
- *the unnecessary repeated crossing of legs over other legs. This and the above point make it very difficult to **read the course** (again: is it not orienteering meant just to test navigation ability?)*
- *the enormous number of control points, especially in the last part of the course.*

This is the men B course:



This is an example of double form lines



Junior World Orienteering Championship in Foot-O (Sweden June 30-July 6 2008)

General considerations

All maps were printed on the same good paper. Brown and blue full colour, yellow and green three colours. Yellow and green are little in the grey side, the green a little more than yellow. Brown is not according to specifications (not enough black and a little too pale).

Sprint

We have only the map of the final. Mixed urban and forest with bare rock and cliffs. Maps according to specifications (however, black lines look a little thinner).

Some consideration on courses:

- nice with some route choices.

Middle

Qualification and final on parts of the same map (the finish is the same).

Map is generally readable. Moderate use of form lines, however, the few points where the map is less readable are where a form line would better be skipped.

Some consideration on courses:

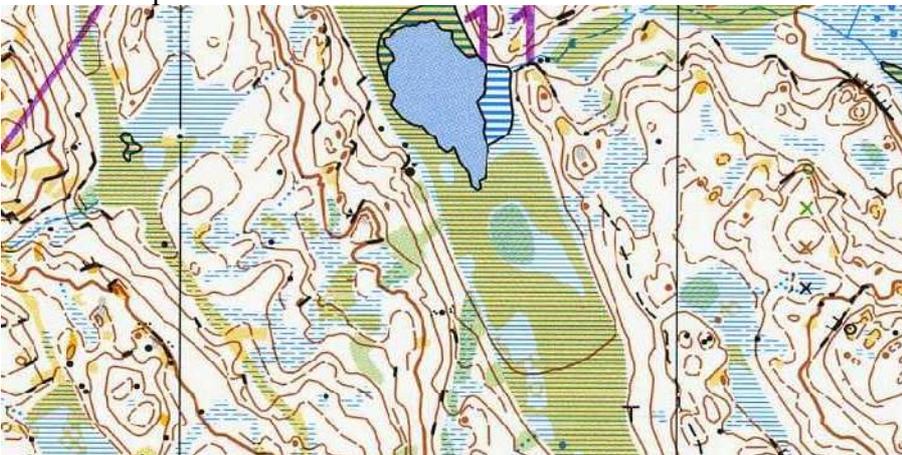
- No long legs.

Long

We have just the map of the final. Map well readable. Moderate use of form lines, however in some case two form lines between two contours.

Good courses.

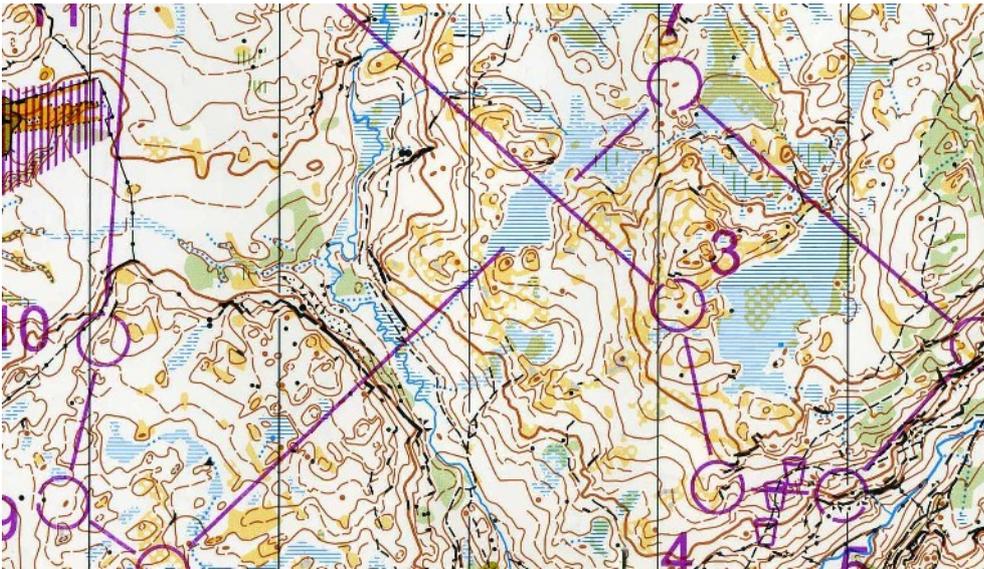
Some example of double form lines



Relay

Moderate use of form lines, but generalized use of double form lines.

Example of double form lines:



World Orienteering Championship in Foot-O (Check Republic July 2008)

General Considerations

All the maps were printed in spot colours. The printing looks very good. Colours are according to specifications, yellow only being a little darker (I think this is good because small clearings in the forest are hardly visible with the 50% yellow of the specifications) and shifted towards orange.

Paper looks good.

The drawing looks pretty good except the stony area of the middle final, symbols are according to specification (however, sometimes symbol 202 and 201 were combined).

Sprint Competition

Qualification and final maps look the same as far as drawing and printing (the mapper team is the same).

Some comment on the courses:

- *in the qualifications, there are acute angles among heats, practically no route choice*
- *in the final, the long first leg would let to know the second and third control on the best route choice*
- *in the control descriptions small thickets are considered as point symbols, practically it is OK, formally it is not.*

Middle distance

Qualification and final map look the same as far as drawing and printing (the mapper team is the same).

Some comments on the courses:

- *in the qualifications of both men and women all the legs are rather short (no route choice)*
- *in the final of both men and women all legs are rather short (no route choice)*
- *there is a predominance of fine map reading, in the qualification mainly vegetation details, in the final, both in vegetation and rock and boulder field.*

Conclusion: a lot of controls (mainly looking for points rather than navigation between points) and why make it easy if we can make it difficult?

Long Distance

Qualification and final map look the same as far as drawing and printing (the mapper team is the same with some different role between the two maps).

Some comments on the courses:

- *the three heats for men qualification look different: one of them has a leg 2.4 km long and one 1.2 km long, while the other two have legs at the most of 1.0 km long. They look different also in the number of concentrated controls points in the end of the course (7, 6 and 4)*
- *the three heats for women have legs at the most 1.0 km long. They look different in the number of concentrated control points in the end of the course (5, 4 and 3)*
- *the final for men looks with equilibrated as far as length of legs. However there is an incredible number of controls in the last part of the course with some of them on tiny details in green 2. Also, it is not clear the ability of a two wing fork less than 1 km long to split competitors: the only result is to add 3 control points to the course. The best choice for the longest leg could be on the asphalt road*
- *about the same comments for the women final apart from the fork which is not on place. The long leg is the same as for men.*

Conclusion: are we shifting our sport from navigation between controls to fine search for controls (with some luck involved in the business)?

Relay

Map looks very good.

Some comment on the courses:

- *six forks for the women, eight for the men. A big job, however it is strange to have seven controls in a row for just one of the three legs for women (the other two skip them all) and eight in a row for just one of the three legs for men (the other two have only three controls)*
- *some controls are a little too close (three are 40 meters apart and two just 30 meters).*

Final comments

Form lines

In my opinion something must be done. It is frustrating to observe good mappers to spoil their own maps loading them with hundreds of unnecessary form lines.

Courses

There is a tendency towards more controls on long distance orienteering courses. Are we moving away from classical long distance courses towards long middle distance courses? Do we want this?