



**World Ski Orienteering
Championships 2026**
RUSUTSU JAPAN

Bulletin 3

SKI-WOC 2026 Japan

World Ski Orienteering Championships 2026

March 1st – March 6th, 2026

Rusutsu, Hokkaido, JAPAN



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1. Organizers

International Orienteering Federation, Japan Orienteering Association
Event Director – Shin Murakoshi (JPN)
IOF Event Advisor – Tapani Partanen (FIN)
National Controller – Yoshihiko Yamamoto (JPN)

2. Greetings

On behalf of the organisers, I extend a warm welcome to the Ski Orienteering World Championships, which we are delighted to host at Rusutsu Resort in Hokkaido. This marks the first time in 16 years that this championship has been held in Japan, and indeed in Rusutsu, Hokkaido. The entire Organising Committee welcomes the return of the world's premier ski orienteering competition to this location with great pride and joy.

Rusutsu is renowned as one of Japan's regions with the heaviest snowfall. Its abundant and reliable snow provides the perfect stage to showcase the full appeal of ski orienteering. Rusutsu is a field truly worthy of a World Championship, testing both delicate map-reading skills and advanced skiing techniques. We hope all competitors will fully demonstrate the strength they have built up over the years on this silver-white stage.

Hokkaido is not only rich in nature but also brimming with culinary delights. Fresh ingredients nurtured by the harsh winter, hearty local dishes, and unique regional flavours will surely soothe both body and soul between competitions. Furthermore, Hokkaido offers a way of life that coexists with its abundant nature and cherishes the changing seasons. Here, we find much to resonate with as we connect across borders through outdoor sports. It is our sincere hope that this championship will be a valuable opportunity not only for competitive achievement, but also for you to experience Japanese culture and nature, deepening mutual exchange and understanding.

We look forward to welcoming you all.

World Ski Orienteering Championships
Chairman of the Organising Committee
Shin Murakoshi

3. Venue

The event center will be set in the Rusutsu Resort Hotel in Rusutsu, Hokkaido. Rusutsu is in the southwest of Hokkaido in northern Japan. For further information about Rusutsu, visit <https://rusutsu.com/en/>.

All competitions and activities will be held in Rusutsu resort, and the event center will also be there. The resort also provides some rank of accommodations. It takes 2 hours from New Chitose

International Airport by bus. There are some direct flight connections from Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka International Airport to New Chitose Airport.

4. Event Office

The event office is located at **Seminar Hall** at Rusutsu Resort.

The event office will be open from February 28 to March 6, 2026.

(Opening hours will be announced.)

The event office will not be open on-site during the pre-event training and pre-competition periods.

Please contact us **by email when the event office is closed.**

If you have any questions or inquiries regarding facilities at Rusutsu Resort, please contact the hotel lobby.

e-mail : wsoc2026@gmail.com

Event center: **Seminar Hall** at Rusutsu Resort

GPS coordinates:

[42.752722 140.902556 – Link to Google Maps](#)

5. Climate and Altitude

In early March, Rusutsu, Japan, experiences cold temperatures with average highs around 5°C and lows near -10°C. However, temperatures can rise sharply when the sun is out. During this period, the average depth of snow is 100-180cm.

The village of Rusutsu is situated at an elevation of approximately 400 meters above sea level, and the competition will be held at altitudes between 400m and 600m.

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
	snow depth (cm)	temperature (°C)								
February 26th	195	-9	210	-4	190	-8	115	-7	140	-3
February 27th	200	-9	210	-4	185	2	115	-4	140	-5
February 28th	195	-9	215	-5	180	1	115	-8	135	0
March 1st	190	1	215	-5	175	-3	115	-7	125	2
March 2nd	200	-5	215	-5	175	-5	115	-5	125	-2
March 3rd	210	-9	210	-5	170	-5	115	-12	120	-9
March 4th	205	-8	225	-6	165	-4	115	-10	120	-9
March 5th	200	1	220	-4	160	0	120	-9	120	-5
March 6th	190	-6	215	-5	155	2	125	-7	120	-3
March 7th	190	-11	215	-3	145	4	125	-10	120	-7

Measurements are taken every day at 8:00 a.m. at Rusutsu Resort Ski Area

6. Maps

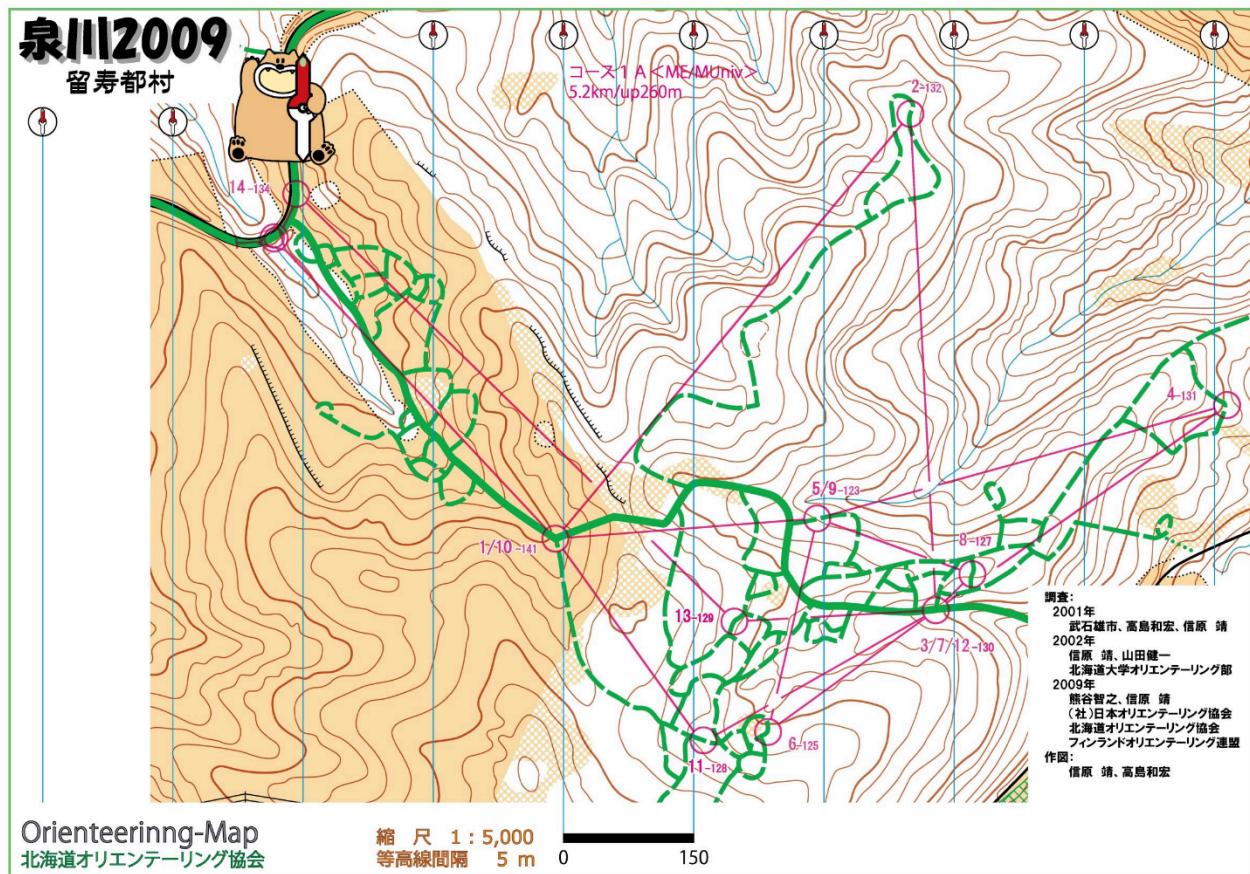
The latest Ski-Orienteering maps of the planned area will be posted and updated on the eventor.

This terrain is located at the hilly area of Rusutsu Village, roughly midway within Shikotsu-Tōya National Park.

The competition area comprises relatively flat wasteland and wetland areas along rivers, steep forested mountain areas, and a golf course on the hills.

It also includes some pastureland and fields.

Annual snowfall typically reaches 2 to 3 meters. While many streams are covered in snow, numerous sections cannot be crossed, necessitating considerable caution when considering shortcuts.



7. Classes

Women

Men

Mixed Relay

8. Participation

8.1. General

- All competitors represent a National Federation.
- A competitor may represent only one National Federation during any one 12-month period running from November to October.
- All competitors must be citizens of the country of the National Federation they are representing. They must be able to provide either a passport or other valid documentation proving their citizenship.
- Each participating National Federation must appoint a team manager / team managers to act as contact person(s) between the team and the organizer. It is the team manager's duty to see that the team receives all necessary information.
- Competitors participate at their own risk. Insurance against accidents is the responsibility of their Federation or themselves.

8.2 WSOC

- Each National Federation may enter a team with an unlimited number of competitors and an unlimited number of team officials.
- In each individual competition, every Federation may enter up to 6 women and 6 men. In addition, each Federation may enter up to a further 2 women and 2 men who qualify for the Women U23 and Men U23 classes respectively.
- In the Sprint Relay, each Federation may enter two teams consisting of 2 team members of whom at least one must be a woman. Teams with competitors from more than one Federation are not allowed and incomplete teams must not start. Under no circumstances may persons other than entered competitors participate in the competition.
- All competitors must have a valid IOF Athlete License. Please ensure that the Athlete License fees are paid before the competitions.

9. Entries & Entry Deadlines

All entries are to be done via IOF Eventor.

- Team Size deadline : Jan 1st 2026
- Team names deadline : Feb 19th 2026
- Competition entry deadline : 15:00 for the following day respectively

10. Entry Fees

	Regular Entry Until Jan. 1st 2026	Late Entry Until Feb.19 th 2026	Very Late Entry Until Feb. 25 th 2026
Accreditation fee (Competitor)	20,000 yen	+20% (withdrawal -80%)	+50% (withdrawal -50%)
Accreditation fee (team official)	20,000 yen	+20% (withdrawal -80%)	+50% (withdrawal -50%)
Entry fee per competition	14,000 yen (Relay: 28,000 yen)	+20% (withdrawal -80%)	+50% (withdrawal -50%)
Name Change			10,000 yen

The accreditation and entry fees include access to the race venues, the model event, any mandatory transport, the Emit Touch Free Punching system rental, team official meetings and competition maps.

11. Payment

Payment deadline for the accreditation and entry fees is February 25th 2026

Payments shall be done to the following bank account:

SWIFT Code / BIC: RAKTJPJT

Beneficiary Bank Name: RAKUTEN BANK, LTD.

Branch Name: HEAD OFFICE

Beneficiary Bank Address: 2-16-5 KONAN, MINATO-KU, TOKYO, JAPAN

[Intermediary Bank Information]

SWIFT Code / BIC: SMBCJPJT

Intermediary Bank Name: SUMITOMO MITSUI BANKING CORPORATION, TOKYO, JAPAN

[Beneficiary Information]

Beneficiary Account Number: 253-7589186

Beneficiary Name: Japan Orienteering Association

Beneficiary Address: 4-2, Kasumigaokamachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0013, Japan"

Entries and Accommodations are not valid until full payment is received.

12. Punching System

The Emit Touch Free Punching system will be used.

All competitors will be provided with two tags by the organizer for the duration of the event (primary and secondary card). Only these may be used in the competitions.

13. Team Officials' Meetings (TOM)

The Team Officials Meetings will be held in the North Wing Area Seminar Hall .There will be no online broadcast, but all material presented in the Team Officials' Meetings will be available on the IOF Eventor and on the event website the same evening.

14. Program, Dates and Type of competition

Feb 25 (Wed)	14:00—Public Race
Feb 26 (Thu)	14:00—Public Race
Feb 28 (Sat)	The event center opens / Arrival day 14:00- Public Race (Model Event Area)
March 1 (Sun)	10:00— 14:00 Model Event 17:00— Opening ceremony 19:00— TOM
March 2 (Mon)	10:00— Sprint 19:00— TOM
March 3 (Thu)	10:00— Pursuit
March 4 (Wed)	Rest day 19:00— TOM
March 5 (Thr)	10:00— Middle distance (Interval start) 19:00— TOM
March 6 (Fri)	10:00—Sprint Relay/ 17:30—Closing ceremony and banquet
March 7(Sat)	Departure 10:00- Public Race (WSOC Competition Area)

For the sprint relay, the first, third and fifth legs will be for men, and the second, fourth and sixth legs will be for women.

15. Map Scales and Contour Intervals

Sprint	Pursuit	Middle	Sprint Relay
1:5,000 / 5m	1:10,000 / 5m	1:10,000 / 5m	1:5,000 / 5m

Format of all maps will be A4 (210 × 297mm)

16. Winning Times

Sprint	Pursuit	Middle	Sprint Relay
12'-15'	50'-60'	40'-45'	6'-8' per leg

17. Competition Area and Finish Area

- The finish area for all events will be near the Westin Hotel.
- The Westin Hotel will be the venue for the sprint relay. Please follow the designated route to the Westin Tower. The start is approximately a 5-minute walk from the Westin Tower.
- Sprint, pursuit, and middle distance events will be transported by bus to a quarantine area near the start.
- Bus boarding times will be determined based on the start time, but the ride from Rusutsu Resort is approximately 10-20 minutes for each event.
- After disembarking from the bus, waiting areas for athletes will include some restaurants or tents near the competition area. Restrooms are available.
- Luggage can be left in the waiting area. After all races have finished, luggage will be transported to the gymnasium at Rusutsu Resort.
- Participants will not be permitted to return to Rusutsu Resort after traveling by bus until all athletes have started.. Furthermore, the use of communication devices, such as cell phones, is prohibited within the quarantine area.
- Driving private vehicles to the waiting area is not permitted.

18. Quarantine

In the individual races there will be a start quarantine for WSOC participants. The exact locations and times for the start quarantine will be published in Bulletin 4. It is strictly forbidden to communicate with persons outside the quarantine. Therefore it is also not allowed to have any electronic communication device in the quarantine. This includes e.g. mobile phones, smart watches and laptops.

19. Embargoed Area

See the map below.

Please note that staying at the Westin Hotel, the alpine skiing course, and the commercial facilities on the accommodation side of the Westin Hotel are included in the restricted area.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1zeFyCTig3MxKrCtPq5ZwN3VXBk41H3g&ll=42.78795267478356%2C140.99828200000002&z=12>

The Westin Hotel 's atrium building itself is accessible during the competition periods, but DO NOT go to the Westin Hotel area before the competition period, and DO NOT go inside the Westin Hotel 's tower (accommodation area) even during the competition period.

Areas used for pre-competition events are not accessible afterward.

There is an alpine ski resort in front of the hotel, but going up the hill with cross-country skiing is prohibited.

20. Accommodation and other fee

Rank	Room Size	Number of guests to use the room	Price/Per night/Person
S	66m²	1	105,000 yen
A	33m²	1	30,000 yen
B	33m²	2	24,000 yen
C	33m²	3 or 4	18,000 yen
D	Lodge	-	18,000 yen

Half board meal and during the competition and the fee for the banquet is included.

Lunch can be purchased at Rusutsu Resort or at a convenience store within walking distance.

There are two types of lodges available: one for 16 people and one for 24 people.

Reservations can be made by country, or the lodge may be shared by guests from multiple countries. For more details, please contact us.

Please contact : wsoc2026_hotel@o-hokkaido.com for accommodation during the competition or training camp.

Staying outside Rusutsu Resort is not recommended, but who want to stay outside Rusutsu Resort, please make your accommodation reservations by yourself.

(Buses to the competition area will depart only from Rusutsu Resort.)

Item	Period	Fee
Wax table	For whole period	50,000 yen
Iron	For whole period	10,000 yen
Electric Drill	For whole period	10,000 yen
Transportation (Rusutsu ↔Training Course)	For whole training period (23 Feb～27 Feb)	10,000 yen (For round trip, per person)
Transportation (Rusutsu ↔Training Course)	For 1day during training period (23 Feb～27 Feb)	3,000 yen (For round trip, per person)
Transportation (Rusutsu ↔Chitose Airport)		10,000 yen (For round trip, per person)
Banquet		9,000 yen (If you are staying at Rusutsu Resort, it is included in the accommodation fee and therefore free of charge.)
Bus trip to Sapporo	4 Mar (Rest day)	10,000 yen

Wax table includes one waxing table, a 100V power supply, and a designated waxing space located in the Arena at Rusutsu Resort Hotel. This waxing area is not a private room. Rusutsu Resort Hotel has waxing rooms available free of charge for general guests. However, as these rooms are designed for alpine skiing, they may be inconvenient for Nordic skiing.

The organizer plans to provide one shared wax table available for free use. However, it is expected to be difficult for a large number of people to use it. Therefore, the organizers strongly recommend that each country use the paid "Wax table."

21. Entering Japan / Visa Requirements

Please kindly check the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan's website for information regarding visas required for entry into Japan.

https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html

22. Travel Information

If you're planning a trip to Rusutsu Resort from overseas, the journey typically begins with a flight into Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, most conveniently via New Chitose Airport (CTS) near Sapporo. Thanks to its status as a major international hub, New Chitose receives flights from numerous Asian cities and often connects seamlessly with other global destinations through Tokyo's Narita or Haneda airports. For travelers coming from North America or Europe, it's common to book a multi-leg itinerary—either via a major Japanese gateway or another Asian city like Seoul or Hong Kong—before arriving in Sapporo.

Once you've touched down at New Chitose, the next stage is a roughly 120-minutes transfer to Rusutsu Resort. Although car rental is an option, for most visitors the easiest and most comfortable method is a door-to-door coach service that runs directly between the airport and the resort.

If you prefer more flexibility, consider renting a car. Hokkaido's well-maintained roads and scenic landscapes make for a pleasant drive, but remember that winters can be snowy and challenging for those unaccustomed to such conditions. Another option is to catch a train from New Chitose to Sapporo Station, then transfer to a bus bound for Rusutsu. While this route takes a bit more effort, it can be an appealing choice if you'd like to explore Sapporo's city center—its eclectic dining scene, smart city innovations, and high-speed internet infrastructure—before heading into the tranquil, snow-kissed world of Rusutsu.

Check more about Rusutsu-resort at <https://rusutsu.com/en/>

If there is no bus available at your preferred time, please contact us. We will negotiate with the bus company to arrange additional services.

23. Waxing Facilities

- A dedicated waxing space will be provided for countries that have applied in advance.
- A waxing table (with space for two vises) will be set up within the waxing space.
- Please bring your own 100V iron or a transformer.
- If you need to rent an iron, we will lend irons with a maximum temperature of approximately 170°C in a 100V environment. Please contact us if you have any special requests.
- Waxing space is available 24 hours a day, and the wax space (wax table) will be available from 9 AM on February 23rd to 5 PM on March 7th.
- A ski testing area will be set up near the hotel.
- If teams bring additional wax tables of their own to place in the pre-registered wax space area, there is no restriction on placing additional items inside the space, but it may be a bit cramped, so if you need an additional table, we recommend reserving two spaces.

24. Regional Information

There are two 24-hour convenience stores directly in front of Rusutsu Resort. You can purchase daily necessities, groceries, fruit, and more. Within Rusutsu Resort, there are also many restaurants, bakeries, and stores selling daily necessities and alpine skiing gear. However, these stores do not sell cross-country skiing equipment or wax.

25. Ban of Fluorinated Waxes

The use of fluorinated waxes is forbidden.

For background and FAQs in this regards, please see the information provided by the IOF:

<https://orienteering.sport/skio/faq-ban-of-fluorinated-waxes-in-skio/>

Details of the implementation during the competitions in Rusutsu will be given in a later bulletin.

The use of fluorinated waxes is forbidden. If used previously, all equipment (skis, waxing irons, scrapers, brushes, ski bags, ...) must be thoroughly cleaned of fluorinated substances. It is not allowed to bring fluorinated waxes to the event.

Spot checks and testing of equipment for fluorinated compounds may take place.

For background and FAQs in this regard as well as cleaning guidelines, see the information provided by the IOF: <https://orienteering.sport/skio/faq-ban-of-fluorinated-waxes-in-skio/>

All competitors are required to fill out, sign and hand in to the event office a declaration of conformity. A Team Official representing a national team may make the declaration on behalf of the entire team. A signed declaration is mandatory for participation in the event.

The form can be downloaded here: [IOF Ban on fluorinated products.pdf](https://orienteering.sport/skio/faq-ban-of-fluorinated-waxes-in-skio/)

and will be available in printed form at the event office.

26. Anti-Doping

Doping is strictly forbidden, and the organisers of the WSOC are committed to supporting the Anti-Doping authorities in their work. Doping controls may be carried out at any time during the competitions, in accordance with the procedures set out in the WADA International Standard of Testing and Investigations. The latest IOF Anti-Doping Rules and the World Anti-Doping Code apply. Athletes who are selected for doping control must bring an official identification (with photo) to the doping control station. They should also present their personal Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) if applicable. In general, athletes are advised to take their ID to all competitions and events. A photocopy of passport is acceptable as an official identification.

For more information, please consult [Anti-Doping / IOF](#)

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For more information, please consult Anti-Doping / IOF (<https://orienteering.sport/iof/anti-doping/>).

27. Registration of Media and Federation Representatives

Please direct media enquiries and other questions or requests to the Event Office via contacts given below.

28. Opportunities for training

28.1. About the Training courses

There are several cross country skiing courses near Rusutsu resort.

(Kuyan: 2×2km course, Kyogoku: 2km course, Kimobetsu: 3km course)

Bus transportation will be prepared by request from 1 week(Feb/23 Mon) before the competition. (Bus will departs on around 9:00 and 13:30 every day by request, only for who stays at Rusutsu resort.) It takes about 10-20 minutes to the training area. The destination will vary depending on the day.

There are cross country ski courses only, no snowmobile track but map will be prepared. For this service, you need to pay 10,000 yen for whole period or 3,000 yen/per day. We can offer the same price for accommodation at Rusutsu-resort for the training camp.

If you would like to go to training on March 4th(rest day), please let the Event Center know by 5:00 PM on March 2nd. We are also planning to arrange buses to Sapporo (10,000 yen round trip) for sight seeing.

28.2. About Model Event

Model Event will be held at a location approximately 10 minutes by bus from Rusutsu Resort.

28.3. About Public Race (Feb 25, Feb 26 , Feb 28, and March 7)

For details regarding the Public Races, please refer to <https://wsoc2026.jp>.

Transportation from Rusutsu Resort is planned for all events.

29. Contact

Japan Orienteering Association,
4th floor, JAPAN SPORT OLYMPIC SQUARE, 4-2,
Kasumigaoka-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan

TEL : +81-3-5843-1907

e-mail : wsoc2026@gmail.com (About the competition)

e-mail : wsoc2026_hotel@o-hokkaido.com (About the accommodation & other requests)

Web : <https://wsoc2026.jp>

30. Thanks to our Sponsors and Partners





31. FAQ

Regarding the FAQ, we have created a Q&A on our website, so please check it.
<https://wsoc2026.jp/new/faq.html>