

On terrain, map and course

For the first time, the TAOK rogaine will be held in Lääne county, at the north-western coast of Estonia. This terrain is certainly quite unique in Estonia and one of the sightseeing destinations both for local as well as international nature tourists. For rogainers the terrain is known from 2005 European Rogaining Championships. XVI TAOK rogaine will be held in the best part of the ERC2005 terrain. The terrain here is characterized by predominantly open pine forests on low sand dunes, with several coastal lakes, marshes and bogs between the land forms. Heath fields with dry and fallen logs in the south-eastern part of the terrain show the results of a large forest fire in 2008. Nearly one third of the terrain are nature protection areas. The state forest administration opened in June 2015 a new section (Peraküla-Aegviidu) of the trans-Estonia hiking trail and you will probably see several white-and-green signs of the hiking trail along your route.

Just to bring some variety into all this beauty, the course includes also some nasty thickets. These are mainly in the flat areas (without contours) of the terrain around Nõva, Peraküla and Vaisi villages. However, the flat area with parallel system of ditches in the eastern part of the terrain is generally well runnable. The forest rides in this part of the terrain are wide as they have been recently cleaned. On the other hand, many forest rides in the nature protection areas are not maintained and hence some are poorly visible and runnable.

Running on sandy coastal tracks and on rides crossing the bogs will test your physical capacities. Fallen trees in the former forest fire area provide an opportunity to test running the hurdles. Wild forest berries create a temptation, but do not lose too much time picking them as this may cost you some places at the finish.

The water level is generally not high, but don't develop too high expectations on maintaining dry feet throughout the course. There are several streams which are difficult to cross without stepping in and there are some wet marshes. The foot-bridges over Nõva river (Nõva jõgi) are indicated on the map and it is recommended to use them, but the river is generally relatively shallow with stony bed, allowing to cross also elsewhere. But the same cannot be said about all streams, as some have marshy edges and muddy beds.

Deer ticks are a nuisance. There are more of them near smaller marshes, while nearly none close to the sea and in the open bog area. Hopefully their number is declining as nights are getting colder. But you could make some good money at the event center if you have an effective repellent against them. If you don't, just run fast away from the places where they are abundant.

Cow and lamb pasture areas with electric fences are indicated on the map as out-of-bounds with purple vertical stripes. Electric fences and barbed wires can be expected also at the perimeter of other open fields, so pay attention. Barbed wire and various trash can be encountered at the remnants of a former Soviet military base.

It is also strictly prohibited to enter the territory of farmsteads and private homes, marked on the map with olive green color. Please respect the privacy of local people.

Be careful when crossing local roads or running along them.

There are 2 water stations marked on the map, one of them (in the eastern part) is manned by organisers, while the other (in the western part) is a self-service water tap.

As usual at TAOK rogaines, the map scale is 1:30000. It is a special rogaining map, which is more accurate than the Estonian base map, but not as detailed as orienteering maps. For drawing contours, laser scanning height data of the Estonian Land Board have been used. Due to relatively low land forms the contour interval is 2,5 m (against the usual 5 m lines). Despite this you may observe some other low land forms, which the laser scanning height model does not depict.

Some clearings and weak forest tracks may be missing on the map. There is also some inconsistency in depicting open/semi-open areas, in particular in the former forest fire area and at bogs and marshes.

The map is aligned to magnetic north, i.e. the grid lines of magnetic north (indicated with green color) are parallel to the edge of the map.

The size of the map sheet is about 27 x 50 cm.