

(Note: See the separate documents on the Club website *Resources* page - *Setting Bush Courses at the Correct Standard* and *Urban Series - Course Setter's Guide* to ensure your planned courses are at appropriate standard for the different navigational levels and properly set).

There are two options for planning orienteering courses - **OCAD** and **Purple Pen**.

*Purple Pen* is a free program and is a bit simpler to use but has some limitations, while *OCAD* is a subscription product (the Club can provide course setters with an *OCAD* licence to use) but offers more flexibility and is the preferred file format for the final course file.

### Course Planning with OCAD

*OCAD* allows course planning with a background map file that is also in *OCAD* format (.ocd). The software is a Windows application but it is possible to run it on Mac or Linux. The club has licences for several editions of *OCAD*. The "*OCAD Course Setting*", "*OCAD Starter*" and full "*OCAD Orienteering*" editions all have the course setting functionality (there is also "*OCAD Viewer*" which is free to download but it only allows viewing and printing of maps and courses). The club's [mapping officer](#) (currently Geoff Todkill) can provide course planners with access to an "*OCAD Course Setting*" licence or an "*OCAD Starter*" licence ("*OCAD Starter*" also allows the user to do mapping updates).

IMPORTANT: You must use the correct and approved NOC *OCAD* planning template file to ensure the correct settings are used. There are separate templates for Bush, Urban/Sprint and MTBO course setting. The templates have the correct scale, control circle/control line specifications and the correct colour mix for overprinting. The correct template file can be obtained from the Club's [mapping officer](#).

To learn about course setting, after uploading *OCAD*, choose "Tutorials" from the "Help" menu and go "2.2 Course Setting". You can also view the document at [Getting Started with Course Setting in OCAD](#).

### Course Planning with Purple Pen

*Purple Pen* is a freeware program that provides an alternative to *OCAD* for planning orienteering courses. The software is a Windows application but it's possible to run it on Linux or Mac. The program is easy to use and can import both *OCAD* and *Open Orienteering Mapper* files as the background map.

IMPORTANT: You must use the approved, current NOC *Purple Pen* planning template file to ensure the correct settings are used. There are separate templates for Bush, Urban/Sprint and MTBO course setting. The templates have the correct scale, control circle/control line specifications and the correct colour mix for overprinting. The correct template file can be obtained from the Club's [mapping officer](#) (currently Geoff Todkill).

To learn the basics of course setting, after [downloading the PP program](#), choose "*Purple Pen* Help" from the "Help" menu.

These You Tube videos may also help: [Tutorial from Columbia River Orienteering Club](#), [Video from Gordon Bossley](#) .

PURPLE PEN TIP: How to add a marked (taped) route in *Purple Pen*.

You can add a marked route for the beginning, end, or for the full route between controls. Select the line between controls on a course, then from the top drop down menu go "Item" then "Leg Flagging". If you add a bend to the line between controls (top drop down, bent purple line = "Add Bend") you can then add a marked route before or after the bend point ("Beginning of Leg Flagged"/"End of Leg Flagged").