

OPEN MASTERS GAMES ABU DHABI 2026

ORIENTEERING



BULLETIN 1

Updated: January 6, 2025

1. General Information

The Open Masters Games Abu Dhabi 2026 will include Orienteering as an official sport discipline. The Orienteering competition will be delivered in accordance with international Orienteering principles, providing a safe, inclusive and memorable experience for all athletes.

This Bulletin 1 provides preliminary information and serves as an invitation to participate. Further technical and operational details will be published in subsequent bulletins.

1.1. Governance

All races will be run in accordance within the International Orienteering Federation and the participation terms and conditions of OMGAD2026.

1.2. Eligibility

In line with the sport-specific rules, an athlete must compete in their designated age group, with their age determined as of 31 December 2026. For example, if you are 39 years old during the Games time but turn 40 by 31 December 2026, you would compete in the 40-44 age category.

Health Declaration

Athletes should carefully evaluate whether their physical condition is suitable for participating in the competition. If they suffer from cardiovascular or other diseases that make them not suitable to engage strenuous exercise, seeking doctor's advice is recommended to evaluate whether they can safely participate in OMGAD events.

Health Insurance

- All participants **MUST** have a medical insurance policy while in the U.A.E.
- Residents and citizens must ensure their respective health insurance policy covers sports injuries.


The Ziyarah Plan, provided by Daman, is a health insurance policy specifically created for the Open Masters Games. You can purchase this plan using the link below

<https://www.damanhealth.ae/products/inbound-emergency-medical-travel-insurance-ziyarah-open-masters/>

Ziyarah Plan (Open Masters Games)


Ensuring your peace of mind for the upcoming event

Coverage Period: 15 days



Scope of Coverage:

- Upto AED 250,000, comprehensive coverage for medical emergencies and sports-related injuries incurred during the event period.
- Direct billing at network providers.
- Consultations through Pura App (Maximum up to 3 consultations).




Eligibility Requirements:

- Registered players and their accompanying family members.
- Health Insurance plan to be purchased before participants travel to UAE.

Premium details:

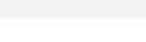
- Upto 60 years: AED 86 (VAT extra)
- 61years & above: AED 215 (VAT extra)



Important Note for Residents and UAE Nationals

UAE residents (Expats) & UAE nationals will need to ensure their respective health insurance plans cover sports injuries, as they will not be eligible for this plan

damaninsurance.ae



Accreditation

All participants must have approved accreditation to access the fields of play and to compete. This accreditation can be collected for the Uniform Distribution and Accreditation Centre (U.D.A.C) located in Zayed Sports City.

Team captains, coaches/managers and assistant managers **cannot** collect accreditation on behalf of teammates. Each participant must personally present themselves and their ID at the point of collection. It is at this point that participants will also receive their welcome kit.

The operating dates and hours of the UDAC will be announced in due course. Please subscribe to the OMGAD newsletter and or download our app for the latest push updates.



1.3. Dates

Disciplines & Schedule	7 February 2026, Saturday	8 February 2026, Sunday
Middle (Approx. 6-8 km)		
Sprint (2.5km - 4km)		

1.4. Venue

Hudayriyat Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

2. Competition Information

2.1. Discipline & Categories

Discipline	Classes	
Sprint	Male	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, 85+, 90+, 95+, 100+
	Female	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, 85+, 90+, 95+, 100+
Middle Distance	Male	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, 85+, 90+, 95+, 100+
	Female	30+, 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, 80+, 85+, 90+, 95+, 100+

Note: Both disciplines will start their heats in the morning with an anticipated start time of 09:00 AM on their respective days.

3. Technical Details

3.1. Technical Delegate and Officials

The Technical Delegate for the Orienteering competition is Mr. Khamis Al Blooshi, who is a provisional member of the International Orienteering Federation. He will oversee the application of relevant competition rules, technical guidelines, and sport specific requirements in coordination with the Orienteering Federation and appointed officials.

The Competition Manager, Mr. Mohamed Ashraf, and the Event Manager, Mr. Nisar Ali, will jointly manage the planning, coordination, and delivery of all competition and event operations. Their responsibilities include competition execution, logistics coordination, scheduling, stakeholder communication, and on ground operational management, ensuring the event is delivered in accordance with approved technical standards, timelines, and organizational protocols.

3.2 Terrain Description

The competition terrain will comprise a mix of urban and sandy environments. Urban areas will include paved pathways, open plazas, landscaped zones and built-up surroundings, while sandy sections will feature compacted sand and open desert-like terrain typical of coastal areas in Abu Dhabi.

3.3 Map Scale

Middle - 1:10,000

Sprint - 1:4,000

3.4 Embargoed Areas

All potential competition areas are considered embargoed for Orienteering practice. Access to embargoed areas is not permitted prior to the event.

4. Equipment & Clothing

4.1. Equipment

- Athletes may use their own SPORTident control stick.
- The competition will use SPORTident electronic punching.
- The competition is not compatible with SPORTident Air+ cards.
- Athletes without their own SPORTident card will be provided one at the check-in counter on the competition day.
- In such cases, the competition accreditation badge must be surrendered.
- The SPORTident card must be returned at the end of the race to retrieve the accreditation badge.

4.2. Clothing

There are no special clothing requirements. Comfortable sports attire and running shoes are recommended. It is recommended to wear normal running shoes, not spike shoes.



5. Climate & Safety

5.1. Climate Information

Weather in February in Abu Dhabi is generally mild and pleasant, with average daytime temperatures ranging between 19 degrees Celsius and 25 degrees Celsius.

5.2. Hazards

No specific hazards are anticipated. Athletes should exercise normal caution when moving in urban environments.

6. Awarding

6.1. Medals

The top 3 athletes will be awarded the gold medal, silver medal and bronze medal respectively.

6.2. Ceremonies

- In OMGAD2026, athletes are individuals and represent themselves. National flags and anthems will not be included in medal ceremonies.
- The medal ceremony will be held after each final.
- The medal ceremony will be conducted in Arabic and English.

7. Protests and Appeals

7.1. Protests

Competition-related disputes and protests shall be handled according to rules and related regulations of the international association of the sport. If there are no rules regarding such disputes and protests in place, the competitor may first make verbal protest and submit written protest to OMGAD within 30 minutes after the end of a contest.

No protest can be lodged by any team members or staff against a judging (scoring) decision during the competition period.

7.2. Appeals

Based on the principle of trust, the Organizer will not take the initiative to review the grade of athletes upon registration. Matters regarding athlete qualifications and grades

should be submitted to the Organizer with relevant supporting materials before the Games or when the fact occurs. The complaint will be handled in accordance with the rules and relevant regulations of international sports federations and relevant regulations.

Applications that are not submitted within the stipulated time or with incomplete materials will not be accepted.

8. Doping Control

8.1. Regulations

- Doping Control should be conducted in accordance with WADA World Anti-Doping Code (<https://www.wada-ama.org/en>) and International Masters Games Association (IMGA) Anti-Doping Rules (<https://imga.ch/masterssports/anti-doping>).
- Participants are deemed to have agreed to be subject to doping control procedures in accordance with the International Masters Games Association Anti-Doping Rules upon entry to the competition. Participants must obey antidoping rules and conduct themselves in a considerate manner.

9. Updates

The final version of the competition guide will be released by February 2nd. Important additional information, including the sports schedule, will be available at that time. In the meantime, please address all general inquiries to sports@omgad2026.ae and sport specific queries to orienteering@omgad2026.ae