

The World Games 2021

Prepared by Cristina Luis for IOF Foot-O Commission, August 11, 2019

Summary

The World Games 2021 will take place in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, 15 July to 25 July. The orienteering competitions (training, Sprint, Middle, and Sprint Relay) are scheduled at the end of the competition window, 22 July to 25 July. Venues for all events have been selected and the mapping and course setting work has commenced. The local orienteering community is enthusiastic but quite small, so many of the key players are from elsewhere in the Eastern US.

Key personnel

Competition Manager: Cristina Luis (MA)

Assistant Competition Manager: Anne Mathews (AL)

Senior Event Advisor: Stefan Bergstrom (CAN)

Head Course Setter: Sandy Fillebrown (PA)

Assistant Course Setter: Linda Kohn (NY)

Forest mapper: Jonathan Campbell (MA)

Sprint mapper: Ed Despard (VT)

Planned Schedule

Thursday, 22 July: Training day, model events for forest and sprint

Friday, 23 July: Sprint competition, Birmingham Southern University

Saturday, 24 July: Middle competition, Oak Mountain State Park

Sunday, 25 July: Sprint Relay competition, Railroad Park

Organization

The Birmingham Organizing Committee (BOC) is responsible for all of the non-technical aspects of the competition, as well as timing and tv data feed. The orienteering-specific technical aspects (mapping, course setting, map printing, volunteer training, control placement, etc) is being handled by experienced volunteers from Orienteering USA, mostly those living in the eastern US. The main area of cooperation between OUSA personnel and BOC is that of arena design, since we require arenas to be executed precisely to specifications. The BOC has indicated that they will implement whatever plan we have, and it will be important to communicate openly with them to ensure that our plans are viable.

The BOC has agreed to cover the major expenses, such as mapping and equipment purchase.

Venue Details

- **Birmingham Southern University:** Birmingham Southern is a private college that will be host to several other competitions during the Games. It provides a typical North American sprint experience, with oddly-shaped buildings and moderate elevation differences. It has never been used for orienteering before.

- **Oak Mountain State Park:** Oak Mountain is a large, well-developed, wooded park located southeast of Birmingham. The terrain is steep ridge and reentrant, with fast running and generally very good visibility (a bit lower in July). Oak Mountain will also host several other competitions during the games. It has been used extensively for orienteering and is where most of the area's events are held. We will be using a new map of the area.
- **Railroad Park:** Railroad Park is a small urban park which will serve as the site of the World Games Plaza, a center of activities throughout the week. The park is located near the commercial center of Birmingham and mostly surrounded by gridded streets, with a few smaller areas that may be used extensively to achieve the needed complexity for elite sprint orienteering. This area has never been used for orienteering before.
- **University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB):** UAB is a public University, slightly less complex than Birmingham Southern, and the likely site of the athlete village. It will be used as the training venue for the sprint events and held as a backup venue for the sprint relay. UAB has never been used before for orienteering.

Progress

As of August 2, 2019, both mappers had completed a first round of field-checking for all anticipated areas, including competition, training, and warmup. Drafting is in progress and both the head course setter and the SEA have visited the terrain with first draft maps in hand.

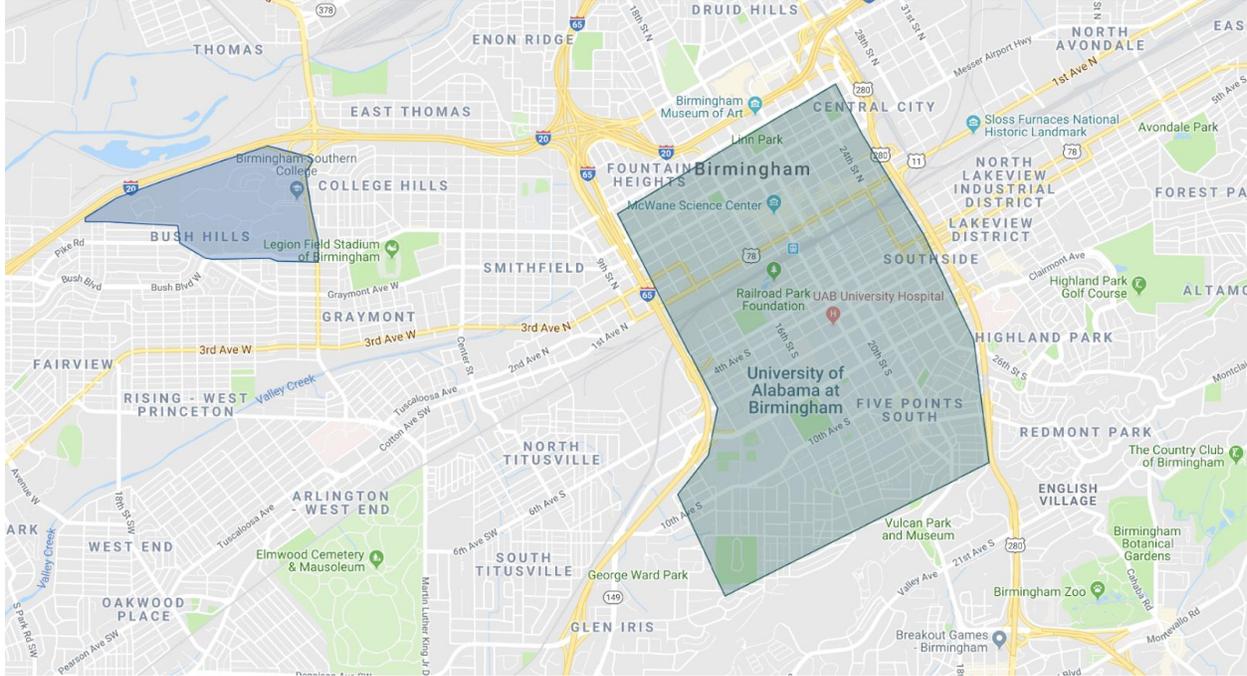
Past Events

- 2-4 October 2018: First Competition Manager's meeting in Birmingham (Cristina and Anne)
- 29-30 November 2018: Visit to Birmingham by Tom Hollowell and Cristina to finalize venues with the Birmingham Organizing Committee
- 21-22 January 2019: Initial course setting visit, Sandy and Cristina
- July 2019: first round of field checking by mappers
- 28 July - August 2, 2019: SEA and Course setter visit with first draft of map

Future

- August-September 2019: Coordinate with BOC and local property owners for access permissions, where required.
- October 2019: First pass of map drafting complete
- Fall, 2019: Initial course planning ideas to paper
- January, 2019: Planned course setting visit to Birmingham
- January, 2019: Initial suggestions for arena setup to Birmingham Organizing Committee

Sprint embargoed areas. Birmingham Southern to the west, Railroad Park and UAB



All embargoed areas, including Oak Mountain State Park southeast of Birmingham

