



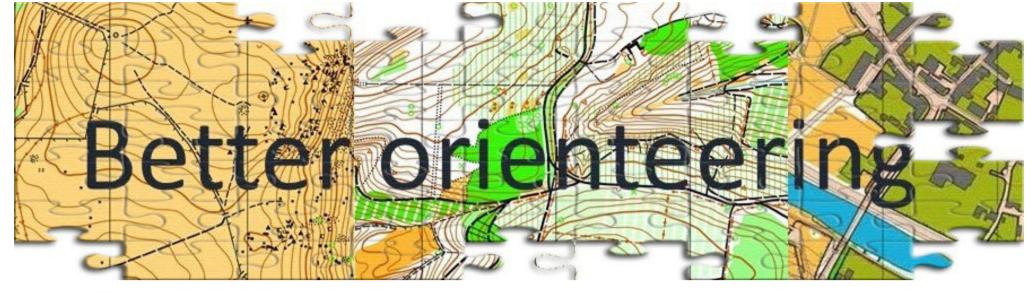
# Better Orienteering Summary Duncan Bayliss



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# What is included?



of this summary in training,

coaching or other use you

Betterorienteering.org

**Basic Navigation Routine** 

Plan, Picture, Direction

How well am I orienteering?

**Skills Tool kit** 

**Better Orienteering Navigation model** 

New to orienteering Fair use: If you use any part should attribute it to and Duncan Bayliss

Click on a heading to go to that section In this document

Race analysis

Each infographic can be downloaded separately

Use this summary together with the Betterorienteering.org website



Skills are explored in stages from Beginner to Advanced to help you progress



A key principle of Better Orienteering – Orienteering skills are explored in a **visual** way with graphical summaries, diagrams, and videos

Use this summary together with the Betterorienteering.org website



# Beginner New to orienteering



Try this introductory video first

#### Better Orienteering



# New to orienteering? Here's some tips



Keep the map lined up to north

scale 1:10000, contours 10m

Know the scale

1:10,000 1cm on map = 100m on the ground 1:7,500 1cm on map = 75m on the ground



Fold the map Thumb on map where you are



Know what the symbols mean (see other side of this card)



It is OK to walk You can lose more time by running in the wrong direction



Dib each control in order with your timer



Orienteering is not the same as using a smartphone or road atlas



When you finish always go to download so that a search is not sent out for you

**Duncan Bayliss** 

betterorienteering.org

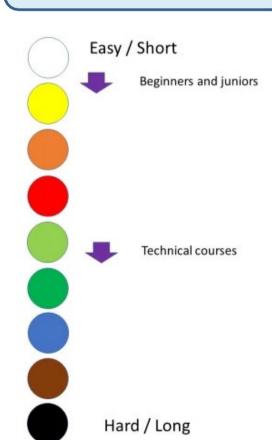
Version 4.0 2020

These tips help beginners understand the basics they need to orienteer

If you download them separately from Betterorienteering.org they are scaled for easy viewing on a smartphone



Colour coding of courses explained



# A few symbols you need to know A full key is on the next page Control – 50 metre circle



You don't need to know all the map symbols when you start orienteering

Here are some of the most useful ones for beginners

There is usually a full key on the map

Finish

Small path

Larger path

Road

Contours showing the shape of the land

Open land

Runnable woodland

Thicker woodland

Fence - crossable

Fence – not crossable

Stream

Marsh

Uncrossable area e.g. buildings, gardens

Do not enter or you will be disqualified

betterorienteering.org

Out of bounds -

Beginner's courses are planned so that you can follow line features such as paths, tracks and fences

As you try more difficult courses you will build your understanding of other map symbols

# **ISOM 2017 Orienteering Map Symbols**

#### **Land forms**



Contour Index contour

Form line

Slope line

Contour value

Farth bank

Earth wall

Ruined earth wall

Erosion gully

Small erosion gully

Knoll

Small knoll

Small elongated knoll Depression

Small depression

Pit

Broken ground

Very broken ground Prominent landform

feature

#### Water and marsh



Uncrossable water Shallow water

Waterhole

Uncrossable river

Crossable watercourse Small crossable

watercourse

Minor/seasonal water channel

Narrow marsh Uncrossable marsh

Marsh

Indistinct marsh Well, fountain or

water tank

Spring

Prominent water feature

© Maprunner 2017.

Copies of these map symbols and of the IOF pictorial control descriptions can be downloaded from www.maprunner.co.uk

The ISOM 2017 specification can be downloaded from www.orienteering.org



#### Man-made features Vegetation



Payed area Wide road

Road

Vehicle track

Footpath

Small footpath Less distinct small path

Narrow ride

Visible path junction

Indistinct junction Railway

Power line, cableway or skilift

Major power line == Bridge/tunnel

Footbridge Wall

Ruined wall Impassable wall

Fence

Ruined fence

Impassable fence

Crossing point Area that shall not be 

entered 7. Building Canopy 

C3 o Ruin

High tower, Small tower

Cairn, Fodder rack Prominent line feature Prominent impassable

line feature Prominent man-made feature

#### **Rock and boulders**



嫐

**....** 

Impassable cliff Cliff

Rocky pit, Cave

Boulder, Large boulder

Gigantic boulder

Boulder cluster Boulder field

Dense boulder field

Stony ground: slow Stony ground: walk Stony ground: fight

Sandy ground Bare rock

Trench



Open land Open land with

scattered trees/bushes

Rough open land

Rough open land with scattered trees/bushes

Forest: easy running

Vegetation: slow running Undergrowth: slow running

Vegetation: walk Undergrowth: walk Vegetation: fight

Vegetation: impassable Forest runnable

in one direction Cultivated land

Orchard Vineyard

Distinct cultivation boundary

Distinct vegetation boundary

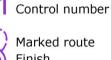
Prominent large tree Prominent bush or tree Prominent vegetation

feature

#### **Overprinting symbols**







Marked route Finish



Out-of-bounds boundary Crossing point



Out-of-bounds area

Out-of-bounds route



First aid post, Refreshment

#### **Technical symbols**



.42

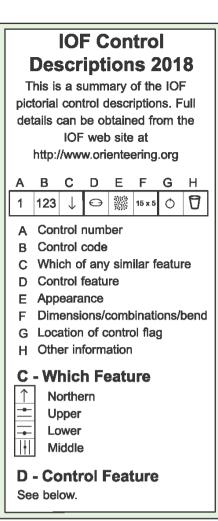
Magnetic north line Registration mark Spot height



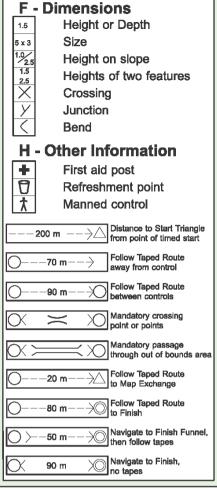
These are the symbols you need to refer to as you learn how to read orienteering maps





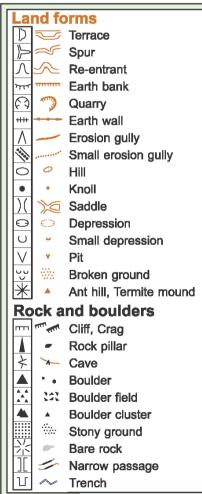


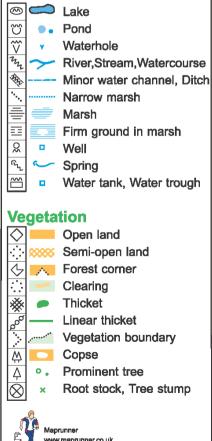




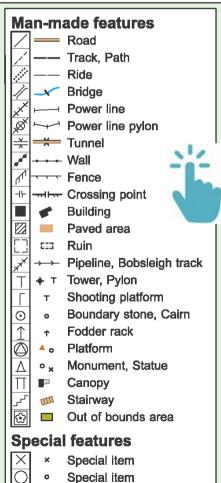
These are the symbols used to describe controls, explaining what you are looking for

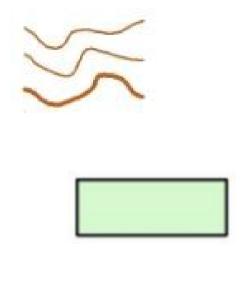
Beginners courses also have a description in words





Simon Errington 2017. simon@maprunner.co.uk





## Think of navigating in simple steps

## Plan Picture Direction

Navigating in simple steps



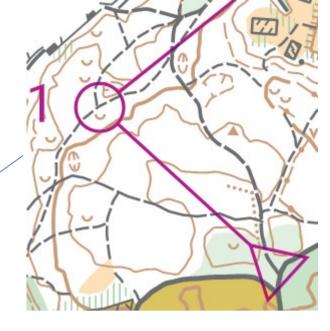
#### Map

Read the map



#### Plan

Plan a route to get to the next control



#### Follow large track Second left onto path after 300m Control at path junction after 100m

# Seeing

Match what you see around you to the map as you go



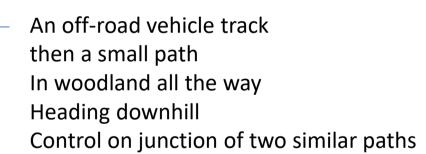
#### **Picture**

Try to picture what you will be looking for on the route



### **Direction**

Use the map and compass to navigate your route:
Thumb on where you are
Map always oriented to
north



Map lined up to north
Start in north direction
Track has some curves in it
Cross 3 contours downhill
Watch distance – 300m to turning
Tight turning back to South West
Keep map lined up to north when
turning
150m then control
Control code is P7



Plan, Picture Direction draws on a model by Kris Jones integrated with other elements of navigation on Better Orienteering, Duncan Bayliss, 2019

When people first try orienteering they often worry about - what happens if I get lost? Beginner's courses are planned so you can succeed, don't worry, enjoy the challenge

# What if I get lost?

Don't worry getting a bit lost is normal. If you can no longer match the map to the terrain around you STOP and work out where you are. Here are some basic steps that will help you get back on track.

- 1 **STOP** don't keep going and make it worse!
- 2 **Review** where you have been and try to trace it on the map
- 3 Match large features around you to the map

Then if necessary:

4 **Retrace** your steps and try again

Above all, don't panic, because you will usually be no more than 200 metres from your last known point which you can always go back to

On beginner's courses it is OK to ask for help, but try to work out where you are yourself first, it is much more satisfying

When you progress beyond beginner's courses you should not ask for help Working out where you are is the challenge of orienteering!

This is a summary of the core skills you need to develop as a beginner with links back to the downloads and videos that will help you

# Better Orienteering Skills Matrix - Beginner

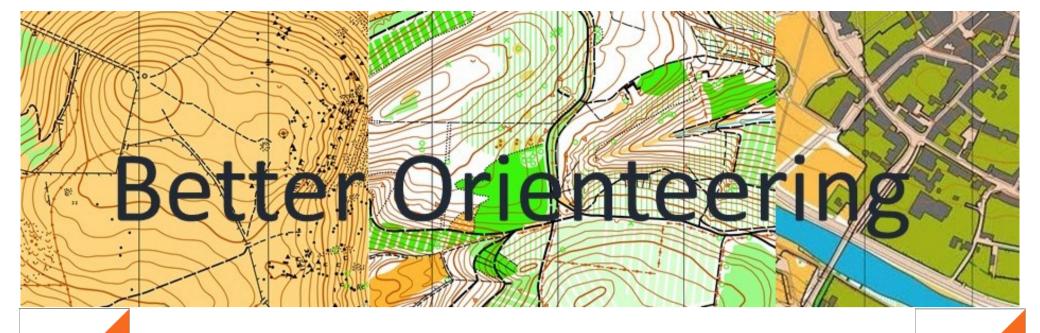
Note: This skills matrix only indicates key skills at different stages of orienteering development more skills concepts are covered on Better Orienteering

Orienteering skill level	Core navigation skills	Goals	Free downloads on Better Orienteering	Learning Videos Link to videos in Beginner section
Beginner	Understand map symbols  Orientate map to north with compass  Plan route, use line features  Thumb on map as you move  Understand scale  Understand and use control descriptions	Get round an orienteering course and enjoy it!  Know how to relate the map to the terrain  Build confidence in navigating	Beginners Tips  Interpretable Conference of the	Learning Videos Playlist  Newcomer's Guide  The map  Planning your route  Finding your way  What is an orienteering map?  The 10 Elements of Orienteering  Orienteering — more than running

Duncan Bayliss, 2020

Remember - you don't need to understand all this to try orienteering and enjoy a fun challenge!

The skills will come clearer as you try a few orienteering races or permanent courses



# **Basic Navigation Routine**



Try this video collection of basic skills

This video demonstrates the basic skills you will need to use consistently to orienteer successfully

#### Better Orienteering

# **Basic Navigation Routine**





scale 1:10000, contours 10m

Keep the map lined up to north (orientate it)

Know the scale, tune in to it

Keep thumb on map where you are





**Exiting control** 



Amber – go steady careful on direction

**Route to Attack Point** 

**Finding control** 



Green - move quicker to Attack point



Red - go carefully in to control



Go steady to No. 1 and get into the flow Once you have completed a few orienteering courses you need to build a rock solid basic navigation routine

You need to reliably do the basics right for every leg of every course



#### Better Orienteering





Its about navigation more than running



Stay in contact with the map all the time Look at it often



If unsure where you are: **STOP** 

Review where you have been Match large features to map Consider possible errors
Then if you need to Move out to a firm feature, and come back in







Walk when the map reading requires it



Its not the same as using a road atlas or smartphone - You **orientate** the map and **zoom** in and out of detail

© Duncan Bayliss

betterorienteering.org

Version 4.0 2020

Page 2 Basic Navigation Routine

If you don't get this right it will hold back for years

#### Know your control descriptions

#### **IOF Control Descriptions 2018**

This is a summary of the IOF pictorial control descriptions. Full details can be obtained from the IOF web site at http://www.orienteering.org



- A Control number
- B Control code
- C Which of any similar feature
- D Control feature
- E Appearance
- F Dimensions/combinations/bend
- G Location of control flag
- H Other information

#### C - Which Feature

Northern

Upper Lower

Middle

#### D - Control Feature

See below.

#### E - Appearance Low Shallow

Deep Overgrown

Open

Rocky, Stony \*\* Ξ Marshy

Sandy

400 Needle leaved

Broad leaved Ruined

#### Location of Flag

West Side Q South East Edge

0 East Part

South West Comer (inside) North Corner (outside)

North West Tip

South East End Upper Part

Lower Part

Top Foot

North East Foot O,

Beneath Between

#### - Dimensions

Height or Depth

Size

Height on slope

Heights of two features

Crossing Junction

Bend

#### **H** - Other Information

+ O

5 x 3

1.9/2.5 1.5 2.5

First aid post Refreshment point Manned control

Distance to Start Triangle

from point of timed sta

Follow Taped Route -70 m

Follow Taped Route Mandatory crossing

Manuscry through out of bounds a Follow Taped Route

Navigate to Finish Funnel, then follow tapes

Navigate to Finish, no tapes

#### and forms



Earth wall

 Erosion gully Small erosion gully

11 0 0 Hill

Knoll

U

Saddle Saddle Depression 0

Small depression

Broken ground

#### Ant hill, Termite mound Rock and boulders

Cliff, Crag Rock pillar

Cave Boulder

> 333 Boulder field Boulder cluster

Stony ground

Bare rock Narrow passage

Trench

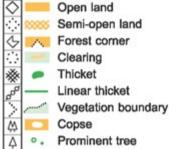
#### Water and marsh



Q Spring

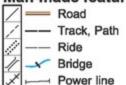
Water tank, Water trough

#### Vegetation





#### Man-made features



Power line pylon

Tunnel Wall Fence

----- Crossing point Building

7 Paved area C:3 Ruin

Pipeline, Bobsleigh track

Tower, Pylon Shooting platform

Boundary stone, Cairn 0 0

Fodder rack Platform

Monument, Statue Δ

P Canopy Stairway

Out of bounds area

#### **Special features**

Special item Special item

Orienteering control descriptions are a worldwide pictorial language to describe what you are looking for

It is important when approaching a control that you know:

What is the feature?

What it will look like?

What size is it?

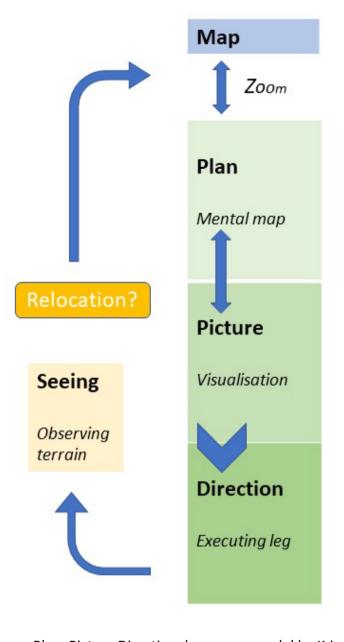
From which direction you should be able to see the flag?

If you don't know what you are looking for you have to rely on spotting the orange and white flag

You can practice learning the descriptions with some **Games** There are some on the **Better Orienteering** 

website

#### Plan Picture Direction



This model is used across skill levels on Better Orienteering

# **Plan Picture Direction**

A model to use when orienteering



Plan, Picture Direction draws on a model by Kris Jones integrated with other elements of navigation on Better Orienteering, Duncan Bayliss, 2019

Plan Picture Direction gives you a simple method to apply your skills to orienteering races

**Plan** – read the map to work out a route and Attack point

Picture – visualise what you will encounter on route

Direction – follow a routine with map and compass to navigate the leg

**Seeing** – what you see in the terrain will need to be matched to your Picture of what you expect to see. You then keep updating the details of your Plan and Picture

As your navigation improves you can link this model to more concepts



# **O-Ringen School**



#8 O-Ringen school - staying focused on the map oringenofficial



#12 What are the different symbols on the map? oringenofficial



#15 Sort away details on the map - Orienteer better oringenofficial



#20 O-Ringen school - contours oringenofficial



#28 What you need to know on route choices oringenofficial



#Testing the route choices from the previous episode oringenofficial

This series of videos
O-Ringenskolan
(e.g. O-Ringen School)
includes demonstration of
skills that goes from Basic
level towards some
Intermediate level skills

These episodes are helpful at the Basic Navigation Routine Skills level

Swedish with English sub-titles Don't be put off if you don't speak Swedish, you are seeing skills demonstrated

# Better Orienteering Playlist on You Tube

There are some excellent videos by orienteers for orienteers, showing skills in practice. There are also a lot of videos about navigation that are not so helpful for orienteering.

Better Orienteering Playlist draws together the most helpful orienteering learning videos, starting with a short overview to help you find the right videos for your level (you can skip this if you wish)

The videos are then ordered from the beginner through to Advanced videos





YouTube Playlist



The Playlist on Betterorienteering.org













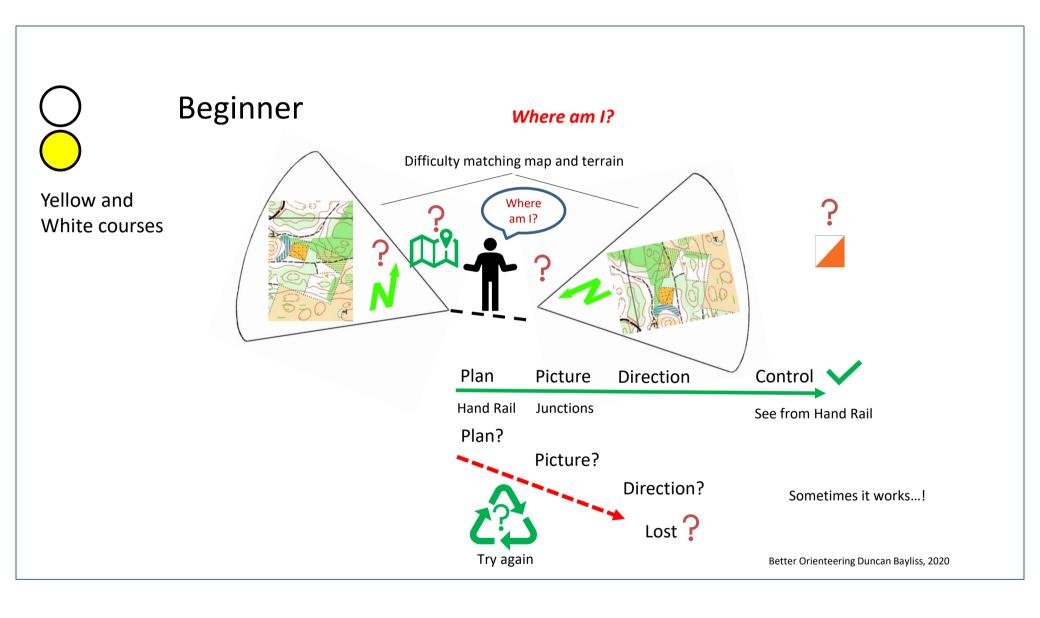








When you first start orienteering it is natural to focus on - Where am I?

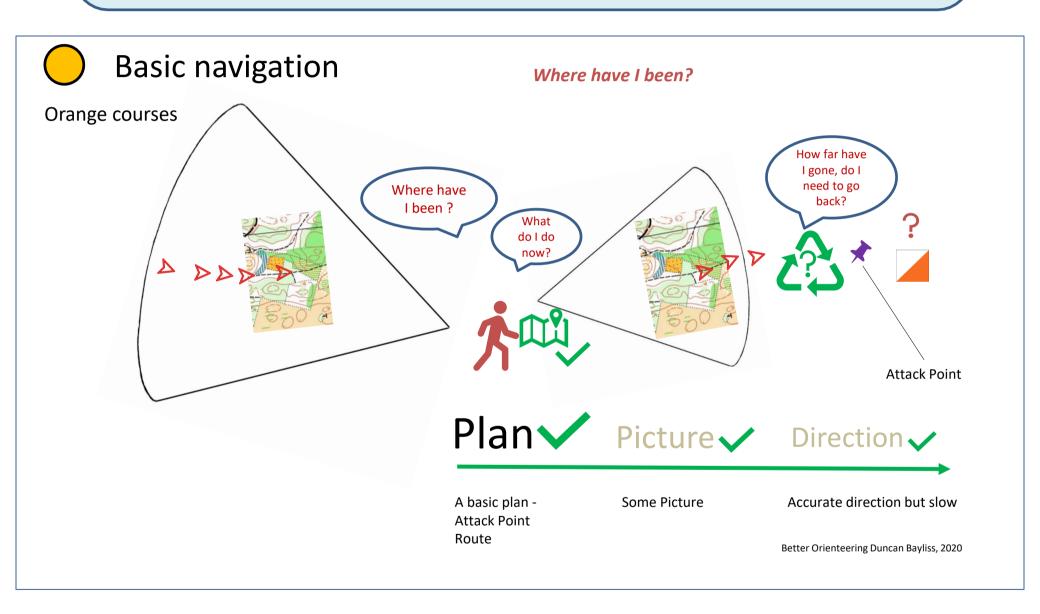


Your Plan and Picture of where you are going will be very basic.

If you need to relocate you will focus on thinking back over where you have been and matching large features to the map. If necessary you retrace your steps to a known point

Once you have the basics of navigation working reliably you should be clear on where you have been and where you are trying to go next

Someone at a basic level is able to use the map and compass reliably to plan a route and maintain direction, but they will still be developing only a very basic picture in their mind of what is coming next. Navigating like this can be reliable but tends to be slow



The step up to an Intermediate level is very much about improving your Plan and Picture so that you can be more forward focused and move through the terrain with confidence.

Your navigation must move from Where am I? and Where have I been? to Where am I going?

You need to be confident with these skills to navigate reliably and consistently

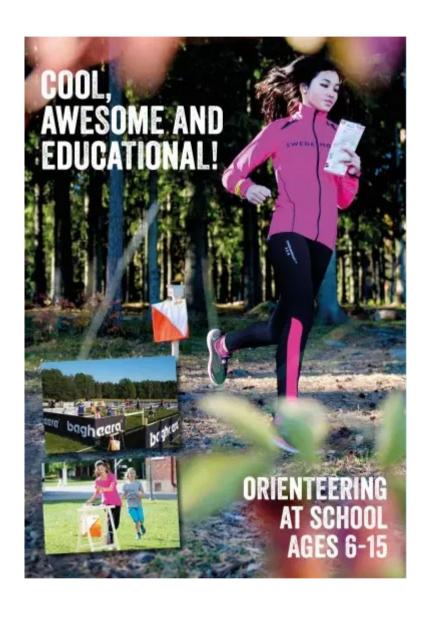
# Better Orienteering Skills Matrix – Basic Navigation

Note: This skills matrix only indicates key skills at different stages of orienteering development more skills concepts are covered on Better Orienteering

Orienteering skill level	Core navigation skills	Goals	Free downloads on Better Orienteering	Learning Videos Link to videos in Basic Navigation section
Basic Navigation Routine	Learn a Basic Navigation Routine applied to every leg  Use Plan, Picture, Direction  Know control descriptions  Understand contours  Route planning- break legs into sections  Simplify, Route choice, Accurate Direction, Attack point  Using thumb compass- Rough compass Accurate compass  Relocation	Learn a routine for using the map and compass as a foundation for all orienteering navigation navigation  Understand all the basic elements of orienteering  Understand what skills you need to develop to progress – looking ahead to Intermediate level	Basic Navigation Routine  Tips   Tips  Better Orienteering Summary  Better Orienteering Summary  Plan, Picture Direction  Plan, Picture, Direction  Plan, Picture Direction	Learning Videos Playlist  The 10 Elements of Orienteering  How to use your compass on a yellow course  Setting the map  Using the compass  Map contact  O-Ringen School

# What to look at next

Here are a couple of very helpful short books to buy or view for free on Issuu





Göran Anderson (2020)

'Cool, Awesome, Educational

Orienteering at school ages 6-15'

Göran Andersson (2017)

'Cool, Awesome, Educational –
Orienteering in Simple English'

See Göran's website for details of how to order copies of either book <a href="http://www.byorienteering.se/">http://www.byorienteering.se/</a>

Both books by Göran Andersson are free to view on **Issuu**.



# How well am I Orienteering? A self diagnostic test



Photo: Steve Rush

#### How well am I orienteering? 3 self-diagnostic questions

Try to honestly measure yourself against these 3 statements of orienteering ability

- 1. I have a solid basic navigation routine that helps me avoid regularly repeating errors such as:
  - exiting the control in the wrong direction
  - failing to identify and navigate in from an Attack Point
  - failing to reliably estimate distance

NO

Review your basic routines and practice applying them reliably.
Be aware of other techniques but focus on delivering the basics right every time FOCUS ON BASIC TECHNIQUES

MOSTLY

Reinforce your basic routines but explore which other techniques you could use more often EXPLORE INTERMEDIATE TECHNIQUES

2. I am running within my thinking ability, not forcing errors with oxygen debt or rushing My route choices are good and I reliably execute them
I am able to deliver good control flow most of the time
I am able to confidently move through terrain without following linearfeatures

NO

Be aware of Advanced Techniques but FOCUS ON IMPROVING INTERMEDIATE TECHNIQUES

YES

Systematically identify where you are losing time Practice different mixes of techniques to see where your strengths and weaknesses lie REINFORCE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

3. I understand all the Advanced Techniques. I can use them as needed and can join them up consistently and reliably

NO

Try exploring HOW TO JOIN IT ALL UP. Use the suggestions on visualisation and psychology to help you process the Advanced Techniques in race conditions

YES

Congratulations your are orienteering beyond the remit of this guide! Please do contribute suggestions on further content to include in this guide to help others follow your success.

You can use these diagnostic questions at any time

Try to gauge where you are on your orienteering journey

and identify what you need to focus on next

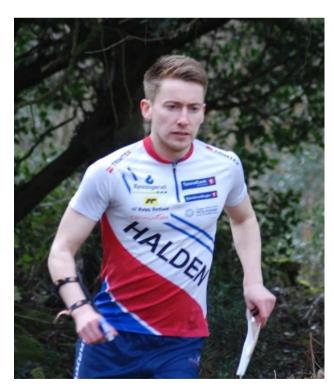
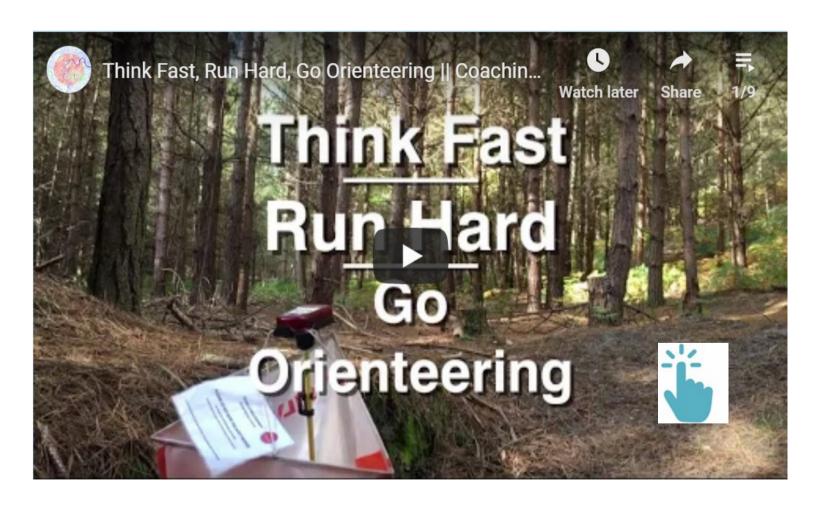


Photo: Steve Rush

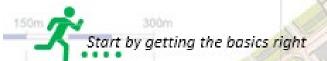


# Intermediate A Skills Tool Kit



These 9 videos cover Intermediate to Advanced skills

#### Better Orienteering Navigation model – pictorial version



Have a reliable Basic Navigation Routine



Be systematic

Identify Attack point
Plan Route
Map + Compass for direction
Visualise where you are going
Execute the leg in stages

Draw on a Tool Kit of Skills



and the same

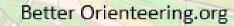
Use a range of strategies

Anticipate errors

Maintain concentration

Respond to errors

Parallel error?



Visualise map in 3D in your mind

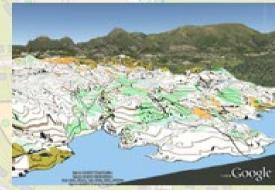


Image: worldofo.com

As you move beyond developing a Basic Navigation Routine this is an overview of what you will need to explore and join up

The concept of a Skills Tool Kit is covered next

#### **Better Orienteering**



#### Skills Tool Kit

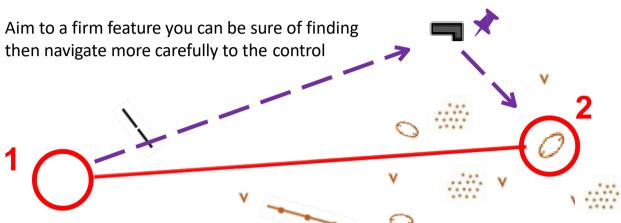


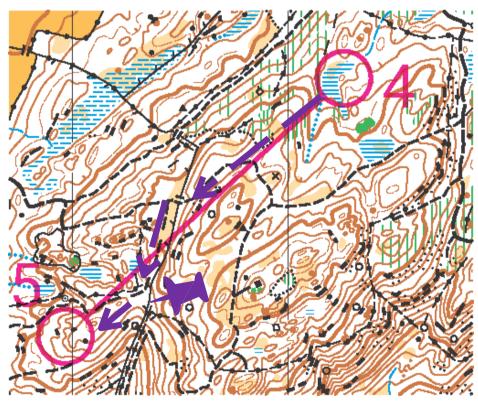
Basic Intermediate Advanced

Once you have a good **Basic Navigation Routine** (see separate summary), you can use a **Tool Kit of skills** and apply them flexibly as needed. These skills interact with each other and operate at all levels of orienteering from Basic to Advanced with varying levels of complexity.

#### **Attack Point**







Head to fence, follow to the saddle where the path turns west for firm **Attack Point** 

then head south west along spur

The **Attack Point** is confirmed by the fence, the path turning and the saddle contour shape

part of Summerhouse Knott copyright Warrior OC 2019 map by martinbagness@aol.com

betterorienteering.org

Duncan Bayliss, 2019 v3

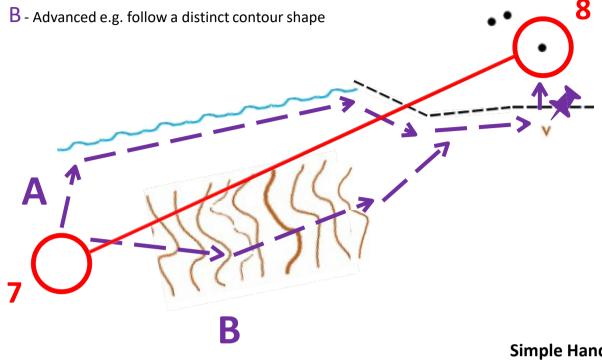
The Skills Tool Kit illustrates a set of core concepts you can use to navigate

You can 'mix and match' these skills on a flexible basis

#### Hand rail

Follow a linear feature to move quickly towards the next control

A - Basic e.g. follow a path or stream



#### Simple Hand Rail:

Follow paths

Attack point is where re-entrant goes up to the right

Route on ground

The easiest courses allow you join up Hand Rails as your route

part of Summerhouse Knott copyright Warrior OC 2019 map by martinbagness@aol.com

betterorienteering.org

Duncan Bayliss, 2019 v3

These skills concepts can be used at a range of levels from intermediate right up to elite level

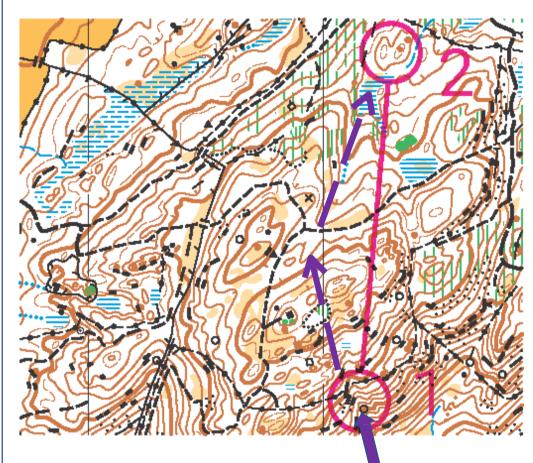
They are skills every orienteer needs to know

#### **Advanced Hand Rail**

The contour features can be used as a Hand Rail to complete most of the leg

Head north following up small re-entrant to saddle

By staying within the re-entrant shape it can be followed up to the top of the hill the only detail that matters is following the re-entrant and the top of the hill



part of Summerhouse Knott copyright Warrior OC 2019 map by martinbagness@aol.com

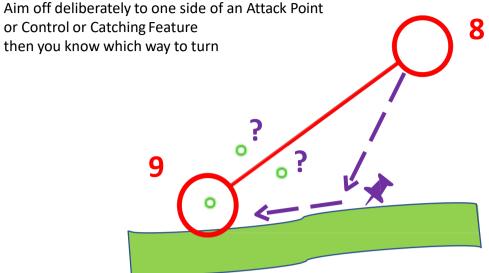
descend on Rough Bearing the path junction will be seen to the left, cross path follow re-entrant as **Hand Rail** to where it levels to marsh onto small hill to control

The exact line on the ground down re-entrant will not matter because the flat ground with a marsh splits either side of the low hill with the control on it

betterorienteering.org

As your orienteering progresses you will understand the interaction between these different skills and other concepts such as simplification and visualising the shape of terrain

#### Aiming off



Aim Off to path, turn right. Follow stream to where the wall and stream cross the path as Attack Point.

Then head SW parallel to the stream and under the small spur to crag.

Going straight it would be easy to be very uncertain of your location and not have a firm Attack Point Aiming Off allows certainty in finding firm features

Potential route on the ground ->

part of Skelghyll Woods copyright Warrior OC 2018 map by martinbagness@aol.com

betterorienteering.org

The Skills in this Tool Kit can be combined

This concept -

Aiming Off

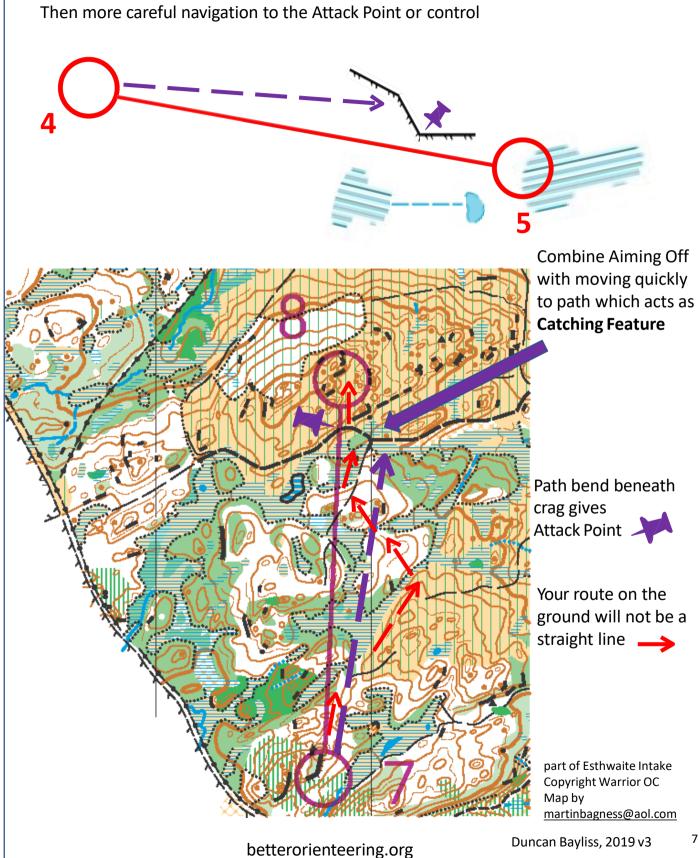
can often be used in conjunction with the next one -

**Catching Feature** 

#### Catching feature

Simplify the level of detail you are reading and move quickly to a firm feature Use Rough Compass to give direction

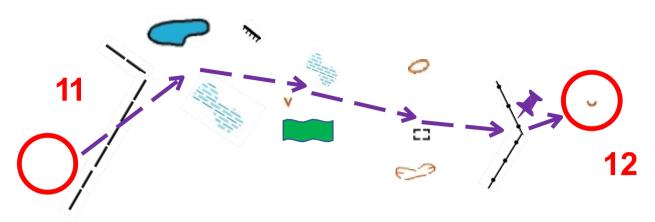
Note features on route but relocate on the catching feature.



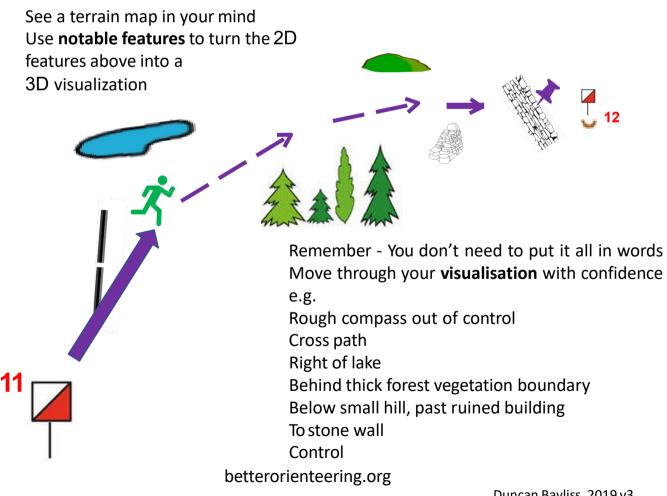
Aiming for a Catching
Feature can help you
simplify the amount of
detail you need to follow
as you move through the
terrain towards the next
control

#### Corridor

Instead of following a series of linear features as hand rails to get close to the control identify a corridor of features to move through



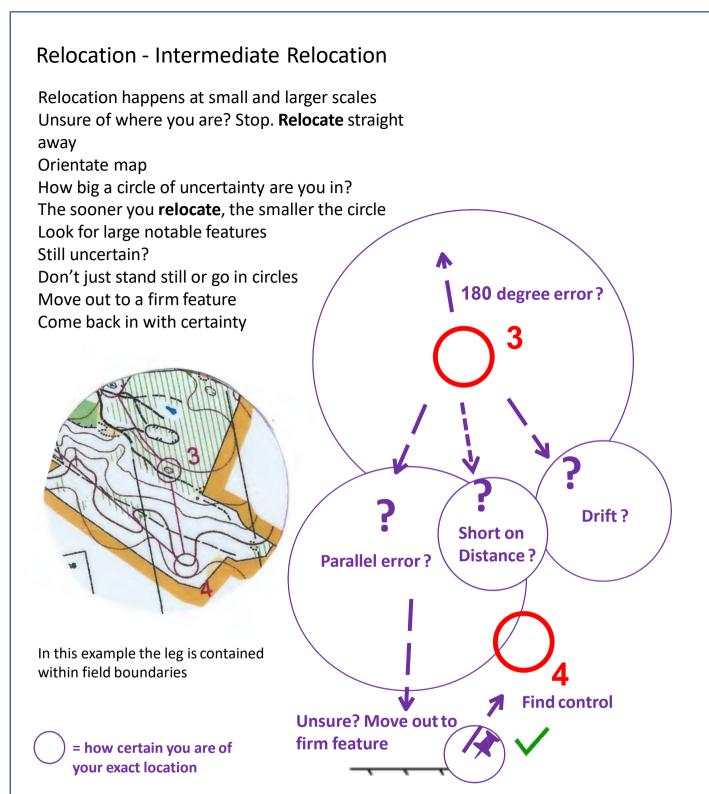
Visualize notable features – go from 2D to 3D



Beginners will tend to follow line features such as paths or fences

As you progress you can identify a corridor of features to move through without needing a line feature to follow

With time you will get better at visualising what these feature will look from what you see on the map



#### Advanced Relocation - more complex courses and longer legs

If you are unsure exactly where you are, <u>do you know where you are going?</u>
Will you be able to pick up a more accurate location as you move on through the terrain? Are you on line to a more certain feature that will locate you?

Near to control needs greater certainty

Or, has the map stopped matching the ground too much and you need to **relocate** now? An element of **Relocation** can even be a deliberate part of a route choice betterorienteering.org

Mistakes will happen

Learning how to relocate quickly and effectively is essential

150

There is a lot to think about and do when navigating at speed

300m

This explanation and the info-graphic that follows summarise the many things you will be doing when navigating a leg between controls

You will need to complete a lot of orienteering races to be able to draw together all these elements

More detail on Better Orienteering.org

The following schematic diagram, Route choice and executing a leg, captures a lot of the thought processes in navigating a leg. It combines strategies to employ such as identifying an Attack Point and Corridor to move through, with a series of processes you need to undertake throughout the leg.

Level of certainty

The purple circles are indicative of a sense of the level of certainty you will need of your exact location at varying points through a leg – in the same way that a circle on a smartphone or GPS changes size depending on how certain it is of your location.

Route choice A

With Route Choice option A, following a Hand Rail, the purple circles are small indicating that you could know with a high degree of certainty where you are when on a path.

Route choice B

With Route Choice option B, moving through a Corridor of features you might have less certainty of your exact location but be confident of where you are going, heading for a Catching Feature and the circle placing you is larger.

**Flexibility** 

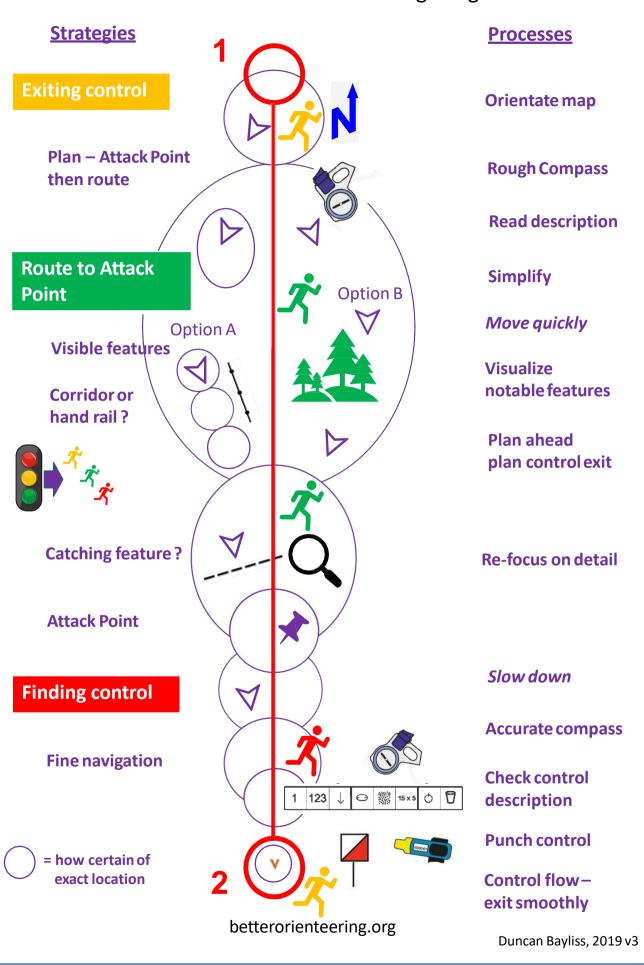
The permutations of skills and processes for different legs are endless, so you will need to follow a Basic Navigation Routine and then flexibly draw from a Tool Kit of Skills as needed on route.

Speed



The orange, green and red runner symbols remind you to consider the appropriate speed for different parts of a leg and the navigation challenges they present and to think of the leg in sections – red= slow, orange = moderate speed, green = faster. Remember some legs are best taken slowly all the way between controls. Some other legs allow a section of much faster progress.

#### Route choice and executing a leg



It takes a lot of practice to integrate all your skills

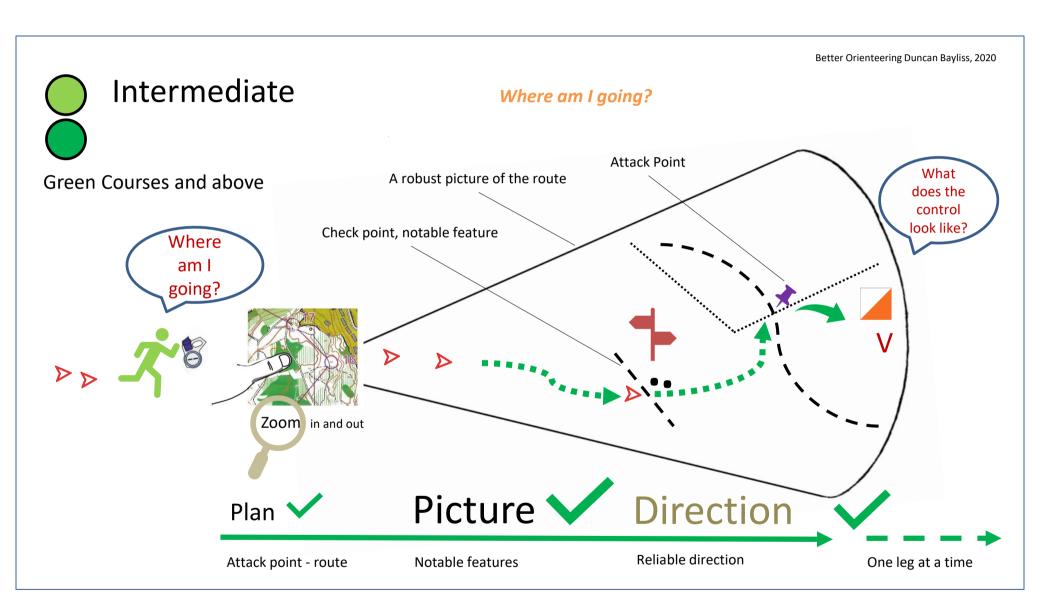
Be aware of all these elements

Then review legs from your races

How well were you able to join these ideas up?

At an Intermediate level you should not be struggling with Where am I? or Where have I been? but be focused on Where am I going?

This requires using a wide **Tool Kit of skills** in route choice, making an effective **Plan** and being able to visualise or **Picture** what will be coming up, and executing the plan reliably



You now understand navigating as a process of selecting an effective route and picturing ahead of yourself what you will see and do



Learn to orienteer with Janne Troeng - a series of videos from O-Ringen TV



#3 Learn orienteering in Lunsen with Jan Troeng oringenofficial



#7 Learn orienteering using the big details with Janne Troeng oringenofficial



#11 How to make a difficult leg "easy" in Lunsen oringenofficial



#16 Short legs in Lunsen oringenofficial



#19 A really hard leg in Lunsen oringenofficial



#23 "Albin Ridefelt would probably not approve of my route choice" oringenofficial



#27 You need to know these terrain objects in Lunsen oringenofficial

These videos from O-Ringen TV cover skills from Intermediate to Advanced level

### Better Orienteering Skills Matrix - Intermediate

Note: This skills matrix only indicates key skills at different stages of orienteering development more skills concepts are covered on Better Orienteering

Orienteering skill level	Core skills (Not an exhaustive list)	Goals	Free downloads on Better Orienteering	Learning Videos Link to videos in Intermediate section
Intermediate	Understand and apply a  Toolkit of skills: Attack point Handrail Aiming off Catching feature Corridor Notable features From 2D to 3D Relocation Executing a leg in stages  Plan, Picture, Direction in more detail: Zoom, Mental map, Visualising, Relocation strategies  Route choice Simplification Post-race analysis	Understand a wide range of orienteering skills and apply them flexibly  Improve ability to picture the terrain from the map  Apply Plan, Picture, Direction to process of every leg  Get better at handling mistakes and relocating  Understand where it went wrong and how to get it right next time	Skills Tool Kit  John Summary  Map reading and visualisation diagrams  John Summary  Map reading and visualisation diagrams  May reading model  Map reading, Picturing, Relocating  Navigation model pictorial version	Learning Videos Playlist  Compass bearing and Attack point on an orange course  Simplification  Sort away details, orienteer better  Route choice  Large contour features  Testing route choices  Aiming off  How to make a difficult leg easy

At an Intermediate level you understand a wide range of skills and can mix and match them to apply them to any leg





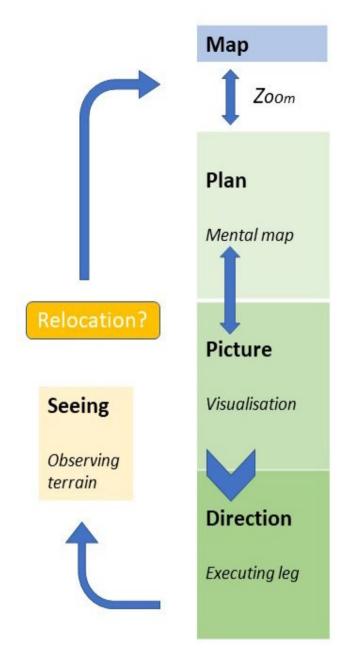
And

**Beyond Advanced** 

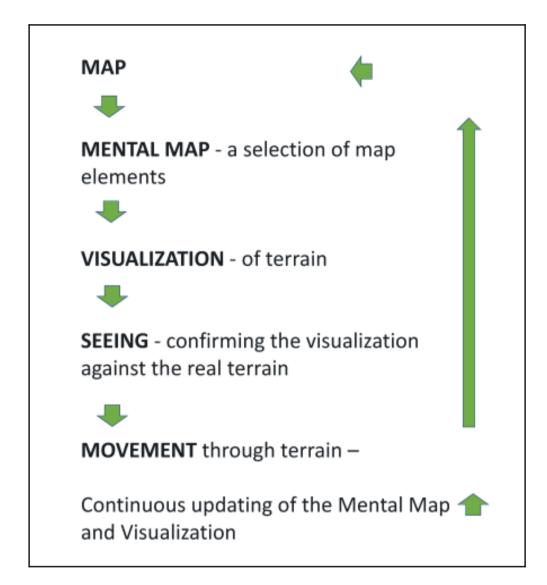


Be inspired by this video

This summary should be used together with the Betterorienteering.org website



### Improve your mental maps and visualisation



**Plan Picture Direction** 

Plan Picture Direction can be considered in more detail:

Identify which features on the map you need to use to navigate the leg

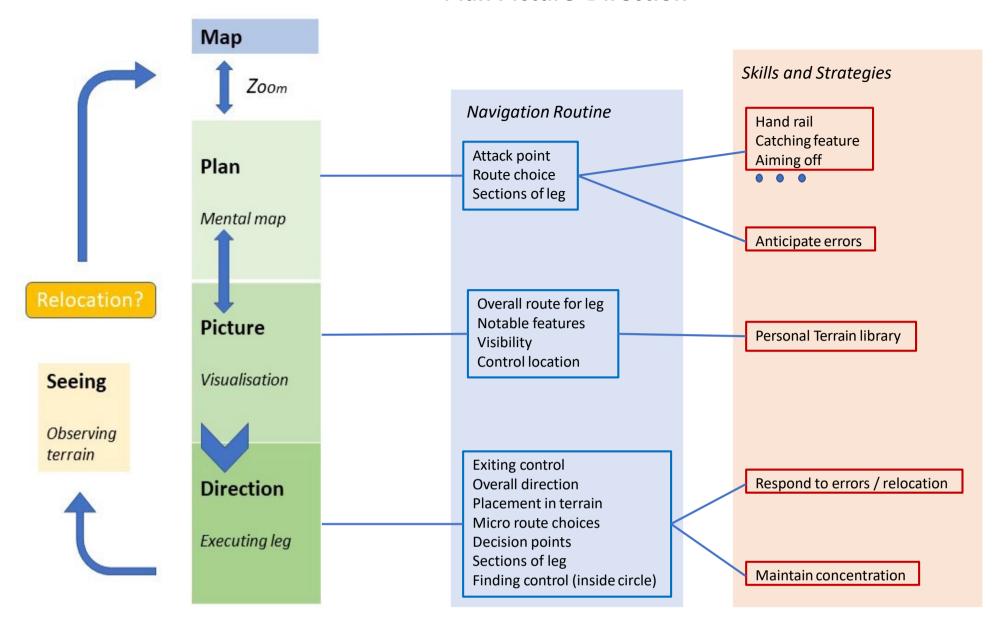
Build an effective simplified mental map and route

Improve how you visualise those features – build a Terrain library from experience

Keep your visualisation updated and always ahead of you

Run into your visualisation confidently

### **Plan Picture Direction**



Plan, Picture Direction draws on a model by Kris Jones integrated with other elements of navigation on Better Orienteering, Duncan Bayliss, 2019

This info-graphic summarises what successful orienteering navigation is built on

As your orienteering improves you can work through the ideas in all the sections of Better Orienteering and link them to the basic navigation model - Plan Picture Direction

The model is then linked in your mind to a range of routines, skills and strategies to use when competing

### Better Orienteering Navigation Model - systematic description

The elements Better Orienteering uses to help you build successful navigation

### **Routines**

#### Pre-race

Research the map Start well

### **Basic Navigation Routine**

Map to north
Know scale
Thumb map
Exiting control
Route to next control
Finding control
Break leg into sections
Steady to No.1
Map contact
Relocate promptly
Relate speed to navigation
Zoom in and out on map

### Post race

Record route Identify losses Track trends Plan to avoid repeating errors

### **Concepts**

#### **Tool Kit of skills**

Attack point

Handrail
Aiming off
Catching features
Corridor
2D to 3D
Simplification
Notable features

#### **Advanced**

Advanced Visualisation Library of terrain experience Catalogue of errors

5 Key Principles

Route choice

Plan

Direction

Picture / visualisation

Execution

### **Strategies**

### Integration and implementation

#### Intermediate

Minimise losses maximise gains
Positive attitude to mistakes
Every leg a new beginning
Ignore other people
Look at options then commit
Simplify appropriately

#### **Advanced**

Style - don't get stuck in a rut Control Flow Virtual corridor Planning ahead Bigger picture in mind Categorize legs by type Right approach for course Evaluate certainty of features Improve distance estimation

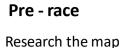
### **Beyond Advanced**

Total immersion
Not all in words
Improve mental maps and visualisation
Feelings and the terrain
Extended race routine
Plan your own training

The content of Better Orienteering is mapped here across the 3 main themes – Routines, Concepts, Strategies

The items listed are all sub-headings or sections of Better Orienteering.org

### The full orienteering cycle: from pre-race preparation to post-race analysis and training



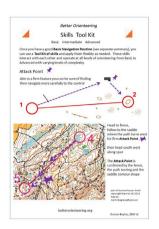


Start well



### Race

Concepts – Tool Kit of Skills



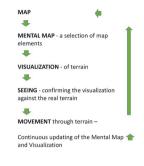
Strategies to implement routines and concepts

Anticipate errors

Maintain concentration

Respond to errors

### Advanced Visualisation



### Post race

Analysis

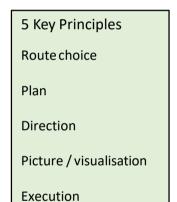
Routines, concepts, strategies		Event name/date	Event name,
	Yes/No secs/mins lost	Comments	Comments
BASIC NAVIGATION ROUTINE			
Map to earth			
Ditting right direction			
Attack point			
Finding accurately			
Map read correctly			
CONCEPTS USED			
Ainsing off			
Hand rail			
Accurate Distance estimation			
Canching feature			
Nough compass bearing			
Accurate compass booring			
STRATEGY			
Steady to No 1			
Noute appropriate to skill level			
Burning within thirking			
ERRORS TOTAL	Mins/secs		
	_		_

### Route choice and Executing a leg

**Basic Navigation Routine** 



### Join it all up -Process model



### **Training**

How well am I orienteering?



**Training plan** 

It can be helpful to think about the orienteering skills you are learning in different ways, so that they join up more effectively

This info-graphic maps some of the main sections of Better Orienteering against the cycle of pre-race, race, post-race, training

You can improve your orienteering by paying attention to each of these steps from researching the area, through navigating the course, to analysing how it went afterwards and training to do better in future

There are downloads related to each of those steps on Better Orienteering

# Better Orienteering Skills Matrix – Advanced Strategies

Note: This skills matrix only indicates key skills at different stages of orienteering development more skills concepts are covered on Better Orienteering

Orienteering skill level	Advanced skills – Routines, Concepts, Strategies	Goals	Free downloads on Better Orienteering	Learning Videos Link to videos in Advanced section
<u>Advanced</u> <u>Strategies</u>	Advanced visualisation Reviewing Routines, Concepts, Strategies linked to - Plan – Picture – Direction Control Flow Planning ahead Dynamic Zoom map reading Adapting approach to terrain Orienteering style – adapting navigation to personal strengths Categorising legs and recognising the planner's challenges Improved distance estimation Getting more value from the compass Advanced Post-race analysis	Visualise reliably and consistently  Develop good flow  Respond well to different types of leg and navigation challenges and terrain  Systematically identify weaknesses and plan training to improve on them	Plan, Picture, Direction in more detail  Map reading and visualisation diagrams  Adviced Picture Direction C	Learning Videos Playlist  A really hard leg in Lunsen  This is what a long leg can look like  Learn to orienteer with Janne Troeng  What has happened to maps since 1965?  Duncan Bayliss, 2020
				,,

## Better Orienteering Skills Matrix – Beyond Advanced towards Elite

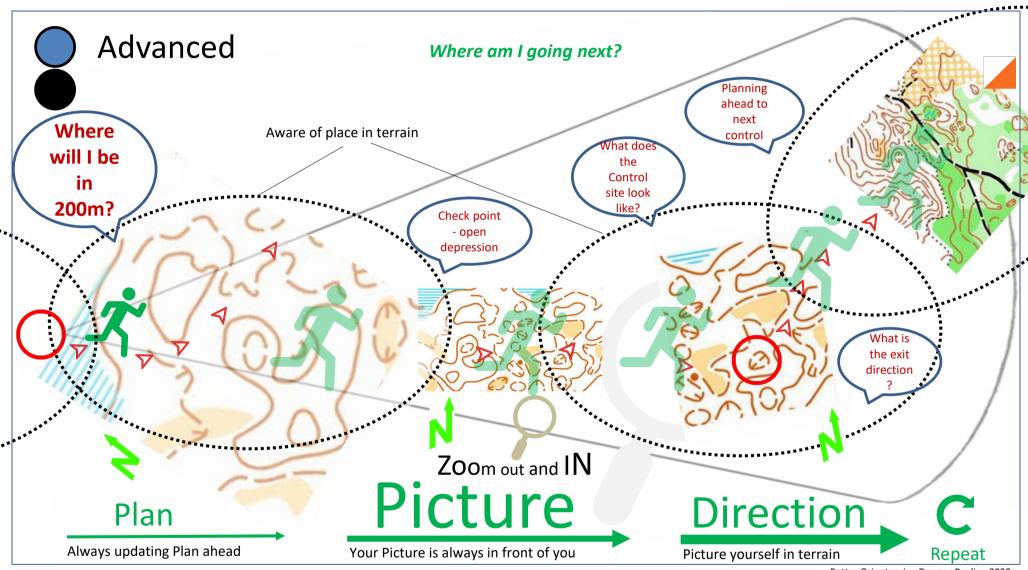
Note: This skills matrix only indicates key skills at different stages of orienteering development more skills concepts are covered on Better Orienteering

Orienteering skill level	Skills in an integrated approach — training, preparation, race, postrace analysis	Goals	Free downloads on Better Orienteering	Learning Videos Link to video or playlist containing the video
Beyond Advanced towards Elite	Joining it all up: Working with your psychology Improving mental maps and visualisation Personal Terrain Library  Developing extended race routine: Preparation and research, Mind set Start well Managing concentration Post-race analysis Planning training  Learning from elite competitors  A continuous cycle of learning and improvement	Integrating: fitness, psychology, preparation, handling pressure, health and navigation skills - setting yourself up to succeed  Joining up all your skills at race speed  Minimising all small losses  Build your Terrain Library  Always having a robust visualisation ahead of you – knowing where you will be in 200m  All navigation done while running  Understanding how to analyse your orienteering effectively	Mental map to visualisation  MAP  MENTAL MAP - a selection of map elements  VISUALIZATION - of terrain  SEENG: confirming the visualization apains the real terrain  Continuous supdating of the Mental Map and visualization and Visualization  The runner's eye view  Further articles on skills	Learning Videos Playlist  Albin Ridefelt would probably not approve of my route choice  Follow me by Tero  WOC Long Qual headcam  You need to know these terrain objects in Lunsen  Intricate contours  Last run of the king  Duncan Bayliss, 2020

You now understand navigating as a process of identifying the fastest route, then building a Mental Map and robust visualisation (Picture) that will enable you to follow it

It will include notable features ahead of you and you will visualise accurately how features will be seen by you, as you move through the terrain

You will use different types of navigation technique for the challenges at different points in a course



Better Orienteering Duncan Bayliss, 2020

Different types of map contact will be used to allow you to keep a good visualisation In front of where you are. You want to know - Where will I be in 200 metres?

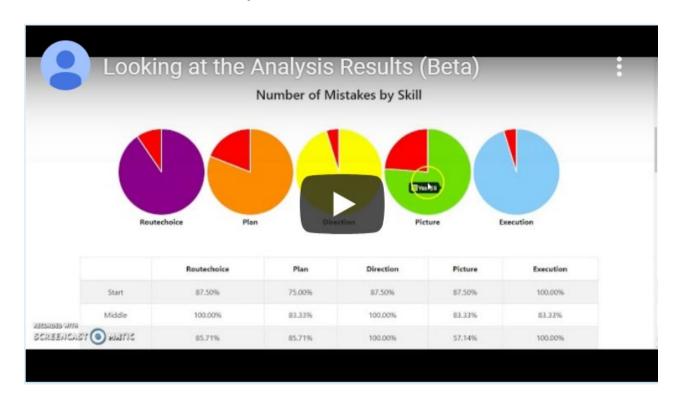
You add new notable features to your Picture as you move as well as more detail when needed. You no longer think just one leg at a time. Your Picture or visualisation is always ahead of you. You know what the control will look like and your exit direction





# Post-race analysis

What went well?
What went wrong?
What are my priorities
for improvement?



### Consider trying this web analysis tool at elevate.run

This summary should be used together with the Betterorienteering.org website

### Race Analysis Checklist

Routines, concepts, strategies		Event name/date	Event name/date
	Yes/No secs/mins lost	Comments	Comments
BASIC NAVIGATION ROUTINE		11 /20	
Map to north		4-13	
Exiting right direction			(1) 2 30
Attack point	4		
Finding accurately			
Map read correctly	A R		
CONCEPTS USED		10	
Aiming off	NC		
Hand rail			
Distance estimation		X	
accurate	7		
Catching feature	1 8		1
Rough compass bearing			10
Accurate compass bearing	11/		
STRATEGY	4		
Steady to No 1			== 1//
Route appropriate to skill level			
Running within thinking			
ERRORS TOTAL	Mins/secs		

As a minimum, after each race:

- 1 Draw your route on your map
- 2 Estimate where you lost time
- 3 Keep your maps in date order
- 4 Look back over them to see if you keep making the same mistakes

You can also try more detailed analysis such as with this table

### INTERMEDIATE STRATEGY No talking Ignored other runners Anticipating possible errors, planning for them Relocating quickly Treating every leg as a new beginning Good control flow Committing to route choice Varying speed to fit terrain / navigation Simplifying confidently **ERRORS** Mins/secs TOTAL **ADVANCED** CONCEPTS Simplifying and seeing notable features on map and ground Identifying corridors

Race Analysis table

Maybe try this type of more detailed analysis for a few races to see where your weaknesses are

You can also try a more interactive analysis tool at

elevate.run

notable features on map and ground
Identifying corridors

Planning ahead

Overall shape of terrain visualised

Categorising types of leg and responding appropriately

Recognising certainty of features

Using less words

Quick and accurate terrain visualisation — Mental Map

Optimum route choice?



EXTENDED RACE ROUTINE		
Researched map and courses	No.	
Calm mind set		
Good sleep, eating well		
Started well		
Positive emotional response to challenges	1/9/1/9/2	
Managed and maintained concentration		
Statistics		
Distance		Photo: Steve Rush
Time		
Mins/ km	MI MY STATEMENT OF	
Placing		
Potential placing minus errors		

Do remember that orienteering requires a continual process of fine tuning your skills

You will never reach a point where you have got it all sorted and needing no improvement!

There is much more material available on the Betterorienteering.org website

I hope that using Better Orienteering has been helpful and enjoyable way to explore orienteering navigation and develop your skills

Duncan Bayliss, 2019

### Resources and Books section of Better Orienteering

This is an overview of the types of resources contained on Better Orienteering.org –

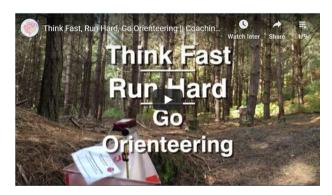
graphical summaries, videos, discussion of skills, links to free downloads and more!

The website contains more material than is in this summary

### Better Orienteering - Download, Links, Resources, Books

The resources Better Orienteering connects you with to improve your orienteering

### **Videos**







### Free resources and downloads

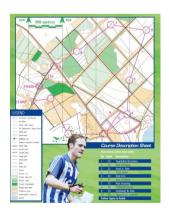








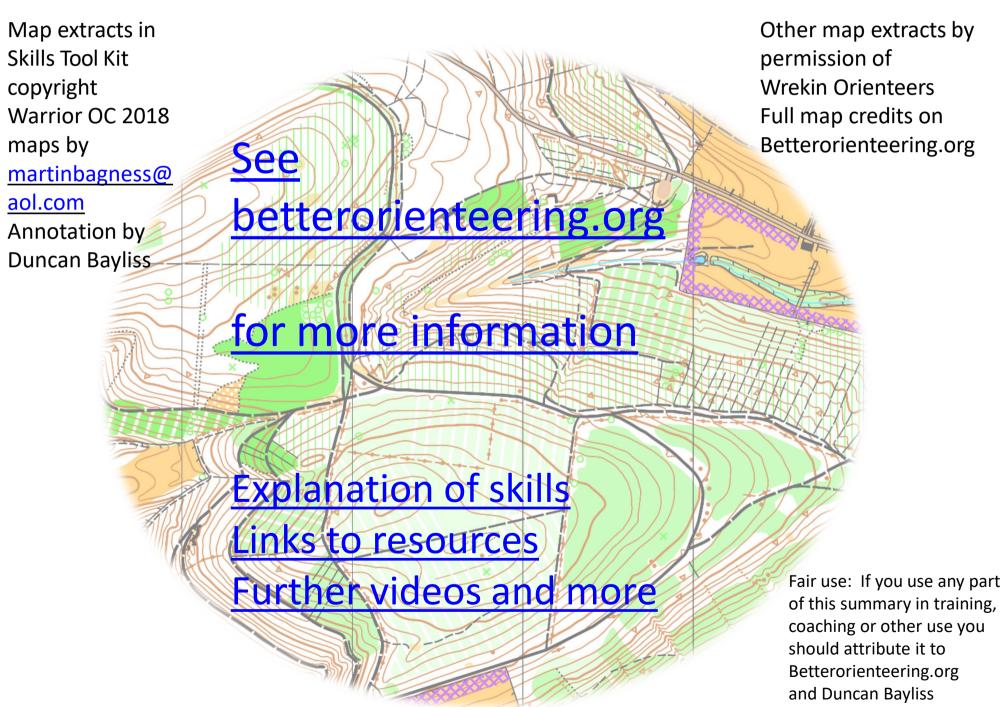




### Suggested Books

McNell (2010) Orienteering: skills, techniques, training
Ferguson and Turbyfill (2013) Discovering orienteering
Gueorgiou (2019) The winning eye





This summary should be used together with the Betterorienteering.org website