

WOC 2024

Sprint World Orienteering Championships Edinburgh
11-16 July 2024

IOF
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION



Media Newsletter 1: Individual Sprint

Welcome to WOC 2024

On behalf of the organisers of WOC 2024, welcome to Edinburgh and to Scotland. After huge amounts of hard work, everything is ready for what promises to be a truly memorable World Championships.

This newsletter contains the latest information relevant to the media and focuses on the Individual Sprint Qualification and Final on Friday 12th July.

Full details of the week are included in [Bulletin 4](#).

Accreditation

Anybody who has not already received their accreditation at the WOC Office at Pollock Halls will be able to do so:

- at the Sprint Qualifier by contacting the Media Operations Manager
- at the Sprint Final from the Media Centre in the Royal Scottish Academy

All media representatives should wear their ID card at all relevant times. It must be presented to gain access to the Media Centres and authorised zones at race arenas.

Media Briefing

A short briefing will be held in the Media Centre at the Royal Scottish Academy starting at 13:30.

This will finish to allow plenty of time for people to walk to the Event Arena for the Opening Ceremony starting at 14:00.

The briefing will cover:

- Detailed schedule for the race
- Start lists
- Favourites (if applicable)
- Arena layout and media access points
- Positions of photo zones and controls.

Media Resources

The [WOC 2024 media page](#) includes links to several key resources. It also includes photos from the organisers' own photographers. These are free to use but please remember to always give credits to the author.

Start Lists

Starts Lists for the Qualification are available on the [WOC 2024 Eventor site](#).

Contacts

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Sprint Qualification – Leith

When	Friday 12 th July (am)
Venue	<p>Leith is a historic port area at the mouth of the Water of Leith in the north of Edinburgh. After decades of industrial decline and resultant depopulation in the post-war era, Leith has seen an upturn in fortunes in recent decades, with significant redevelopment of housing and office space and the arrival of tourist attractions such as the Royal Yacht Britannia. Leith was named as the fourth 'coolest neighbourhood in the world' by Time Out in 2021.</p> <p>The Newkirkgate shopping centre is the main retail hub. The</p>
Arena	<p>Leith Links GPS coordinates: 55.970600, -3.166000 Distance from Event Centre: 4km</p>
Media Centre	There are no dedicated media facilities at this race. We can provide access to a small indoor area close to the arena where you can work if needed. Please contact the Media Operations Manager if you need further details.
Maps	Maps can be collected from the WOC Merchandise Stall at the Event Arena.
Qualification	There are three Men's Heats and three Women's heats. The top 15 runners in each heat qualify for the Final in the afternoon.
From Pollock Halls	#14 bus (3 an hour) from the "Commonwealth Pool" stop to the "Foot of Leith Walk". Head east along Duke Street to Leith Links (400m).

From Central Edinburgh	<p>#25 bus (3 an hour) from Princes Street to the "Duke Street" stop. Tram from Princes Street to the "Foot of the Walk" stop. Head east along Duke Street to Leith Links (400m).</p>
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First starters (Men)	09:01
First starters (Women)	09:46
Last finishers (Men)	09:54
Last finishers (Women)	10:34



Sprint Final – Central Edinburgh

When	Friday 12 th July (pm)
Venue	<p>Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland: the centre of the city hosts the Scottish Parliament, government offices, the highest law courts and many iconic buildings including cathedrals, churches, libraries and museums, as well as public gardens and parkland.</p> <p>The skyline is dominated by Edinburgh Castle and Arthur’s Seat in Holyrood Park. The University of Edinburgh, founded in 1582, occupies a significant number of buildings across the city.</p> <p>The city’s historical and cultural attractions and summer festivals have made it the UK’s second most visited tourist destination, attracting over 4 million visitors annually, supporting a wide range of restaurants and retail outlets, particularly along the Royal Mile.</p>
Arena	<p>Ross Band Stand, Princes Street Gardens GPS coordinates: 55.950769, -3.2002033 Distance from Event Centre: 3km</p>
Media Centre	<p>Clore Learning Space on the Lower Ground Floor (Level 1) of the Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL. This is a basement area and phone reception is poor in the room itself. However there is good reception in the main entrance just outside the Media Centre.</p>

	<p>The Media Centre is around 350m from the Arena. Accredited media will also have a small dedicated area within the Ross Band Stand at the Arena.</p>
Maps	<p>Maps can be collected from the Media Centre from 13:30.</p>
Transport	<p>Bus routes: Many along Princes Street Tram stop: Princes Street The easiest route from the Qualification is by tram. “Foot of the Walk” to “Princes Street” takes 12 minutes and runs every seven minutes during the day.</p>

A [Floor Plan of the Royal Scottish Academy](#) is available online and will be distributed with this Newsletter.

Access to the Media Centre is possible on two levels. The upper entrance (shown as Level 3 and labelled “External step-free access to RSA”) is accessed from The Mound. The door is in the centre of the south side of the Royal Scottish Academy. The lower entrance (shown as Level 1 and labelled “Main Entrance”) is accessed from East Princes Street Gardens.

Media Centre opens	13:00
Media Briefing in Media Centre	13:30
Opening Ceremony in Race Arena	14:00
First starter (Men)	15:12:30
First starter (Women)	16:29
Last finisher (Men)	16:32
Flower Ceremony (Men)	16:38
Last finisher (Women)	17:49
Flower Ceremony (Women)	17:55
Medal Ceremony	18:00
Media Centre closes	20:00

Race History

The first World Orienteering Championships Sprint Race was held in 2001 in Finland. Sprint orienteering was still an emerging discipline and the race was predominantly in a forested area with many paths.

Edinburgh 2024 will be the 20th time the event has been held.

This is the second Sprint-only WOC after the first was held in Denmark in 2022. Both of these WOCs were delayed by two years from their originally planned dates because of Covid.

Great Britain won five medals at WOC 2022 and Megan Carter-Davis will start here as defending World Champion in the individual sprint. Alice Leake who won bronze in that race in 2022 has retired from international orienteering.

WOC 2022 Men's Individual Sprint Results

Pos	Name	Country	Time
1	Kasper Harlem Fosser	NOR	13:56
2	Gustav Bergman	SWE	14:12
3	Yannick Michiels	BEL	14:20
4	Havard Sandstad Eidsmo	NOR	14:25
5	Aston Key	AUS	14:34
6	Ralph Street	GBR	14:36
7	Matthias Kyburz	SUI	14:40
8	Florian Howald	SUI	14:47
8	Martin Regborn	SWE	14:47
10	Jakob Edsen	DEN	14:50

WOC 2022 Women's Individual Sprint Results

Pos	Name	Country	Time
1	Megan Carter Davies	GBR	14:22
2	Simona Aebersold	SUI	14:28
3	Alice Leake	GBR	14:40
4	Andrine Benjaminsen	NOR	14:41
5	Elena Roos	SUI	14:46
6	Tove Alexandersson	SWE	14:51
7	Tereza Janosikova	CZE	14:52
8	Eline Gemperle	SUI	14:57
9	Venla Harju	FIN	15:07
10	Inka Nurminen	FIN	15:10

WOC Individual Sprint Medal History

Men

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Switzerland	5	10	5	20
Sweden	7	3	6	16
France	1	1	2	4
Finland	1	1	1	3
Denmark	1		2	3
Russian Federation	2			2
Great Britain	1	1		2
Norway	1	1		2
New Zealand		1	1	2
Czechia		1		1









Ukraine			1		1
Belgium				1	1

Women

Country		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Switzerland		9	4	3	16
Sweden		3	7	6	16
Denmark		4	1	2	7
Norway		1	1	2	4
Finland			3	1	4
Great Britain		1		2	3
Russian Federation			1	2	3
Australia		1			1
Ukraine			1		1
Neutral athlete			1		1
Belarus				1	1

Combined

Country		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Switzerland		14	14	8	36
Sweden		10	10	12	32
Denmark		5	1	4	10
Norway		2	2	2	6
Great Britain		2	1	2	5
Russian Federation		2	1	2	5
Finland		1	4	2	7

France		1	1	2	4
Australia		1	0	0	1
Ukraine		0	2	0	2
New Zealand		0	1	1	2
Czechia		0	1	0	1
Neutral athlete		0	1	0	1
Belarus		0	0	1	1
Belgium		0	0	1	1

Cultural Notes from EventScotland

EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH plays host to the 2024 World Orienteering Championships with the event being held in Scotland for the first time since 2015, and fourth time since the championships started.

Edinburgh is Scotland's Capital city and is rich in history and very easy to get around. It welcomes and delights over one million overseas visitors each year and is the UK's second most popular tourist destination, after London.

The city is affectionately named "Auld Reekie" (reekie meaning "smoky"), referring to the pollution from coal and wood fires in the 16th & 17th centuries, that left dark smoky trails from chimneys through the Edinburgh skies. Since the early 19th century, it has also been nicknamed the "Athens of the North", inspired by the Neoclassical architecture around the New Town.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1995, Edinburgh enjoys global fame for its grand architecture. The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh gained UNESCO World Heritage status in recognition of the striking quality and contrast in architecture and streetscape between the Medieval Old Town and the Georgian New Town, connected by The Mound, a sloping road created from the spill from building the New Town in the eighteenth century. Edinburgh is now one of six World Heritage sites in Scotland. It is also the world's first UNESCO City of Literature – a status awarded in 2004.

Edinburgh's Old Town centres around its main street, which runs from Edinburgh Castle down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse. It runs for approximately one Scottish mile (around 200 yards longer than an English

mile) giving it its iconic name The Royal Mile. The Old Town is a mix of tall buildings and narrow alleyways, remnants of vast overcrowding in the past.

Prior to the mid-18th century, tens of thousands of Edinburgh citizens were squeezed into cramped living conditions with poor sanitation within the city walls of the medieval Old Town.

Things came to a head and an architectural competition was launched to design and construct a New Town outside the medieval city walls, to tempt back wealthier residents to the city, rather than fleeing the overcrowding. The Nor Loch was drained to become Princes Street Gardens, and the New Town is a series of adjoining perpendicular streets connecting garden squares with notably patriotic names: George Street and Queen Street were in recognition of the then ruling monarch, George III, and his wife, while Princes Street was named after the King's sons.

Edinburgh boasts a rich history and culture, as evidenced by the city's many museums and art galleries. For some fascinating insights into the city's past, head for the Scottish National Gallery, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, the National Museum of Scotland, or the lesser-known Museum of Edinburgh and People's Story museums.

EDINBURGH FAST FACTS

- The City of Edinburgh lies on the east coast of central Scotland and has been the capital of Scotland since 1437. It is the second largest city in Scotland, with a population of around half a million – second to Glasgow, in the west.
- Edinburgh is the world's leading festival city and its collection of festivals which take place all year round generated 3.2 million attendances by around 700,000 attendees in 2022 on a par with the FIFA World Cup.

- Dolly the Sheep – the first cloned mammal ever to be created from an adult cell – was developed by The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, and can be seen at the National Museum of Scotland
- This August, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe will have 3,317 shows delivering nearly 51,446 performances across nearly 262 venues, representing artists and companies from 58 countries from around the world.
- Edinburgh has the best quality of life in the UK according to a recent study: [Revealed: the British City with the Best Quality of Life](#) (timeout.com)
- Time Out Magazine recently voted Edinburgh the best city to visit right now.

KEY LANDMARKS

ARTHUR'S SEAT

- Arthur's Seat is the massive extinct volcano dominating Edinburgh's skyline, sitting within Holyrood (Holly – rude) Park, rising to a summit of 251m.
- Holyrood Park is very popular with locals and visitors.
- From the top of Arthur's Seat there are fantastic 360 degree panoramic views of the city, with pathways and trails to suit all ability levels throughout the park.

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

- The Palace of Holyroodhouse (Holly-rude-house) is the official residence of the UK monarch in Scotland and is open to the public year-round whenever the Royal Family is not in residence.
- According to medieval legend, the Abbey on the Palace grounds was founded around 900 years ago by David I of Scotland. While out hunting

in the royal park that still exists, the king had a vision of a stag with a glowing cross between its antlers.

- Seeing this as a message from God, he had an abbey built on the very same spot. Rood is the old Scottish word for cross, so Holyrood means 'holy cross'.

OUR DYNAMIC EARTH

- This visitor attraction next to Holyrood Park looks like a huge white armadillo. It tells the story of the planet and how life has evolved since the Big Bang 4.5 billion years ago.
- Visitors find themselves confronting an extinct dinosaur in the middle of an earthquake, the humid heat of a tropical forest, and flying over a prehistoric glacier.
- The visit concludes with immersive 3D projections of the stars in our galaxy in the Planetarium.

NEW SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

- Scotland was an independent country with its own parliament until the Acts of Union in 1707 merged it with England's. You can still visit the debating chamber inside the old Scots Parliament at Parliament House, with its medieval hammer beam roof.
- In 1997, a more devolved parliament was voted for giving Scots more autonomy over certain political decisions, particularly domestic matters, and the new Scottish Parliament was completed in 1999.
- The shapes and forms used were inspired by traditional elements of Scotland representing the connection between Scots and their land.
- Looking from above, the Parliament looks like a branch with leaves.

CALTON (Caw-ton) HILL

- Just beyond Arthur's Seat is Calton (Caw-ton) Hill. In 1889, Robert Louis Stevenson (famous author of Treasure Island) said. "Of all places for a view, this Calton (Caw-ton) Hill is perhaps the best".
- Calton (Caw-ton) Hill is an extinct volcano, offering panoramic views of Edinburgh, and across the Firth of Forth.
- It is home to a collection of classical styled buildings and monuments, contributing to Edinburgh's famous nickname, 'Athens of the North'.

ROYAL MILE

- The old cobbled streets running from the Palace of Holyroodhouse (Holly-rude-house) up to Edinburgh Castle is Edinburgh's Royal Mile.
- Going uphill from the foot of the Royal Mile, on the right-hand side stands Canongate Kirk with its façade topped by a gable and its cemetery.
- This is the church attended by the Royal Family whenever they're in residence in the palace. Most famously, in 2011, Zara Phillips, the Queen's granddaughter, got married here.
- Further up on the right, is John Knox House, a historic house reputed to have been owned and lived in by Protestant reformer John Knox during the 16th century. It is one of the oldest houses in Edinburgh.

ST. GILES' CATHEDRAL

- Arriving at the top half of the Royal Mile, you can immediately spot the distinctive crown spire of the High Kirk ("kirk" being Scots for "church"), more commonly referred to as St. Giles' Cathedral with gothic grandeur both inside and out.
- Her late majesty Queen Elizabeth II lay at rest in the cathedral in September 2022 before journeying to London.

- Though only four storeys high on the Royal Mile side, the building plummets down 12 storeys on the northern side, overlooking Cockburn Street.
- The Chambers were built over the sealed-off remains of three Old Town closes; the spooky remnants of these can be explored beneath the city on a guided tour of the Real Mary King's Close.

THE SCOTT MONUMENT

- One of the largest monuments to a writer in the world, the Scott Monument was built as a legacy to one of Scotland's greatest authors, Sir Walter Scott. He was a prolific writer publishing novels, poems and biographies, often writing about the life and history of Scotland.
- His works inspired many of his readers to visit Scotland, particularly after publication of his famous poem Lady of the Lake, inspired by Loch Katrine.
- Waverley Station in Edinburgh is named after another of his works.

EDINBURGH CASTLE

- Edinburgh Castle is the biggest and most popular in Scotland, attracting more than 2 million visitors a year. Over the course of history the castle has come under siege 26 times, more than any other castle in Britain.
- The castle esplanade offers great views over the skyline of Edinburgh.
- During the month of August you can enjoy a unique spectacle at the esplanade: the Royal Military Tattoo, where marching military bands from all over the world, and a huge display of lights and fireworks, stage a unique show.
- On the upper levels of the castle ramparts you will see Mons Meg. Too big to manoeuvre easily in battle, it fired its last shot in 1681 and is the best-preserved medieval siege gun in Europe.

THE ONE O'CLOCK GUN

- If you're anywhere near Edinburgh Castle at 1pm, you can't fail to hear The One O'Clock Gun being fired.
- A continuing tradition daily since 1861, a blank shell is fired from a modern field gun.
- It's said that when the gun goes off, tourists jump and locals check their watch!

BIODIVERSITY, NATURE AND NET ZERO IN SCOTLAND

- Scotland's forests and woodlands soak up around 7.6 million tonnes of harmful CO2 emissions each year.
- In the past 3 years, Scotland has planted around 57 million trees.
- Scotland's soils are actually a massive carbon store, holding about 60 times the amount held in our plants and trees.
- With 90,000 different animal and plant species, Scotland is home to incredible biodiversity, and our natural, awe-inspiring landscapes and habitats have shaped much of our history, culture, and identity. Nature is Scotland's greatest national asset. It's the bedrock of our communities, economy, jobs, health, and wellbeing depend on it.
- By protecting and restoring nature in our everyday lives, we'll be ensuring our own health and wellbeing, while also helping to tackle climate change. This means both people and planet will win.