

## Meet Director's Notes

Stage 1 of California Orienteering Festival

Orienteering USA National Ranking Event (Urban Sprint)

### Presidio National Park Monday July 17, 2023

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Introduction: Welcome to the Presidio National Park – a unique and historic location within the city of San Francisco, in the shadow of the Golden Gate bridge. In addition to today's orienteering, the Presidio offers many opportunities for recreation and entertainment. We encourage you to review all that's on offer at <https://www.presidio.gov/>. The Presidio Visitor Center is close to the assembly area and has a wealth of information, leaflets, and displays.

While the park has been embargoed for this event, orienteers are welcome to visit the following areas on the day, including before your start: near assembly in the Main Post area – Disney Family Museum, Visitor Center, Tunnel Tops and Crissy Field; areas to the west of the main post – including coastal bluffs, Fort Point and Golden Gate bridge viewing. Other areas should not be visited until after your race.

The park has a dynamic mix of visitor attractions, institutions and working businesses. We are privileged to hold this event in the National Park, and it is critical that we are considerate of all other park users. Drive slowly while entering and leaving the park and be courteous to pedestrians while on your course. Take care to avoid damaging any park facilities and **do not enter any areas marked as out of bounds**. Course marshals will be present to observe any infractions, which may lead to disqualification.

Getting there: The Presidio is about 3 miles west of downtown San Francisco. Driving to the park is reasonably straightforward but allow for delays on often busy city streets. The event center is in the heart of the park, close to the junction of Graham Street and Sheridan Avenue, towards the southern (uphill) end of the Main Post area, near the Presidio Visitor Center and Main Parade Lawn (see map and location details below).

Parking is ample and convenient, but must be paid: \$2.50 per hour or \$12.50 for the entire day. Pay the fee at one of the numerous pay stations (credit cards accepted) and display the ticket on your dashboard. Due to park restrictions, do not rely on seeing orienteering signage.

Information about public transportation options is available at the park website (link above) – notably, the 'PresidiGo' shuttle is a free bus service from downtown San Francisco which runs every 30-60 min and terminates convenient to the event center.

### Event Details

**Safety:** Courses cross numerous roads within the park with light to moderate traffic. **Please take great care while crossing roads** and use crosswalks where possible. First aid is available in the arena, but call 911 for emergencies. More detailed safety information is available on the CalOFest website [here](#).

Registration is open from 10.30 am – 1.30 pm for packet pickup, questions, and late entries. Start window is 12.30 – 2.30 pm. Courses close at 3.30 pm (1h after last start).

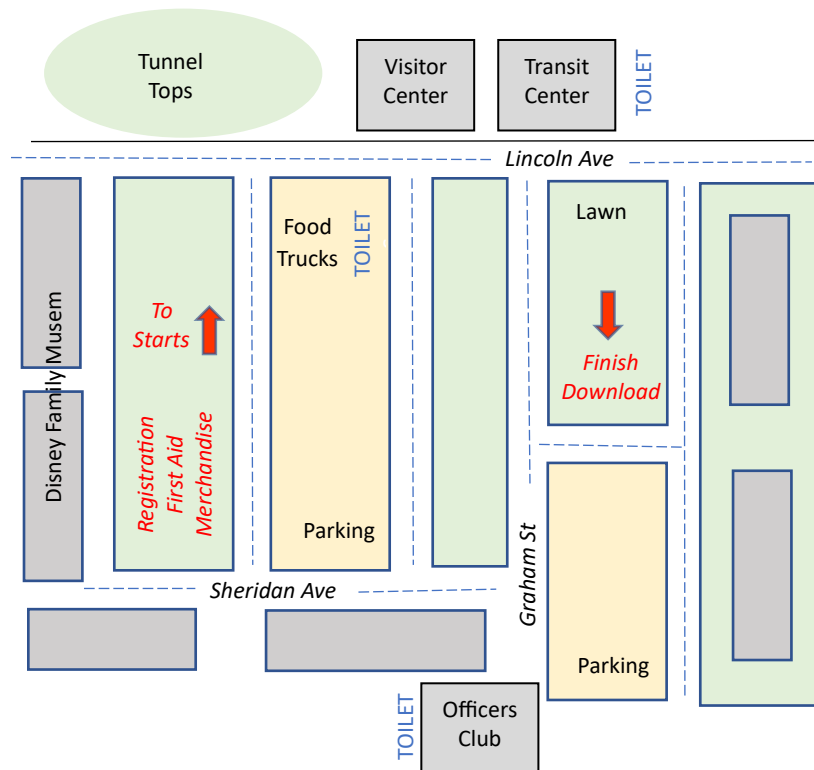
The Arena assembly area is on grassy lawns close to parking and registration. Finish and download areas are also adjacent. **Strictly no tent pegs, stakes** etc may be used on the lawns because a rodent-proof barrier is in use below the surface. There is ample space on the lawns for babysitting, which may be arranged between parents.

Due to the short duration of courses and the afternoon timing of event, no food or drink will be provided by the event organizers. A water tap is available nearby to fill water bottles. There are numerous dining options nearby, including multiple food trucks within 250m of assembly. Offerings vary, but on one recent visit included hamburgers, borscht, Algerian food, and pupusas. Colibri restaurant is also very close, and offers upscale Mexican food in an informal setting. Bringing a picnic is also a great option – there are many picnic tables, often with spectacular views of the Golden Gate, Alcatraz, and the San Francisco waterfront.

Public toilet facilities are available within 300 meters in the Officers Club (near Colibri restaurant), near the food trucks, and adjacent to the Visitor Center.

There is one start for all courses, about 600 meters from the arena on good paths with no climb. There will be no separate lane or quarantine for Elite classes. There is little space for warm-up at the start area. A suitable area will be indicated nearby just off the route to the start from assembly.

Maps will be collected after your run and will be available for pickup after the last start (around 3 pm).



GPS Coordinates:

[37.800326, -122.457396](https://www.google.com/maps/place/37.800326,-122.457396)

Location:



## Course Designer's Notes

BAOC is excited to kick off Cal-O-Fest at one of our most historic and unique venues: The Presidio of San Francisco. Featuring picturesque Golden Gate Bridge views (fog permitting) and quite a variety of terrain types, the Main Post area of the Presidio is sure to make for some fast and exciting Sprint courses.

### The Map

The Main Post map was first drafted in late 2016. It has recently been updated to use the ISSprOM 2019-2 standard, which differs from ISSOM 2017 (and even ISSprOM 2019) in a few subtle ways.

- Dark black-green (100% green, 50% black) and olive green areas are designated as uncrossable (that is, crossing them will lead to disqualification!). Dark black-green would normally be classified as fight; olive green is usually flower beds or landscaping that would otherwise be passable. Marshals will be stationed throughout the courses to ensure fairness.
- Passable walls are now marked with a thin black line with dots along it (in some previous versions of ISSOM, they were marked with thicker, grey lines).
- Retaining walls are now marked with a thin black line with half-circles along it. The half-circles point downward in terms of elevation (in ISSOM, there wasn't a special retaining-wall symbol, so they were marked as walls).
- The bush/small-tree symbol (a filled-in green circle) now has a small white dot inside it.
- The [multilevel addendum](#) is the most significant part of ISSprOM 2019-2. The symbols in this addendum (triangles used to mark level changes and multicolored hatching) are used in a few places on the Presidio map, several of which may affect route choice and control placement. On the Presidio map, most of these locations are straightforward to read, but remember to consult your control descriptions as well as the map, especially around controls.
- For examples of multilevel situations, feel free to reference my [comments on the UC Berkeley map](#), complete with pictures. In general, the Presidio multilevel areas are much simpler to understand than these examples.
- The sizes of several symbols have grown or shrunk slightly from the ISSOM standard. There is a blog post [here](#) with a visualization of some of the differences.

The map will be printed at 1:3,000 for the following classes: F10-14, F55-85, M10-14, M60-85, F-Brown, F-Orange, F-Yellow, F-White, M-Brown, M-Orange, M-Yellow, M-White, Rec 1 White, Rec 2 Yellow, Rec 3 Orange Short, Rec 4 Orange Long, Rec 6 Brown. All other classes will be printed at a scale of 1:4,000.

The map was originally drafted at 1:4,000, as per ISSprOM 2019-2. It has a contour interval of 2.5 meters.

All maps are printed on legal-size paper (8 1/2 inches x 14 inches).

Some trees are used as control locations. Broad-leaved and needle-leaved descriptors are used in the control descriptions to differentiate tree type. If a tree doesn't have a descriptor (indicating broad or needle leaves) in the control descriptions, it is a palm tree.

The cairn/monument symbol, code 526, is used to denote statues, large plaques, or decorative military equipment (the Presidio has a lot of commemorative cannons on display). Many of these are used for control locations.

A special symbol is used on the map. The black circle symbol, code 530 (Prominent man-made feature -

ring", is used to denote large flagpoles. No controls are placed on flagpoles, so you will not see the black circle symbol in any control descriptions.

A different special symbol is used in the control descriptions. The special symbol "X" in the control descriptions (IOF Control Descriptions 2018 code 6.1) is used to mark a manmade pillar. Such pillars are mapped with the ISSprOM 2019-2 symbol code 522.1 (a small black square). In the terrain, these can represent tourism kiosks, large utility boxes, freestanding concrete chimneys, or wide support pillars under canopies. One or more controls are placed on pillars, so some courses will see the "X" symbol in their control descriptions.

### The Courses

The Start for all the courses will be approximately 0.6 km away from the assembly area (with no climb). The Finish is at the assembly area.

These courses will all be set to Sprint standards. Most (but not all) control locations will be at a Yellow/Orange level—technical difficulty is not the primary challenge competitors will experience. There will be many changes in direction, with an emphasis on quick map reading and route choice. Expected winning times are in the 12- to 15-minute range. Due to the short length of the courses, no refreshments will be offered at controls.

As always, I'd like to remind all competitors to carefully read the map when approaching controls. There are many controls set close together. Minimum distances between controls are 15 m for controls on different features, and 30 m for controls on similar features. Remember that not all of the controls you see will be on your course, so remember to check each control code before punching.