
Invitation IOF WOC Clinic 2026 - Genova, Italy

IOF WOC Clinic for athletes from developing Member Federations July 2026

Dear orienteering friends,

The International Orienteering Federation (IOF) awarded the 2026 World Orienteering Championships (WOC) 2026 in Sprint to Italy, to be held in Genova. As always, the agreement between IOF and WOC organizer includes the delivery of IOF WOC Clinic sponsored by the organizing committee of WOC.

The clinic is a 10-day camp organized for young and promising orienteers from economically not so strong IOF Member Federations to develop as orienteers and succeed in WOC 2026.

The clinic will start with 3 training days, consisting of lectures and practical exercises designed to prepare the participants for successful participation in the World Orienteering Championships competitions during the second part of the Clinic. It will also provide participants with further knowledge to support in the development of orienteering in their home countries.

The participants / athletes will be coached and supported by experienced orienteers:

- Gerardo García
- Anders Björklund

Information about the World Orienteering Championships can be found at <https://woc2026.com>

IOF WOC Clinic is free of charge for all participants and will include:

- Accommodation and meals (full board) in Genova Region, starting from Friday evening, July 3rd until Sunday morning, July 12th.
- All transportation during the IOF WOC Clinic and WOC week to and from trainings and competitions.
- World Championships Individual Accreditations & Entry Fees (starting fees).
- Clinic lectures and practical exercises.
- IOF WOC Clinic t-shirt.

The participants will be responsible for their travel costs to and from Genova, Italy, international insurance, as well as all visa costs if needed.

All lectures will be held in English. Participants must be capable to speak and understand English.

Please address all questions related to the IOF WOC Clinic 2026 to Gerardo García, WOC Clinic 2026 leader, via e-mail: gerardo.garcia@orienteering.sport

Applications for participation at IOF WOC Clinic 2026 must be submitted by February 15th 2026 at the latest, using the enclosed application form, orienteering CV, and motivational letter.

The IOF Global Development Commission will select up to 16 candidates and confirm with them their participation before March 6th, 2026.

1. The IOF WOC Clinic is dedicated to athletes from National Federations which are IOF members but cannot send athletes to WOC 2026 due to financial difficulties.
2. Candidates should be promising athletes and be able to successfully finish all WOC individual races within the maximum running time.
3. Candidates should already have some previous international competition experience and preferably a WRE ranking status in sprint. If there are no WRE points, then please send us the result lists and maps of your elite experiences (or Junior, if you haven't competed in elite class yet on international level).
4. National Federations can apply for 1 female and 1 male athlete.
5. Athletes must be 18 years old or older at the time the Clinic 2026 begins (July 3rd, 2026).
6. Nomination of athletes younger than 30 years is especially encouraged.
7. Applicants should be actively involved, or willing to be involved in the development of orienteering in their home country.
8. Applicants should be able to understand and speak English. To ensure this, applicants will be contacted to appoint video / voice call to assure this criterion.
9. Applicants or their Federations must be able to cover travel costs at the moment of sending their application.
10. Applicants must have a valid IOF Athletes license (signed and paid) for 2026.
11. Participants will be chosen to represent as many global regions as possible.
12. Countries / athletes who have not participated in the IOF WOC Clinics before will have priority.
13. An estimated travel cost from the athletes residence to the WOC will be also considered during the process of selection.
14. Selection of athletes is based in an average of all the criteria. If an athlete once selected has to withdraw to take part of the clinic for reasons of injury or personal issues doesn't necessarily means that the Federation can replace him/her with other athlete of their choice. Every athlete must go through the same process of selection.

Visa

Participants from some nations may need to apply for a Visa to enter Italy. Before applying, applicants must check what is needed for a visa, especially requirements for passport validity. Please do not apply for WOC Clinic for athletes that cannot meet the requirements for the Italian visa.

Italy Visa information, and list of citizenships where visa is required: <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/>

Applications for visas must be made as soon as participation is confirmed by the IOF, in order to be ready in time for travel. Preferably visas must be confirmed before May 6th, 2026 (team size entry deadline). The Clinic organizers will assist participants with the official invitations to be attached to visa applications.

We look forward to having the pleasure of welcoming you to Genova!

Yours sincerely,



Tom Hollowell
IOF President

Gianluca Carbone
WOC 2026 Event Director

Gerardo García
IOF WOC Clinic Leader