

Orienteering Control Descriptions

International Orienteering Federation symbols

Control descriptions are designed to complement the map and give additional information about the location of each control. With practice you should be able to use the control descriptions to visualise the location of the control flag before you get there. This allows you to orienteer much more smoothly throughout the course.

Different columns give different information

A - Control number

1	B - Control code
155	C - Which of similar features
	D - Control feature
	E - Appearance / Second feature
	F - Dimensions / Combinations
	G - Location of the control flag
	H - Other information

Control description sheets also give information about the course length and amount of climb (if calculated), special instructions about marked routes or map exchanges, and information about the run from the last control to the finish.

IOF Control Descriptions		
Sample Layout	4.3 km	25 m
1 145		
2 152		
○ ---150 m--->		
3 153		
○ ---200 m---> ⊙		

A - Control number

The control number matches that shown on the map - usually counting up from 1.

B - Control code

The control code is also shown on the control flag and is used to verify that you are at the right control. They are most often numbers but sometimes letters.

C - Which of similar features

	Northern*		Lower
	Upper		Middle

* Can be rotated to mean north-western, western, etc.

Column D - Control feature

The black and white symbols (left) that appear in the control descriptions match different symbols (right) on the map.

		Terrace (flatter spot on a hillside)			Cave			Open land			Stone wall
		Spur			Boulder			Semi-open land			Fence
		Re-entrant			Boulder field			Forest corner			Crossing point
		Earth bank			Boulder cluster			Clearing			Building*
		Quarry			Stony ground			Thicket			Paved area*
		Earth wall			Bare rock			Linear thicket (hedge)			Ruin
		Erosion gully			Narrow passage (between two cliffs)			Vegetation boundary			Pipeline
		Small erosion gully or ditch			Lake			Copse			Tower
		Hill			Pond			Distinctive tree			Shooting platform
		Knoll			Waterhole			Tree stump or root stuck			Boundary stone or cairn
		Saddle			River, stream, or water-course			Road			Fodder rack
		Depression			Minor water channel			Track / Path			Charcoal burning ground
		Small depression			Narrow marsh			Ride or cut line			Monument or statue*
		Pit			Marsh			Bridge			Building pass through or canopy*
		Broken ground			Firm ground in marsh			Power line			Stairway*
		Ant hill or termite mound			Well			Power line tower			Special item
		Cliff or rock face			Spring			Tunnel			Special item
		Rock pillar			Water tank, water trough						

* These descriptions are used more in urban events and so the corresponding sprint map symbols are shown.

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E - Appearance

	Low
	Shallow
	Deep
	Overgrown
	Open
	Rocky or stony
	Marshy
	Sandy
	Needle leaved
	Broad leaved
	Ruined

F - Dimensions/Combinations

	Height or Depth (e.g. of boulder or pit)
	Size*
	Height on slope**
	Heights of two features
	Crossing (4-way junction)
	Junction (3-way junction)

All dimension are in metres.

* Rough length and width of a feature on the ground when it is not obvious from the map - e.g. an oddly shaped knoll or small clearing. A large clearing drawn to shape does not need this.

**Height of the feature as seen from above and below.

G - Location of the control flag

	North east side*
	West edge*
	South part*
	East corner (inside)*
	North corner (outside)*
	North west tip*
	Bend
	North end*
	Upper part
	Lower part
	Top
	Beneath
	Foot
	North east foot*
	Between

H - Other info

	First aid post
	Refreshment point
	Location of radio or TV control

* Directional symbols can be shown facing any of the 8 cardinal directions to show which side, corner, etc. the flag is at.

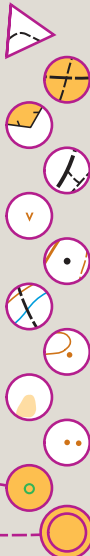
Example Control Descriptions

Example Event Name		3.3 km	10 m
Sample Course			
1 150			
2 151			
3 126			
4 127			
5 131			
6 132			
7 133			
8 130			
9 129			
10 128			

Course is 3.3km with 10m of climb

- Bend in trail
- Intersection of two trails
- Inside south-east corner of fence
- T-junction of two trails
- Pit
- South-west side of boulder
- Intersection of path and stream
- Between hill and knoll
- Northern part of clearing
- North side of western knoll
- North side of deciduous tree

200m marked route from last control to finish



Special Instructions

The following special symbol rows show different mandatory instructions. Marked routes and crossing points are also marked on the map and in the terrain with some kind of ribbon or fencing. They must be followed.

Follow 225 m marked route away from control	Follow 250 m marked route to map exchange
Follow 175 m marked route between controls	Follow 275 m chute from last control to finish
Mandatory crossing point (or points) between controls	Navigate to start of 175 finish chute then follow to finish
Mandatory passage through out of bounds area between controls	Navigate 150 m to finish. No chute or marked route.