

Controller's Notes – Sprint – Saturday

I think this will be a fun sprint, with high speeds. The courses are mostly downhill, and there are some steep areas, and many, many steps.

You will cross many campus roads and parking lots. Although traffic should be very light, vehicles are a possibility. Packer Ave will be closed for the block where courses cross.

Maps: I like the map, but it does have a few inconsistencies. Randy has mentioned some of these issues, but I'll reiterate.

Gardens mapped in olive green are always out-of-bounds and entering them is grounds for disqualification. There is inconsistency in how the olive green is applied. In some parts of the map a hedge or mulched area is mapped as normal orienteering terrain; other identical areas are mapped as olive green. If it is mapped olive green, it may not be crossed. In a few places, the olive green has also been overprinted with purple out-of-bounds stripes, but ALL olive green is out-of-bounds. The boundaries of some of these areas don't curve exactly as reality, but if you notice, you are going too slow!

Some pathways have unmapped steps. Be alert for extra steps.

Some stairways and path sections have unmapped waist-high railings alongside them.

Be alert for the grey "crossable wall" symbol. I have not seen this used on many sprint maps in the US (generally, they've just used a thinner black line for crossable walls). I don't think it visually "jumps out" of the map as much as I'd like.

There is one instance where a wall was mapped as crossable (grey) where it should not have been. It is a retaining wall along the uphill side of a road, and is just over 2m. tall at its center, gradually lowering toward each end. If you approach it from above, a solid streamer will direct you toward one end where it is low enough to safely jump down.

There is an open trench (steam pipe repair) that was supposed to be completed and filled in before our event but it is still open, it will limit your route choice on one leg. It will be clearly blocked off with streamers or orange fencing. You'll see it from the control as you start the leg, so it should not cause any unfairness.

Descriptions: Randy described some features a little differently than I would have, but I believe his descriptions are fair and accurate. I don't think any of these will cause you any problems.

Black X on the map is a monument, sculpture or statue. When used as controls, they have been described with the "monument" symbol.

The descriptions for "open land" and "clearing" have been used interchangeably to describe an area of open, mowed grass. All courses see both of these symbols.

Other: A week before the event, there was a dumpster and port-o-let placed next to one control site. Don't let it distract you.

You may see a new art exhibit consisting of closely spaced 2 – 3 meter vertical poles, bordering a sidewalk. Please do not attempt to squeeze between the poles. No logical routes go through the exhibit, but most courses will pass near one end of it.

Many fraternity houses have horseshoe pits in their yards. The short metal spikes used as targets are extremely dangerous. We will cap the ones on or near logical routes with empty plastic orange or white juice bottles to make them more visible. Please watch for them. There was also a large amount of broken glass (beer bottles) and junk around some of the houses.

Controller's Notes – Long – Monday

Ticks. There are 3 less than there were before I did test runs last week (2 dog ticks and 1 deer tick)

Poison Ivy. It is beginning to emerge, but not yet very tall.

Boulders. There are many, but they are small. Small boulders are less than a meter tall and partially buried. Often, they don't stand out from the smaller rocks around them until you get very close. Large boulders are generally over a meter tall and often free standing.

Stony ground. The area in general seems rockier than mapped. If it is mapped as stony ground, there is usually a nearly complete carpet of stones.

Mountain bikes. There are many trails. We added one new one (overprinted with the courses), but additional new trails are always possible. Bikers were using a chainsaw in the area last week. Many of the smaller trails also have constructed jumps which will prove a minor annoyance. It amazes me that they can ride bikes off some of these things and live. A few of the smaller, indistinct trails are very indistinct and can easily be crossed without noticing.

Paintball. There is an area with many small fortifications of brush and plywood. The larger ones have been mapped with black X's, but many smaller ones are not mapped.