

20th European Rogaining Championships 2024

Bulletin 2

Location: Misso, Võru county, Estonia

Dates: 17–18 August 2024

Organizers: TA Orienteering Club (TAOK) and Estonian Orienteering Federation (EOL)

Event website: <https://erc2024.rogain.ee>

Format: European Rogaining Championships 2024 (20ERC2024) are held as a rogaine with the duration of 24 hours.

A concurrent 6-hour open non-championship rogaine will be held on Saturday, 17 August 2024. For instructions see: <https://taok.rogain.ee/en/rules/>

RULES

The [Rules of Rogaining](#) of the International Rogaining Federation (version as of 1 January 2024) are applied with the following event-specific adjustments and specifications.

Rule B2: Any team that has a member under 16 years of age shall also have a member 18 years of age or over. All participants under 18 years of age should present a written permission from parents or legal guardians upon registration at the event center.

Rule B5(a): Competitors shall not cross any crop fields, regardless of their effective state at the time of the event, or any other areas, which are indicated as out-of-bounds on the event map.

Rule B5(c): Competitors shall not cross any fences.

Rule B11: Each team member shall carry at all times during the competition a visibly placed number bib. The number bib may not be dropped on the course even temporarily, e.g. if attached to the backpack.

Pursuant to Rules B14 and B7(c) the organizers will distribute to all teams a GPS tracker, which is a compulsory gear and shall be carried by one of the team members at all times while on course. The GPS tracker distributed by the organizers may not be dropped on the course even temporarily, e.g. if attached to the backpack.

Pursuant to Rule B7(c), any items listed in Rule B7(b) such as mobile phones or GPS tracking devices (other than those provided by the organizers) that a team wishes to carry on the course shall be sealed into a special plastic bag provided by the organizers. Such devices shall not be accessed whilst on the course, except in the case of emergency. The organizers will verify at the finish that the sealed bag is untampered and record its return.

Pursuant to Rule B16 the organizers will provide to all ERC competitors a SPORTident SIAC card which works in contactless punching mode. At the checkpoint the card flashes and beeps to confirm that the checkpoint number and timestamp have been written to the card. In case of no such signal (failure of the contactless mode) a visit to the checkpoint shall be recorded by a regular direct punching, i.e. by placing the SIAC card into the hole of the SI station. The SIAC card shall be attached to the competitors' wrist with a special wristband provided by the organizers. The wristband seal shall be secured by the organizers before the team enters the course. Wristbands shall only be cut or removed by the organizers after the team finishes the course.

Rule 17 (b): For a team to gain points for any checkpoint all team members shall record a visit to that checkpoint within the time limit of 60 seconds.

Notwithstanding the requirements of Rules B12 and B14, which otherwise apply, the competitors while on course may visit Misso Coop shop and Nopri farm shop (for details see below).

Rule B21: Whenever visiting the event center during the competition, all team members shall record a visit by punching a CHECK-IN station when arriving at the event center and a CHECK-out station immediately before leaving the event center.

Pursuant to Rule B28, teams finishing late (after the nominated finish time) will be penalised at the rate of 2 points per each minute or part thereof. Teams finishing more than 30 minutes late are deemed ineligible for a placing.

Rules B30(b) and C16(c): In case of failure of the punching equipment or when the checkpoint was missing the organizers will use the GPS track of the team to verify that the team visited the correct site.

EVENT CENTER

The event center is located at Misso song festival ground in Misso borough in Rõuge parish, Võru county, in South Eastern part of Estonia.

GPS coordinates of the event center: N57.604985, E27.222363

The distance to Misso:

from Tallinn 290 km (3.5 hour drive)

from Tartu 115 km (1.5 hour drive)

from Riga airport 215 km (3 hour drive)



PARTICIPANTS

A team shall consist of two or three members. A team member/competitor is considered to represent a country of which she/he is a national or a permanent resident.

Participants from non-European countries can participate and compete for the ERC medals. However, according to the decision of the IRF Council from January 2024, competitors from the Russian Federation and Belarus are not eligible to participate in ERC2024.

COMPETITION CLASSES

Men's Open (MO) — men, no age restriction

Women's Open (WO) — women, no age restriction

Mixed Open (XO) — at least one man and one woman, no age restriction

Men's Youth (MY) — men, 23 years of age or younger

Women's Youth (WY) — women, 23 years of age or younger

Mixed Youth (XY) — at least one man and one woman, 23 years of age or younger

Men's Veteran (MV) — men, 45 years of age or over

Women's Veteran (WV) — women, 45 years of age or over

Mixed Veteran (XV) — at least one man and one woman, 45 years of age or over

Men's Super Veteran (MSV) — men, 55 years of age or over

Women's Super Veteran (WSV) — women, 55 years of age or over

Mixed Super Veteran (XSV) — at least one man and one woman, 55 years of age or over

Men's Ultra Veteran (MUV) — men, 65 years of age or over

Women's Ultra Veteran (WUV) — women, 65 years of age or over

Mixed Ultra Veteran (XUV) — at least one man and one woman, 65 years of age or over.

Teams are deemed to compete in every category for which they are eligible. The age requirements for age categories are based on the year of birth, i.e. the age of team members at the end of the year (as of 31 December 2024) is taken into account.

LAST MINUTE CHANGES

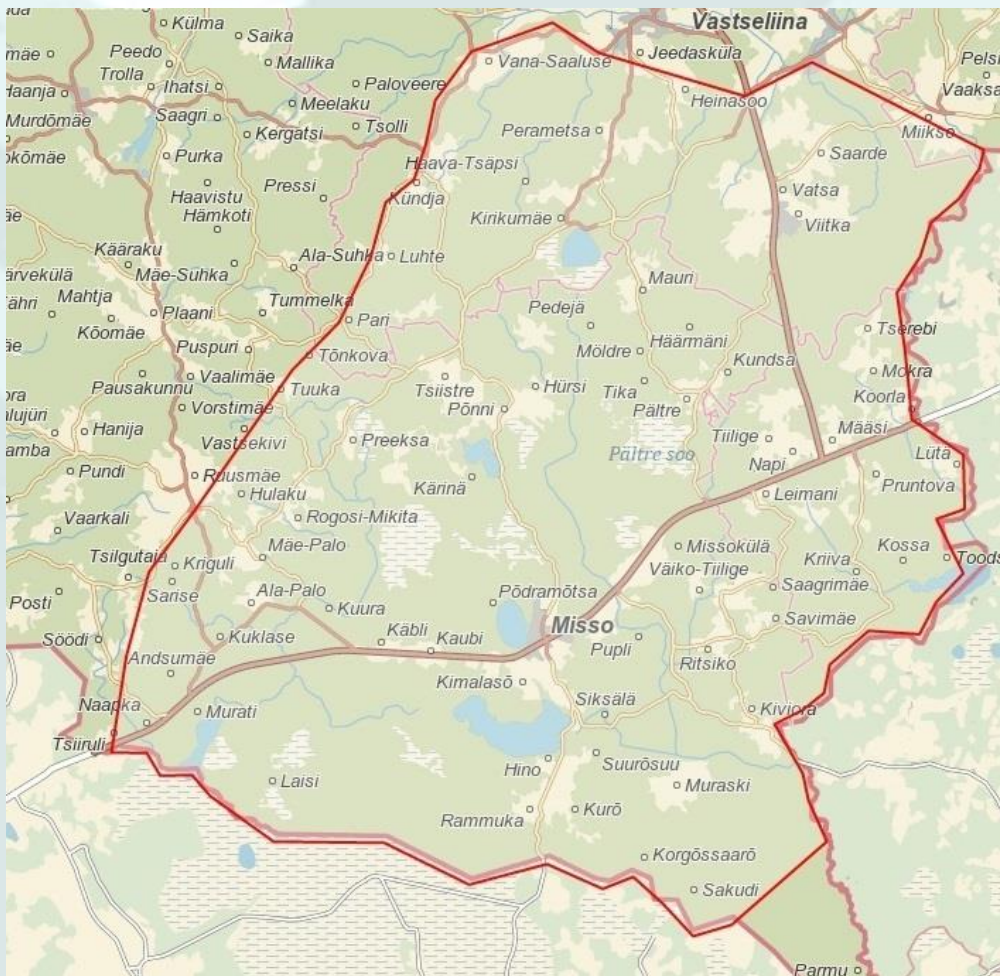
Any changes to the registration data, including withdrawal of registration, replacing a team member etc, shall be notified to the organizers before the event by e-mail reg@rogain.ee or by way of exception, in the morning of the competition at the event center.

PHOTOS AND FILMING

Photos and videos will be taken during the event and these images may be used at the event website and Facebook page. By participating in the event competitors acknowledge that they may be filmed and photos may be taken. The participant agrees to permit the ERC organizers to use such photos and videos in media, including social media, and websites for the purposes of reporting about the event and promoting the sport of rogaining.

EMBARGOED AREA

For ERC participants the area indicated on the map below is closed for training. Under the embargo, independent or team training on the terrain with a map is prohibited until the start of ERC2024.



TERRAIN

The competition area covers about 220 km² in the south eastern corner of Estonia in Haanja Uplands, 150–250 meters over the sea level. The terrain features several moraine hillocks and esker formations of glacial origin, intercepted with bogs and marshes, as well as several lakes. The relative height of hillocks is typically 10–30 meters.

The terrain has not been used for rogaining, but orienteering events have been held in some parts of the terrain. Links to the existing orienteering maps from this area:

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2016041>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2015012>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2014020>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2013088>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=2009022>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=0138>

<https://orienteerumine.ee/kaart/?eolcode=0137>

The vegetation on the terrain is quite varied. There are coniferous forests (spruce, pine), broadleaf forests (mainly birch) and mixed forests. Runnability of the forests varies from very good to fight. There are many clearings due to forestry. The areas of overgrown former clearings, where forest was cut about 3–10 years ago, are often slow-moving thickets. In the older forest, runnability generally tends to be better on top of the hillocks, and may be reduced along the edges, e.g. due to fallen trees. In the marshy forests the undergrowth (ferns, grass, nettles etc) is often lush. However, there is no fixed pattern and there are exceptions to these general notes.

Until the end of July most of the bogs, marshes and ditches were quite dry, but recent heavy rains have significantly increased the water level in the streams and ditches, and some of the marshes are flooded.

The eastern edge of the terrain is bordered by another country. As the eastern border is fenced (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKLQ81tbiNs>) there is no risk of accidentally finding yourself abroad. However, the last about 300 meters to the fence (the border strip) are a no-go zone. The no-go strip is marked on the ground with warning signs featuring a red hand and the text STOP (see <https://www.politsei.ee/en/marking-of-border>). It is strictly prohibited to go beyond these warning signs. The border strip is also clearly designated as out-of-bounds on the event map.

The other out-of-bounds areas include nature reserves, crop fields and some private property areas. It is strictly prohibited to enter any out-of-bounds area. Violations will lead to disqualification and may be punishable by law. The organizers will use GPS tracking information to check compliance with out-of-bounds areas.

WILDLIFE

The event terrain is a habitat of many species of wild animals, including elk, deer, fox, rabbit, wild boar, beaver, badger, raccoon dog, lynx and brown bear. The probability of spotting is higher for deers and foxes, but lower for other species. The only venomous snake is the European adder/viper (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vipera_berus), which is encountered rarely. Its bite is not life-threatening, but nevertheless requires immediate medical attention.

HAZARDS AND ANNOYANCES

The main hazards include crossing the main roads and wide ditches, impassable marshes, as well as ticks and dogs. Wide ditches can be crossed using fallen trees or beaver dams. Impassable flooded marshes shall be avoided. Some ticks may carry tick-borne encephalitis or Lyme disease. It is advisable to check the whole body after the event. Some insect repellents are also effective against ticks. Some

of the homesteads on the terrain have dogs. While the organizers have asked the local people to keep their dogs in the yards at the time of the event, it is highly advisable to keep distance from the homesteads shown on the map with olive green.

Extra care should be taken when crossing the two main roads that intercept the terrain: Riga–Pskov and Tartu–Luhamaa motorways. Recommended crossing points are indicated on the map. The course has been set to minimize the need to run along these motorways. In Misso borough the Riga–Pskov motorway has sidewalks, which shall be used. Outside Misso, the requirements of the Traffic Act §22(4) shall be strictly followed: *‘On a two-way non-urban motorway without a dividing strip, where there is no sidewalk, the pedestrians must move only on the left-hand side of the road as close to its left edge as possible without obstructing vehicles. In case of poor visibility or at night time, several pedestrians walking along the motorway may move only in a single row one after the other.’* Care should also be taken when crossing or running on the gravel roads as there is some local traffic.

Main annoyances include deer flies and stinging nettles. The number of deer flies increases in August. They are a nuisance, crawling on your body, but are harmless. Stinging nettles grow in marshy forest and by some ditches. It is advisable to wear trousers which are sufficiently thick to provide protection against nettles. Two layers of orienteering trousers normally also provide sufficient protection.

MODEL EVENT

Model event will be available from Thursday, 15 August 10.00 to Friday, 16 August 21.00. The model event terrain is near Haanja village, about 25 km from the Misso event center. The location of the start of the model event is at the Haanja ski stadium (GPS 57.7224 27.0481). Printed model event maps will be available at start. Electronic copies will also be made available. The landscape forms are generally representative of the event terrain, but the vegetation is less varied

than on the event terrain. However, beyond the types of forest on the hillocks and marshes between the hills, in the south western part of the model map you can observe an overgrown older clearing, a more recent clearing and a grassland with high grass.

About 1 km south-east from the Haanja ski stadium is Suur Munamägi (Great Egg Hill), the highest peak in the Baltic countries (see also Sightseeing section below).

EVENT TIME TABLE

Friday 16 August

16.00 Event center opens

16.00–20.00 Registration and handing out of number bibs, SI cards, wristbands and bags for phones and GPS-enabled devices

Saturday 17 August

8.00 Registration and handing out of number bibs, SI cards, wristbands and bags for phones and GPS-enabled devices

9.00 Map handout for ERC2024

9.00–11.30 Handing out of GPS trackers, fastening of wristbands, sealing of bags with phones and other GPS-enabled devices

11.30–12.00 Start area open, checking of equipment

12.00 ERC2024 mass start

18.00 Catering available at the event center

Sunday 18 August

12.00 ERC2024 finish

12.30 Late finish cut-off time

12.45 Deadline for submitting protests

14.00 ERC2024 prize-giving

16.00 Event center closes

SUN AND MOON

Saturday 17 August

20.50 Sunset

20.55 Moonrise

21.40 End of civil twilight

Sunday 18 August

02.30 Moonset

04.50 Start of civil twilight

05.40 Sunrise

The duration of daylight in the event week-end is about 15 hours and with periods of civil twilight over 16 hours. Moon illumination is about 95% as there will be full moon on 19 August. However, the moon will be low, only 6° over the horizon.

WEATHER

The average daytime high temperatures in August have been around 20°C, and the average nighttime low about 12°C. The average chance of rain is 30%.

For the localized short-term weather forecast of the Estonian Environmental Agency, see:

<https://www.ilmateenistus.ee/ilm/prognoosid/4-oopaeva-prognoos/?lang=en>

<https://www.ilmateenistus.ee/ilm/prognoosid/mudelprognoosid/eesti/?lang=en#layers/temp2mv2,temp2mtx>

<https://www.ilmateenistus.ee/ilm/prognoosid/sademetetoenaosus/?lang=en>

<https://www.ilmateenistus.ee/ilm/ilmavaatlused/radar/?lang=en#layers/precipitation,thunder>

MAP

The event map is a special rogaining map, prepared for the ERC. The map scale is 1:30000 with a contour interval of 5 meters. In flatter parts of the terrain 2.5 m form lines are used.

The size of the map sheet is about 50 x 65 cm. The map is printed on a water- and tear-resistant material. An additional map for route planning (one per team) is provided.

The map is based on various geo-spatial data of the Estonian Land Board (<https://geoportaal.maaamet.ee/eng/>), in particular the digital topographic base map, orthophotos and Lidar-based elevation data. Field-work to check, update and correct the map was carried out in summer 2024.

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the map adequately depicts the terrain, some discrepancies inevitably remain. Some older tracks disappear and may be difficult to spot, while some other tracks may be more prominent than shown on the map. The differences between older and more recent clearings are at times marginal. In some parts of the terrain forestry works have been going on and some clearings may have been extended compared to what is shown on the map or new clearings emerged. Some ditches may be missing on the map, while some of the ditches and streams shown on the map may be wider due to recent rains.

COURSE

Checkpoints may be visited in any order. The point value of the checkpoints ranges from 4 to 12 points and is reflected by the first digit(s) of the checkpoint number. Control markers have reflective stripes.

Checkpoint descriptions are printed on the map, but are also made available on separate sheets.

EQUIPMENT

Each team member shall carry at all times during the competition a whistle, a visibly placed number bib and the SI card provided by the organizers, sealed around the competitors' wrist with a non-removable wristband. One of the team members shall carry at all times during the competition the GPS tracking device provided by the organizers. Please bring your own safety pins to attach the number bib.

Recommended gear: compass, regular watch, first aid kit, survival blanket, and a mobile phone, which is turned off and sealed in the bag provided by the organizers.

The only navigational aids allowed are the map provided by the organizers and a compass. The use of any other navigational aids is prohibited, including any type of GPS or distance measuring devices. The use of any other map (either printed or electronic) not provided by the organizers is prohibited.

Any devices (such as smartphones, tablets, watches, trackers or other) with a GPS or other navigational functions may be carried on the course only if sealed in the bag provided by the organizers. Any audio functions of such devices shall be turned off.

PUNCHING

SPORTident (SI) Air+ contactless punching system will be used. Each competitor will be provided with a SI card by the organisers. Competitors may not use their own SI cards. The rental fee of SI cards is included in the event fee. The SI cards are attached to each competitor with a non-removable wristband. In case of loss of the SI card, a fee of 60 EUR is charged.

The SIAC cards are cleared by the organizers, hence no pre-start clearing of the cards is needed. The contactless (Air+) functionality of the SIAC cards is enabled by the CHECK station when entering the start area.

In order to gain points for a checkpoint, all members of a team shall record their visit at the SI station of that checkpoint within a time interval of **60 seconds**.

In case of failure of the contactless punching mode (no flash and beep) a visit to the checkpoint shall be recorded by regular direct punching, i.e. by placing the SIAC card into the hole of the SI station.

In case of (unlikely) failure of the SI station, all team members shall use the manual punch at the checkpoint.

In case the checkpoint or punching equipment is missing, the GPS tracks will be used to establish that the team visited the correct site.

GPS TRACKING

Each team will be provided with a GPS tracker and teams are required to carry a GPS tracker at all times when on course during the event. The GPS tracker shall be attached to the arm or to the outer straps of the backpack to ensure better connectivity with satellites. Place the tracker as high as possible, considering that this is also your backup system in case of accidents or when the checkpoint is missing. Do not place the tracker at the bottom of your backpack.

GPS tracking information of the routes and progress of all teams will be available online for spectators during the race, but a time lag will be applied. It is strictly forbidden for ERC participants to access GPS tracking information during the race, both when on course or when visiting the event center. The GPS tracking link: <https://sportrec.eu/gps/erc-2024>

SHOPS

During the event, competitors may visit two shops which are on the competition terrain. The locations of these shops are indicated on the event map.

Misso Coop (<https://www.coop.ee/misso-kauplus>), about 600 meters south-east from the event center is open daily 10.00 to 20.00. This is a general grocery store.

Nopri farm shop (<https://www.nopri.ee/en/paaleht-eng/>), about 6.6 km north-west from the event center is open 24 h. They sell dairy products (e.g. yogurt and cheese), snacks and soft drinks. The shop has self-service with video surveillance (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLq7o7PCWi8&ab_channel=NopriTalumeierei).

Both shops accept cash and card payments.

WATER STATIONS

On the event terrain there are 3 water stations with cold drinking water. The locations of water stations are marked on the map. The water stations are self-service. ***No cups are provided at water stations***, which means you need to have your own cup, bottle or water bag. There are garbage bins at water stations for gel packaging etc.

Please also note that there are more than 50 lakes on the event terrain, but drinking lake water is at your own risk. The use of water purifiers is advised if using lake water.

TEMPORARY SHELTERS

The map also indicates the locations of some temporary shelters. These are various small, covered constructions, such as campsite benches, bus stops etc, which may be used for a shorter-term rest or to hide from a rain. No garbage shall be left there!

RESPONSIBILITY

All competitors are competing at their own risk. Foreign competitors should have adequate travel health insurance, which covers also participation in a competition and related accidents, injuries and illnesses, including rescue from the terrain and transport to a hospital.

INJURIES OR EMERGENCIES

In case of injury, if your team has decided to withdraw from the event and you are unable to return to the event center on your own, please call the organizers: +372-56159998. This number is also printed on the event map.

In case of serious emergency, if you need help from an ambulance, please call the general emergency number 112.

First aid kit is available at the event center.

FINISH

At finish all members of the team shall punch a FINISH station at the designated finish area. The team finish time is the latest time recorded by any team member at the finish.

The point penalty for finishing after the nominated finish time is **2 points** per each minute or part thereof. Teams finishing more than 30 minutes late are not eligible for a placing.

Upon finish, all team members shall proceed to the SI card download before leaving the designated finish area.

RESULTS

At the SI download each competitor gets a printout of the SI card reading, indicating all checkpoints visited, the total time, time of each leg and the sum of points collected. The individual SI printout shall be considered as a preliminary, and not as the final result. Preliminary team results are posted at the event center after the control time. The final results are published on the ERC website.

PROTESTS

Within 45 minutes of the nominated finish time, a team may submit a protest about any team thought to have breached the rules, about the preliminary results

of the team or about any actions of the organizers that they consider made the competition unfair. Protests shall be submitted in writing in English.

JURY

Any protests are considered and determined by a three-person jury comprised of the members of the IRF council: Miroslav Seidl, Roberto Pascual Orcajo and Volodymyr Lipka. Timmo Tammemäe is a substitute member of the jury.

AWARDS

The team with the highest score in each competition class is granted the title of the European Rogaining Champions. The three best teams in each class are awarded medals and diplomas. The awards ceremony will take place on Sunday, 18 August at 14.00.

HASH HOUSE CATERING

Food and drink is available at the event center from 18.00 on Saturday to 10.00 on Sunday for teams visiting the event center. Lunch will be provided to teams who have finished the course on Sunday from 10.00 to 14.00. Vegan options will also be offered.

The menu includes:

From Saturday, 17 August 18.00 to Sunday, 18 August 6.00: chicken and vegetable soup, coffee, tea, snacks (nuts, raisins, biscuits).

From Sunday, 18 August 6.00 to 10.00: porridge, coffee, tea, snacks.

From Sunday, 18 August 10.00 to 14.00: risotto, fried potatoes with grilled sausage, coffee, tea, snacks.

TOILETS AND WASHING

There are portable toilets at the event center.

Upon finishing the event, participants can use showers at Misso sports and culture house, located about 500 meters south-east from the event center. However, the capacity is limited – there are three showers for men and two for women. It is also possible to dip in the nearby Pulli lake to wash off your sweat, but no soap or shampoo can be used.

SIGHTSEEING

It is worthwhile to go and see the two main attractions which are located close to the event terrain.

Suur Munamägi (Great Egg Hill) is the highest peak in the Baltic countries, 318 meters (GPS 57.7140 27.0599). The observation tower (<https://suurmunamagi.ee/?lang=en>) on top of the hill is open daily 10.00 to 20.00. The model event terrain is nearby, about 1 km north-west from the hill.

Vastseliina Episcopal Castle (<https://vastseliinalinnus.ee/en/>) featuring a theme park around the ruins of a fortress from 14th century (GPS 57.7291 27.3612).

ORGANIZING TEAM

Event director and mapping: Lauri Leppik, l.leppik@online.ee

Course setter: Raivo Pellja

Course veters: Karli Lambot, Tõnis Erm

Event secretariat: Lea Leppik, Marika Kirsspuu

SI time-keeping and results: Arvo Laanemets, Tarmo Klaar

Catering: Ele Sisas

PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



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