



Invitation to the 18th IOF High Level Event Seminar Vilnius, Lithuania, 6th-8th February 2026

The International Orienteering Federation is pleased to invite you to the 2026 IOF High Level Event Seminar to be held in downtown Vilnius, Lithuania on 6th-8th February, 2026.

The High Level Event Seminar (HLES) is the IOFs most important educational event for upcoming organisers. HLES attracts about 60-75 attendees each year from about 20-25 countries, and the seminar is held as an on site-only event. The seminar targets appointed organisers, potential future organisers and key persons of IOF High Level Events, including Event Directors, Technical Directors and IOF Senior Event Advisers. National orienteering federations are kindly asked to identify and enter suitable candidates.

The programme for the HLES has evolved over the years. With online meetings being used still more frequently, we want to get the most out of what we cannot achieve when we are online. Thus the Saturday program is focused on interaction between participants. We aim to further strengthen the networking and experience sharing between the key stakeholders in organising high quality elite orienteering events. To achieve this, we allow time for socialising and continue to have *split sessions* and *groupwork*. Following feedback from 2025, we have allocated even more time for these sections and aim to have contents that supports exchange of views.

We will have *the same three split sessions* for Sprint, Forest and Event Directors as last year. The *groupwork* sessions will once again focus on the handling of challenges around forest and sprint competitions respectively. In addition, we will as always have *interesting plenary* sessions, among these the popular presentations from WOC and thoughts from coaches. How to adapt to still warmer weather will also be a subject during the weekend. For those, who are able to add extra time to their travel, there will also be opportunities for both *exercise and cultural experience* in the historic city of Vilnius. So, there are lots of reasons to register for the 2025 High Level Event Seminar already today!

The preliminary programme is as follows:

Saturday 7/2			SESSIONS	
Morning	09:00	09:15	Welcome and intro	15
	09:15	11:00	WOC 2025 - Organisers' perspective	105
	11:00	11:30	Coffee break	30
Morning			Split Sessions:	
	11:30	13:00	1) Event Directors	90
			2) Forest events	
			3) Sprint events	
	13:00	14:00	Lunch	60
Afternoon	14:00	15:30	Split Sessions (continued)	90
	15:30	16:00	Coffee break	30
Afternoon	16:00	19:00	Groupwork	180
	19:15	20:30	Dinner	90
	20:30		Meeting time and social	

Sunday 8/2			SESSIONS	
Morning	09:00	10:00	Streaming / Arena production	60
	10:00	11:00	Coaches' / athletes' view on recent High Level Events	60
	11:00	11:30	Coffee break	30
Morning	11:30	12:15	Updates from the IOF Office	45
	12:15	13:15	Lunch	60
Afternoon	13:15	14:25	Presentations from future WOC organisers	70
	14:25	14:30	Wrap-up	5



- Organiser:** International Orienteering Federation, IOF Foot Orienteering Commission, Lithuanian Orienteering Federation
- Date:** 6th-8th February 2026
- Seminar site:** [Vilnius Park Plaza Hotel****](#), at the edge of downtown Vilnius.
Street address: M. K. Čiurlionio 84, LT03100 Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Accommodation, boarding, seminar fee:** **Accommodation and boarding is available at the seminar hotel.**
Single room, 26 m² with buffet breakfast included: 85€/room per night
Twin room, 26 m² with buffet breakfast included: 50€/person/room per night

Accommodation can be booked through the IOF for the period 5th-9th February. A room upgrade to business class level is possible for +10€ per person/night. This needs to be indicated upon registration.
- Seminar fee: 150 EUR**
The seminar fee includes participation in the HLES, coffee / tea at seminar breaks, lunch for both Saturday and Sunday, and dinner for both Friday and Saturday – all at the hotel in buffet-style.
- Payment will be possible after receiving an invoice through e-mail from the IOF, which shall be paid via bank transfer. Full payment shall be made until 22nd January 2026 for the entries to be confirmed.
- Travel:** The conference hotel is located at the edge of downtown Vilnius, close to the airport. The easiest way to get to the hotel is by taxi. Public transport is possible by bus, directions will be provided approx. 1 week before the Seminar.
- How to enter:** Using the Microsoft form: <https://forms.office.com/e/ZZEFuvckfL>
- NOTE:** The IOF Calendar Conference will be organised on the day prior to HLES2026. The same entry form is used for also that event.
- One question on the entry form asks you to indicate whether you will attend the 'Forest' or 'Sprint' groupwork session on Saturday afternoon, since we will send out pre-read materials.
- If you have any problems, please contact iof@orienteering.sport
- Deadline for entries:** **Tuesday, 13th January 2026**
Earlybird offer: If you register before 13th December 2025, you will receive a special gift from GO Vilnius.

Note that after the entry deadline, accommodation can't be booked through the IOF and there is a 50% surcharge on the seminar fee.