

Since I was first inspired at an Annual Winter Meeting years ago, Course Setting has become perhaps my favorite orienteering activity. From problem-solving creativity and artistry to delivering events that delight participants, good courses are the lifeblood of DVOA. Fair, fun, and challenging courses keep everyone (including the course setter) happy and coming back for more.

This 2-hour training is designed for ‘wannabe’ course setters (even if you don’t yet know it 😊), relatively new course setters, really anyone who is curious and wants to refine their orienteering skills. Join us for a roundtable discussion about what considerations make for great courses.

The first hour will cover basic guidelines. The second will focus primarily on how preliminary courses are re-designed during on-site field checking as you discover how specific legs and integrating multiple courses actually work in the woods. We will show specific examples from past events about why and how we revise a set of courses in real time.

***We invite DVOA’s best course setters to join us,
and to bring great examples of putting the orienteering puzzle together.***

First Hour – The Basics

- Finding and welcoming a Course Consultant from the beginning
- Things to consider when choosing the staging area, Start, and Finish
- How to choose and utilize the best terrain
- How to choose the best locations for controls that also match the courses using them
- Providing an optimal spread of course distances...and climbs that match the distances
- Guidelines for each level – White, Yellow, Orange, Brown, Green, Red, Blue
- Armchairing your courses (especially if you know the park, which is usually the case)
- Designing a set of courses that balance and maximize shared controls
- Avoiding the worst areas (or incorporating them into smart route choices)

Second Hour – Examples from Past Events

- How fieldchecking re-designs your courses (often dramatically)
- Altering your courses to accommodate unmapped on-site changes
- How to optimize route choice
- Integrating and balancing a set of courses – especially regarding shared controls
- 3rd and 4th (even 5th 😊) revisions – “perfecting” your courses

- Essentials to consider when preparing course files for printing
- Guidelines for hanging/locating controls.

Any questions? Any Course Setter willing to join us?

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