

Bulletin 1



2025 Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships

September 5-7, 2025

Event 3 National MTBO Series WA MTBO Championships

Welcome from Orienteering WA

Orienteering Western Australia welcomes competitors to the 2025 Australian Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships, to be conducted in and around the town of Collie, on the traditional lands of the Wilman and Kaneang people of the Noongar nation. We hope to provide a competition worthy of Australian Championship status for the serious MTBO riders but also events and courses suited to riders of all ages and experience levels in mountain biking and navigation sports.

Organising Team

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Event Director | Duncan Sullivan |
| Mapping | Duncan Sullivan |
| Finance | Ricky Thackray |
| Website | Liisa Hirvonen |
| Promotion | Natasha Thackray |
| Event Controller | TBC |



Orienteering
Western Australia

Event Website <https://ausmtbochamps2025.orienteeing.asn.au/>

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Orienteering WA (+61) 409 962 300 <https://www.wa.orienteeing.asn.au>

Event Schedule

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Friday September 5 Afternoon | Mass Start |
| Saturday September 6 Morning | Middle Distance |
| Saturday September 6 Afternoon | Sprint Distance |
| Saturday September 6 Evening | Carnival Dinner |
| Sunday September 7 Morning | Long Distance |

Location and Travel

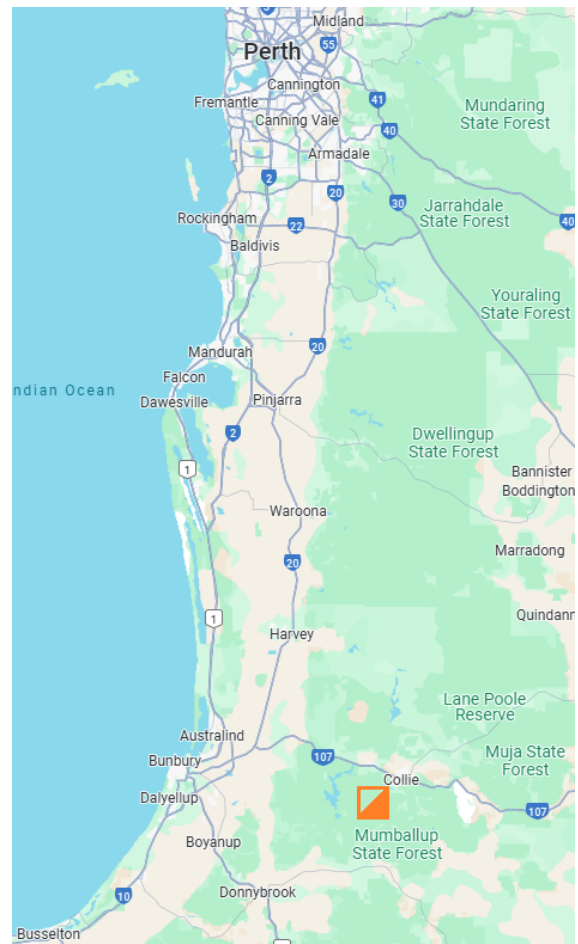
Perth is often regarded as the most isolated capital city in the world (which is why we like it, but don't tell anyone, we are full). Perth airport is accessible from many international destinations, and from all Australian capital cities. Collie is approximately 200km south, a 2.5-hour drive.

Flights from Sydney and Melbourne to Busselton/Margaret River airport are available. Collie is a 105km, 1.25-hour drive to the northeast.

Collie

Historically, Collie originated as a mining town with its heritage steeped in Coal Mining, Forestry and Railways. The town has grown to become a major regional centre with a population of approximately 7,200 and a large range of services.

The town is in transition from its coal mining and power generation past, to a tourist destination and trail town. Renewable energy sources and battery storage are being developed. The region now boasts 170km of developed mountain bike trails.



Climate

The event will be in early spring according to western seasons, or Djilba according to Noongar culture.

Long term average for September: Max 18.7, Min 5.7.

Average monthly rainfall 86mm over 15 days

Hottest September day on record 30.6

Other things to do while in Western Australia's southwest

Wellington Dam Mural and Collie Mural trail <https://www.colliemuraltrail.com/>

Munda Biddi trail: An epic adventure awaits on the Munda Biddi, an off-road cycling trail like no other, stretching 1067km from Mundaring to Albany, in South-West, Western Australia. <https://mundabiddi.org.au/>

Bibbulmun Track: The Bibbulmun Track is one of the world's great long-distance walk trails, stretching 1000km from Kalamunda in the Perth Hills, to Albany on the south coast, winding through the heart of the scenic Southwest of Western Australia. <https://www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au/>

Wildflowers <https://australiassouthwest.com/wildflowers-in-the-south-west/>

Australia's Southwest makes up part of Australia's only biodiversity hotspot – and one of just 34 biodiversity hotspots around the world. Almost 80 percent of the plant species in the Southwest Australia biodiverse province are found nowhere else on earth. The diverse range of wildflowers, forests and native animals found in Australia's South West all contribute to the rare and unique nature of the region.

The rest of the Wambenger trails, especially Wellington dam for those that enjoy singletrack.

Other mountain biking destinations: Dwellup, Nannup, Margaret River

Dwellup 100 mountain bike race on September 13, 2025

<https://www.dwellup100.com.au/>

Wineries, especially the premium wine districts around Margaret River and in the Great Southern.

The coast, check out the many amazing beaches between Perth and Augusta.

Rottnest Island to see the now insta-famous Quokkas (and if you ask nicely there may be a secret MTBO map)

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

Australian Championship classes will be M/W14, M/W16, M/W20, M/W21, M/W40, M/W50, M/W60, M/W70, M/W80.

These classes are strictly for human powered bicycles.

Recreational classes

2 Recreational classes will be offered.

2 Recreational e-bike classes will be offered. Riders must be 16 years or older. Powered e-bikes can have an electric motor of up to 250 watts if it complies with European Standard EN 15194, the power assistance must cut out once a speed of 25km/h is reached. (i.e. it must be legal to ride on WA roads). As per Orienteering Australia MTBO rules there is no championship status for the e-bike class.

Punching System

This Championship will have optional SIAC punching. SI units will be in 'beacon mode' for SIAC contactless punching with a 30cm range, but will also record normal SI sticks that are 'punched' in the normal way. A SIAC battery test unit will be available in the pre-start area to check the battery level of your SIAC card. If the battery level is too low, the stick will still work in manual punch mode, and it must be placed into each control unit (which will flash and beep in the conventional fashion) but there will be no flash or beep from the SIAC stick.

Hire SI sticks will be available, but these are not SIAC contactless compatible. If you are competitive consider purchasing a SIAC stick.

Target winning times in minutes for AUS Champs

| | Long | Middle | Sprint | Mass start |
|----------|---------|--------|--------|------------|
| M/W14,16 | 70-75 | 32-37 | 15-20 | 60-68 |
| M/W20 | 84-92 | 40-44 | 16-20 | 75-85 |
| M/W21 | 105-115 | 50-55 | 20-25 | 75-85 |
| M/W40+ | 105-115 | 50-55 | 20-25 | 75-85 |

Entry details:

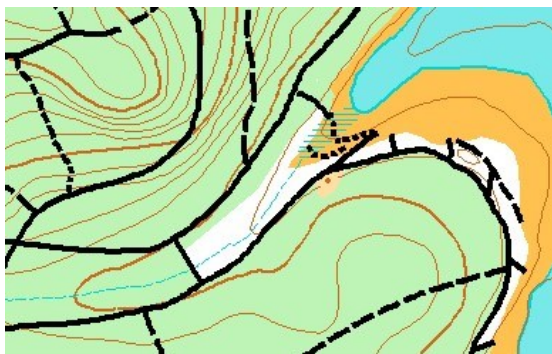
Entry will be open by late March on Eventor

Entries Close: Saturday August 23, 11.59pm

Late Entries incur an extra \$10 per event; accepted until Saturday August 30, 11.59pm

| Entry fees | Mass start | Middle Distance | Sprint | Long Distance |
|------------|------------|-----------------|--------|---------------|
| Senior | \$45 | \$45 | \$40 | \$45 |
| Junior | \$25 | \$25 | \$20 | \$25 |

Event Program



Event 1: Australian Mass Start Championships

Friday September 5, 2025. Start 2.00pm.

Map: TBC, probably Bussell Brook by Duncan Sullivan 2004, Updates Ricky Thackray 2025

Course setter: Ricky Thackray

Terrain: Hilly, mixed native forest and extensive pine and eucalypt plantation surrounding Wellington Dam. Fast forestry roads and tracks of varying quality.

Event 2: Australian Middle-Distance Championships

Saturday September 6, 2025. Starts from 10am

Map: Westralia, by Duncan Sullivan 2024-25

Course setter: Michael Dufty

Terrain: Undulating to flat. Suburban fringe with areas of complex but sometimes sandy tracks. The main forest area has mostly fast to medium riding vehicle tracks. Surface is gravel on the higher terrain and sand on lower terrain. River flats mostly firm sand including fun MTB single track.



Event 3: Australian Sprint Championships

Saturday September 6, 2025. Starts from 3pm

Map: Collie River, by Duncan Sullivan 2024-25

Course setter: Ben Coetzer

Terrain: Area incorporating the showgrounds and trotting track, a previously mined bushland area, paths and parks along the river, a compact MTB park, high school grounds, and adjacent suburban streets.

Event 4: Australian Long-Distance Championships

Sunday September 7, 2025. Starts from 9.30am

Map: Arklow Forest by Duncan Sullivan 2024-25

Course Setter: Duncan Sullivan

Terrain: Undulating native forest, 95m elevation change across the map area, track gradients mostly gentle but a few steeper sections up to 11% gradient. A variety of track types, mostly typical WA pea gravel, including an MTB single track network, many fast or medium gravel roads and tracks, and some less distinct 'rides' on old logging railway forms and tracks. Two large, rehabilitated gravel pit areas.



Hazards

Many of the forest tracks have an ironstone pea-gravel surface on a sand or loam base. This is a challenging 'loose over firm or hard' surface to ride, particularly cornering. The surface is easier to ride with some leaf litter cover, and when wetter, as it should be in September. Higher volume tyres with prominent side knobs are preferred, especially on the front wheel. Low pressures are recommended (20-26psi) if running tubeless. If using tubes there are very few sharp edge rocks so the risk of pinch flats is low, so you might run lower pressure than in rocky terrain. In any case, take care cornering.

Less well used tracks can have many sticks that pose a hazard to rear derailleurs in particular. It is wise to carry a spare derailleur hanger specific to your bike if you know how to change one. Be prepared to immediately stop pedalling if you become aware of a stick in your wheel or drive chain.

Despite Australia's reputation for venomous snakes, it would be extremely rare to come across one while cycling in September. They are more active in warmer months, but still rarely encountered by orienteers. Kangaroo vs Cyclist collisions have occurred rarely in local cycling events. Encounters are most common in the early morning. If you see one kangaroo cross your path, be aware there are often others following.

There will be some road crossings of quiet country roads where the speed limit is 80kph or more. Course will be designed so that you will turn left on to the road and ride along for some distance to a right turn, so you should have time to plan your crossing if you encounter a vehicle.



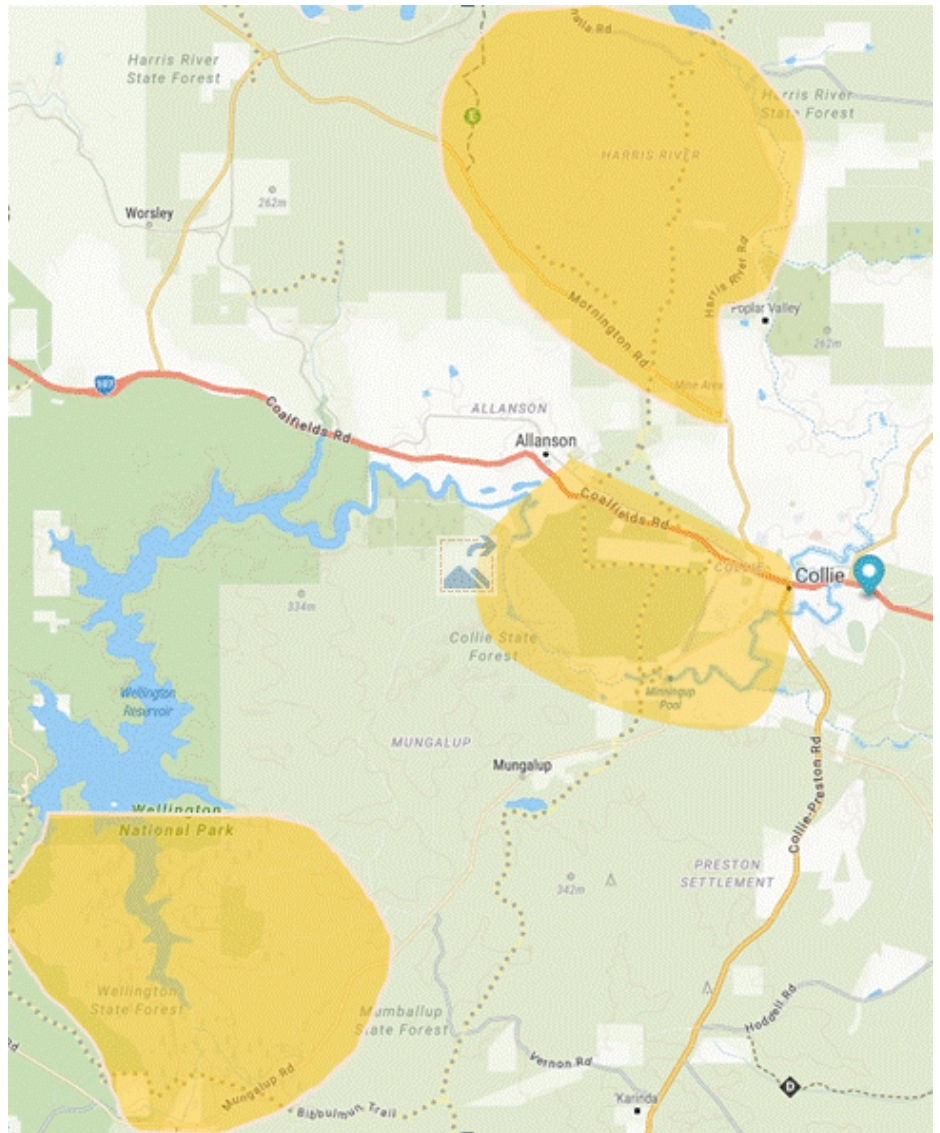
Training

OWA will make available maps and courses from recent MTBO state championships events near Jarrahdale and Dwellingup for use from Monday to Thursday September 1-4 using MapRun. If there is sufficient interest a formal training camp at Dwellingup may be organised during this time, contact Duncan Sullivan if interested duncange@bigpond.net.au.

Event embargo

Three of the map areas have never been used for previous orienteering events, so there are no previous maps available. Bussell Brook was last used in 2016. A copy of the old map will be available in Eventor.

This map indicates the embargo areas for the Mass Start, Long Distance and Middle-Distance events. Any attempt to survey or train in the competition terrain is forbidden. Riding through the terrain on the Munda Biddi trail, in a Westcycle sanctioned cross country mountain bike race, in the Collie Rotary Adventure Race, or hiking on the Bibbulman trail are permitted so long as no maps are used within the embargo area. Any other access by bike or on foot is forbidden without prior permission from the organisers.



This map indicates the embargo areas for the Sprint Event. Any attempt to survey or train in the competition terrain is forbidden. Access to the area is allowed so long as no map is accessed while in the embargo area.

