

LAST MINUTE COMMENTS FROM THE COURSE SETTER

Let me begin with the less pleasant news. There are a lot of deer flies in the forests. On Thursday, during 4 hours in the forest, I do not think it is exaggeration if I say that I encountered more than 100 deer flies. If you dislike them (which is quite understandable), you should wear a tight buff or beanie on your head.

As course setter, I have been worried about one big thing. That is weather. September in Finland is typically an autumn month, and the nights can be quite cold. On a positive note, the Saturday/Sunday night will be exceptionally warm for September in Finland. 15 degrees Celsius at night is absolutely unbelievable. Note, however, that the night is also very humid, making the weather feel less warm. There will be no rain and the daytime temperature will be slightly above 20 degrees – absolutely perfect weather for rogaining.

The orienteering challenge can be quite demanding at times, but the control flags are visible and you should be able to see them from a distance. You should know how to navigate through the terrain using your compass to stay on course. You should also be able to measure the distance you have traveled. These two skills are essential in achieving fluent orienteering. Many of the control points are particularly challenging at night. We've made the challenge easier by attaching reflectors to the control flags. Still, as always in rogaining, a crucial skill is deciding where to navigate during the day and where at night. Note that nighttime darkness extends for approximately 9 hours.

In the competition terrain, there are areas where harvesters have worked. Therefore, it is possible that there are newly logged areas, even if we do not know of any at the time of writing this.

We had heavy rains last week, but the terrain is not as wet as you would expect. In some areas, the terrain remains quite wet. Still most of the marshes are quite ok to walk or run. However, **hilltops and slopes can be exceedingly slippery and you need to be cautious!**

Today (Thursday) we were building the competition center in Raasi and took 60 controls to the forest. Everything is progressing nicely and we believe that you will experience a very good European Rogaining Championship challenge. Our organization is prepared to work hard to provide you with a quality rogaining experience!

Welcome everybody!

Thursday evening, September 7 2023

Timo Lainema

ERC 2023 Course Setter