

Hoyle's Mill

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**December 5
Sunday**



***Registration is now open! and will close Friday, December 3rd at 6 pm.
There will not be any day-of registration.***

Welcome to QOC's 05 December 2021 National Ranking Event at Hoyles Mill Conservation Park in Germantown Maryland, about 20 miles northwest of Washington DC. The area was mapped by QOC's Nadim Ahmed and was last used in May 2021 for the US Team Trials.

Hoyles Mill is a mostly trailless and flat wooded area. Contours are subtle and some areas are bland. Small rocky point features tend to be abundant for orienteering in the Washington, DC area. Green vegetation varies widely across the map but is well defined.

Course setter Sam Listwak has prepared a full set of fun classic courses (detailed notes below) for this NRE. What's an NRE (National Ranking Event)? Excellent question - for the answer, see the video below!

COVID-19 Risk Reduction: QOC's [COVID risk reduction protocols](#) [2], as also enumerated [here](#) [3], are in effect. Please read these guidelines carefully. Key points:

- **PROPERLY WORN MASKS ARE REQUIRED** at all times when near registration, epunch areas or other concentrations of participants or others.
- Water will not be provided. Provide for your own hydration needs before, during and after the event.
- No food or snacks will be provided.
- There is no planned, on-site beginner instruction, but beginners are encouraged to watch relevant videos such as [this one](#) [4] created by QOC's instructional guru David Onkst



Pre-registration: This event requires pre-registration which will open on Monday, Nov. 15 at noon. Pre-registration will be accessed from this webpage (via the Registration section below), Each registration will have the option to choose group or individual registrations. Note that group participants are ineligible for National Ranking.

During pre-registration, all runners will select a check-in window. The corresponding start window for that runner is the window immediately following the check-in window. Example: if your check-in window is 9:40-10am, your start window is 10-10:20am (and so that's when you should be at the start). The windows run from 10 am to 1:30 pm. The pre-registration site will show how many slots in each window are left at any given point in time. Payments must be made at time of registration. Entry fees are detailed below.

Note that all starts between 10 am and 12pm afford NRE runners a full three hours to complete their courses; starts after 12 do not.

QOC will not issue refunds except in the case of event cancellation, participant illness or quarantine. However, if you do decide not to attend after having pre-registered, please use our [Contact Us](#) [5] form to let us know.

Embargoed Area: Per OUSA rules, the Hoyles Mill Conservation Area North and West of the Soccerplex are embargoed for visitation.

Directions: See below for directions.

Parking: The directions should take you to the parking area in the Soccerplex for Fields 12 and 13, where event registration and check in will be located. To promote COVID 19 risk reduction, we ask that everyone follow a "come, run, leave" approach to this event. Arrive only when you need to in order to check in on time, and once your run is completed, please vacate the area.

Check-in and Start: The event check-in location will be along the north edge of the parking lot for Fields 12 and 13. Event check-in will begin at 9:40 am. After check in go to your starting area. We are using start windows to spread participants out evenly across the day and minimize concentrations of people in any one location, so please arrive at check-in and your start location in accordance with the check in window chosen during pre-registration.

You need to check in with both registration and e-punch. Registering means you have a starting time window and we've planned for the right number of maps to print, but we understand that changes happen. Checking in with both registration and the e-punch team means you'll have the right course in the system before you reach Start.

There are two start locations planned:

- White, Yellow, Orange is about 90 meters west from Registration and check in near the parking lot for field 13.
- Advanced courses start across field 15, about 300 meters from the registration area, an estimated 5-minute walk at max from the parking lot for field 13.

There will be a clothing drop near Start. Clothing will be periodically moved near the Finish. The last action runners will take before departing check-in for their starts is to pick up their clue sheets. The start location for the Advanced courses is about 300 meters (5 minutes walk) southwest from check in and will follow a streamered route. The start location for White, Yellow, and Orange is about 90 meters (less than a minute's walk) west from check in.

Keep in mind that you will NOT be assigned a specific start time. Instead, you will arrive at the line leading to the start during your start window and move up in line until you reach the map pick-up and then the start control where the timer will give the instruction to punch start. All courses have distinct first points. Start volunteers will re-order the line as necessary to ensure that runners on the same course do not directly follow one another and that there is a minimum two-minute interval between same-course runner starts.

Note for those new to orienteering at a national event: When your map is issued to you at the start, keep it folded or face-down until you have punched start at the timer's instruction. At that point, you can turn the map over and look at it. Also, it's considered cheating to use a GPS watch or any type of electronic/navigational aid to figure out where you are. [Both of these are best to follow for local events as well, by the way.]

Finish and Departure: Finishers will proceed immediately to the e-punch table to download and then



pick up any dropped clothing. Since we are operating under a COVID-induced "come, run, leave" policy, runners will NOT have to surrender their course maps for subsequent retrieval. Do not show your map to any competitor who has not started yet; we ask that you fold your maps and move immediately to your vehicle for departure. Please download at the e-punch table even if you did not finish your course, so we know you have cleared the area.

Safety:

- Observe all COVID-19 risk reduction measures as described above, especially the guidance on being prepared to meet all your own hydration needs
- Come prepared for early December weather in Germantown MD; average high in mid-upper 40s; average low in low-mid-30's
- White, Yellow and Orange courses all cross the Soccerplex entrance road to the Parking Area or cross the Parking Area itself. We do not anticipate non-Orienteering traffic, but we ask drivers and runners to remain alert.
- The nature of the terrain will lead you to want a change of shoes and socks (at least) if the weather has been at all wet. Prudence strongly suggests bringing a change.
- 911 is primary medivac number
- Local urgent care centers are:
- Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, 19801 Observation Drive, Germantown, Maryland 20876, 301-557-6000