

On terrain, map and course

This year the TAOK rogaine will be held in the border area of Harju and Lääne counties. The terrain is varied as the autumn weather – there is a mix of shiny spots and dull areas.

One of the highlights of the terrain is certainly Valgejärv – the White Lake. This is one of the most peculiar lakes in Estonia. It is difficult to swim in this lake as the water is barely half a meter deep. The boardwalk will take you across the lake, but be careful as the boards are slippery.

From north to south a range of dunes is crossing the terrain, indicating that once upon a time the coastline was here. About one quarter of all controls are located on these ancient coastal formations.

In south-western part of the map the beauty of sand dunes is spoiled by the former Soviet military camp. Some of the biggest ballistic missiles R-12 were located here in the years of the Cold War. In this corner of the map, a curvy Piirsalu river is flowing through the terrain. The river is not too wide and the water is rather shallow. Furthermore, there are fallen trees, which help to cross the river. However, do not place too high hopes on maintaining your shoes dry as the bogs and marshes are quite wet. If you observe that some controls not too far from the event center are rather highly valued, you may ask yourself, why?

In south-eastern corner of the map, if you are lucky you may spot one of our biggest birds – the wood grouse. This bird prefers old pine forests near bogs. Its habitat is a protected forest, where clear-cut areas shall not exceed 1 ha.

Human settlement on this terrain is mainly in the central part of the map – Lepaste village. The course plan is designed to keep competitors away from homesteads. It is strictly prohibited to enter areas designated on the map as out-of-bounds with purple stripes or to enter the territory of farmsteads and private homes, marked on the map with olive green color. The out-of-bounds areas are cultivated fields and cattle pasture. The latter are surrounded with electric fences.

One rumor. The ladies in the village told that nearby the biggest bog (in the northern part of the map) a brown bear has been frequently spotted. But you never know where the bear will be on the coming Saturday. I didn't see this bear, but almost stepped on a rabbit.

Then, finally I have to confess that there are also quite large areas of dull forest with rectangular ride network. When running along those endless forest rides you may ask yourself: "Is it better to run along these rides or in these forests?" Another trick is that you cannot know if the ride has a high grass or a well runnable track as runnability of rides is not indicated on the map. One straight track in the south-eastern part of the map is actually not a ride, but a former railroad to Haapsalu.

Different from previous years, this year the course includes 44 controls instead of 40 what used to be the norm. So you get 10% extra for the same price! The values of controls vary from 2 to 6 points, the maximum score being 164. Why so? But why not?

There are 2 water stations marked on the map.

As usual at TAOK rogaines, the map scale is 1:30000. However, the contour interval this year is 2,5 m as the dunes are not that high. It is a special rogaining map, which is more accurate than the Estonian base map, but less detailed than the orienteering maps. The contours are smoothed lidar contours with added details in some areas.

Some clearings and weak forest tracks may be missing on the map. There is also some inconsistency in depicting marshy forest areas and overgrown clearings.

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 34 x 39 cm.