COURSE PLANNING RESOURCES

Course Planning with Purple Pen (PP)

PP is a freeware program that provides an alternative to OCAD in setting orienteering courses. The software is a Windows application, but it's possible to run on Linux or Mac. The program is quite easy to use and can import both OCAD and Open Orienteering Mapper maps. PP is being increasingly used by NOC and other clubs across the international community.

If you want to use PP for NOC events, please ensure you use the approved NOC PP template that will have the correct scale, correct control circle and control line specifications, and the correct colour mix for overprinting. You can obtain this file from our club's mapping officer (currently Geoff Todkill).

See a separate document on the resources page (Setting Courses at the Correct Standard) to ensure your planned courses are appropriate for the very easy, easy, moderate and hard standard.

After downloading the PP program, choose "Purple Pen help" from the "help" menu to learn the basics. These You Tube videos will also help you.

Tutorial from Columbia River Orienteering Club

Video from Gordon Bossley

PDF tutorial, including how to add marked routes

Course Planning with OCAD9

OCAD9 allows course planning with a map background that's also in OCAD9 format. A copy of OCAD9 can be obtained from NOC's mapping officer. While it's an old piece of software (over 30 years old), it can still provide an adequate course planning experience. However, both PP and the current version of OCAD (available only via a licence) are much easier to use and have a range of features not available on OCAD9.

You must use the NOC OCAD9 planning template file to ensure the correct settings are used. Obtain this from the club's mapping officer.

See the link to OCAD9 help on the Resources page for detailed advice about course planning with OCAD9.