

2. Course Planning Advice

1. Please don't armchair plan. It's always a good idea to visit the area to check the chosen control sites – sometimes they're no longer there (the maps are not always completely up to date) or they might not be very obvious on the ground. If you notice anything wrong with the map, e.g. a new fence, obvious new path or felled area, then let Roger, myself or Pete know and we can get the map updated.
2. Choose the direction you want the courses to go through, and the navigational challenges you want to set. Pick some likely-looking control sites and plan some preliminary courses.
3. Try to set legs of different lengths and make the shape of the course look interesting by changes of direction. Think about route choice on long legs and avoid 'dog-legs', where the optimum routes in and out are the same.
4. Butterfly loops, score and special formats can be used, especially on small and/or open areas as good ways to split runners up and prevent following.
5. The route to the finish should be obvious from the final control.
6. Note that according to BOF insurance requirements, juniors should not cross roads “with significant traffic”, which is especially relevant for events based in urban areas. If a road crossing is required for juniors then this should be marshalled.
7. Advice / mentoring on good course planning for novices is available from club members (liaise with Mike Harrison)
8. Other useful resources include the Barry Elkington series of Planners Guides for colour-coded events (see links below).

All the following are links to a series of guides for planners by Barry Elkington (and are on the BO website):

[Planning White Courses](#)

[Planning Yellow Courses](#)

[Planning Orange Courses](#)

[Planning Light Green Courses](#)

[Planning Green to Black Courses](#)