

A word from the mapmaker/course-setter: Iwan Vis

Friday 06/19/2026 - Stage 1 - Middle distance

No stress reaching the start for those who left the office at the last minute, it is located 100m from the Arena.

The start of the race will probably seem quite simple to you in the private woods, especially coniferous, adjoining the village of Vlessart, but very quickly you will change scenery by joining deciduous woods, typical of the Anlier Forest.

Orientation becomes more subtle and it will be necessary to combine a good reading of the relief, confidence in your compass, and understanding the representation of vegetation. Many specific details will accompany your itinerary, it will be a matter of sorting the useful from the superfluous.

Except for the courses of our young people, all will end in a finely mapped marshy hell, requiring very diligent reading of the map, and a powerful race, like the wild boars of the Ardennes, for those who still have resources.

If things go wrong this Friday, you will still have a chance to tame this hell during the finale of the last stage...

Saturday 06/20/2026 - Stage 2 - Long distance

The departure and arrival will be located 1800m from the Arena, with the possibility of driving our elders up to 200m. No parking, only deposit! At this location you can also leave personal belongings under a tent.

You are off for the longest stage of these 3 days, but also the fastest.

Apart from the 5 longest routes, which will have the privilege of discovering (or rediscovering for those who participated in the 2025 edition) the bushy and spongy valley of Nobripré, which significantly slows down the average kilometer, the others will have a relatively comfortable orienteering in a beech forest that you are beginning to know. Very fast for those who are precise...

The finale takes place easily in the tidy private woods...beware of the fatigue trap!

Routes 1 to 7 and 9 will cross twice, in 2 separate locations, the same road open to traffic, with low traffic but some drivers push fast.

In order to minimize the risk of accident we neutralize the time between the 2 controls located on either side of this road. Neutralization is limited to 1 minute! So no time for a picnic! The crossing is done under your entire responsibility.

Sunday 06/21/2026 – Stage 3 – Long distance

After a 1600m hike that seniors can avoid by being dropped off 200m from the start (no parking !), you will set off on the most beautiful but trickiest stage of these 3 days.

Our youngest will find very affordable land in private woods around Vlessart, until their arrival. Be careful though: guidelines are not always made up of paths.

Very quickly the most technical routes will be confronted with variations in vegetation, sometimes surprising. Although the distances are a little shorter, the race times will probably be the same as the day before, due to the complexity of the terrain.

So hold on tight for this last stage which could shake up the general ranking and don't forget to preserve a little energy and lucidity for the final marshy hell!

Finally, to remember or to forget, a bar worthy of the name awaits you at the Arena. How I wish I were in your place...

Have a nice run and above all enjoy !