



Queen of the Hills

A National Ranking Event Sanctioned by Orienteering USA

Saturday, November 4 – Sunday, November 5, 2023

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 - Iron Hill Park, DE

- **8:45 am:** First shuttle bus from Praise Assembly Church to Iron Hill Arena.
- **9:00 – 11:00 am:** Registration table open in Arena (if you need to pick up rental e-punches, or for information/changes. NOTE: We are NOT using race bibs.)
- **10:00 am:** First Competitive start (assigned start times)
- **10:30 am – 12 pm:** Recreational starts (open start)
- **3:00 pm:** Courses close; all competitors must return to finish/download
- **4:30 – 7:00 pm:** [Happy Hour](#) / dinner @ [Iron Hill Brewery](#), 147 E. Main Street, Newark, DE (Reservation is under "Queen of the Hills" in the back room.) No pre-registration; first come, first served.
- **5:00 Juniors Get Together/Dinner** @ Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant (above)
& **7:00 PM Juniors Course Review** at Headquarters Hotel: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Elkton, 1570 Elkton Rd, Elkton, MD

SPECIAL NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 am Sunday morning. Remember to turn the clocks back one hour.

Sunday, Nov 5, 2023 - Fair Hill Park, MD

- **8:00 – 10:00 am:** Registration table open in Arena (if you need to pick up rental e-punches, or for information/changes. NOTE: We are NOT using race bibs.)
- **9:00 am:** First Competitive start (assigned start times)
- **9:30 – 11:00 am:** Recreational starts (open start)
- **2:00 pm:** Courses close; all competitors must return to finish/download
- **~1 pm:** Awards

Directions and Parking:

Day 1 – Iron Hill (coordinates 39.6291520, -75.7633904)

- **From the North:** Take I-95 South to Exit 1A, Rt. 896S. Merge onto DE 896 South (going North will put you in UD football traffic) and follow to the first traffic light at Old Baltimore Pike. Turn right on Old Baltimore Pike and travel 1.3 miles southwest to **Praise Assembly Church** on the right (just past Iron Hill Park). Park at the Church. *Shuttle buses will run between parking and the Arena beginning at 8:45 AM.* Starts are fairly close to bus drop-off and toilets; see Arena layout below.
- **From the South:** Take I-95 north to Exit 109, MD 279 North, and follow signs for MD 279N / Newark DE. After merging onto MD 279, go 0.9 miles and turn right onto Iron Hill Road. *Turn left when Iron Hill Road T-s into W Chestnut Hill Road. At the first traffic light (Otts Chapel Road) turn right, and continue approximately 1.5 miles to Old Baltimore Pike. Turn left onto Old Baltimore Pike and look for signs for parking at Praise Assembly Church on the left. *Shuttle buses will run between parking and the Arena beginning at 8:45 AM.* Starts are fairly close to bus drop-off and toilets; see Arena layout below.
- **From the meet headquarters** on MD 279, turn right to head north for about a quarter mile and turn right onto Iron Hill Road, and continue from * above.

Day 2 – Fair Hill (coordinates 39.6884614, -75.8413730)

- **From the North:** From I-95, take Exit 109A-109B toward Newark, Delaware, then keep right to continue on Exit 109B. Follow signs for MD-279N / Newark, DE. **Merge onto MD 279N. In about 0.8 miles, ***turn left onto MD 277 W (Fletcherwood Rd). Continue on MD 277/ Fletcherwood Road—which becomes Elk Mills Road—for about 3 miles, then turn right onto Russell Road. In about 0.5 miles, turn left onto Gallaher Road and watch for O signs.
- **From the South:** From I-95, take Exit 109A and continue from **.
- **From the meet headquarters:** Turn right to head North on MD 279 and follow directions above from ***.

Restrooms

Saturday, November 4th - IRON HILL: There will be 3 porta-potties next to Arena/start – these are park toilets. Finish is 400+ meters away and there will be no toilets at the finish. **There will be no toilets at the Church Parking Lot**

Sunday, November 5th - Fair Hill There will be 3 porta-potties next to the finish/arena.

Restroom facilities at the start will depend on the weather (if raining, the porta-potty company

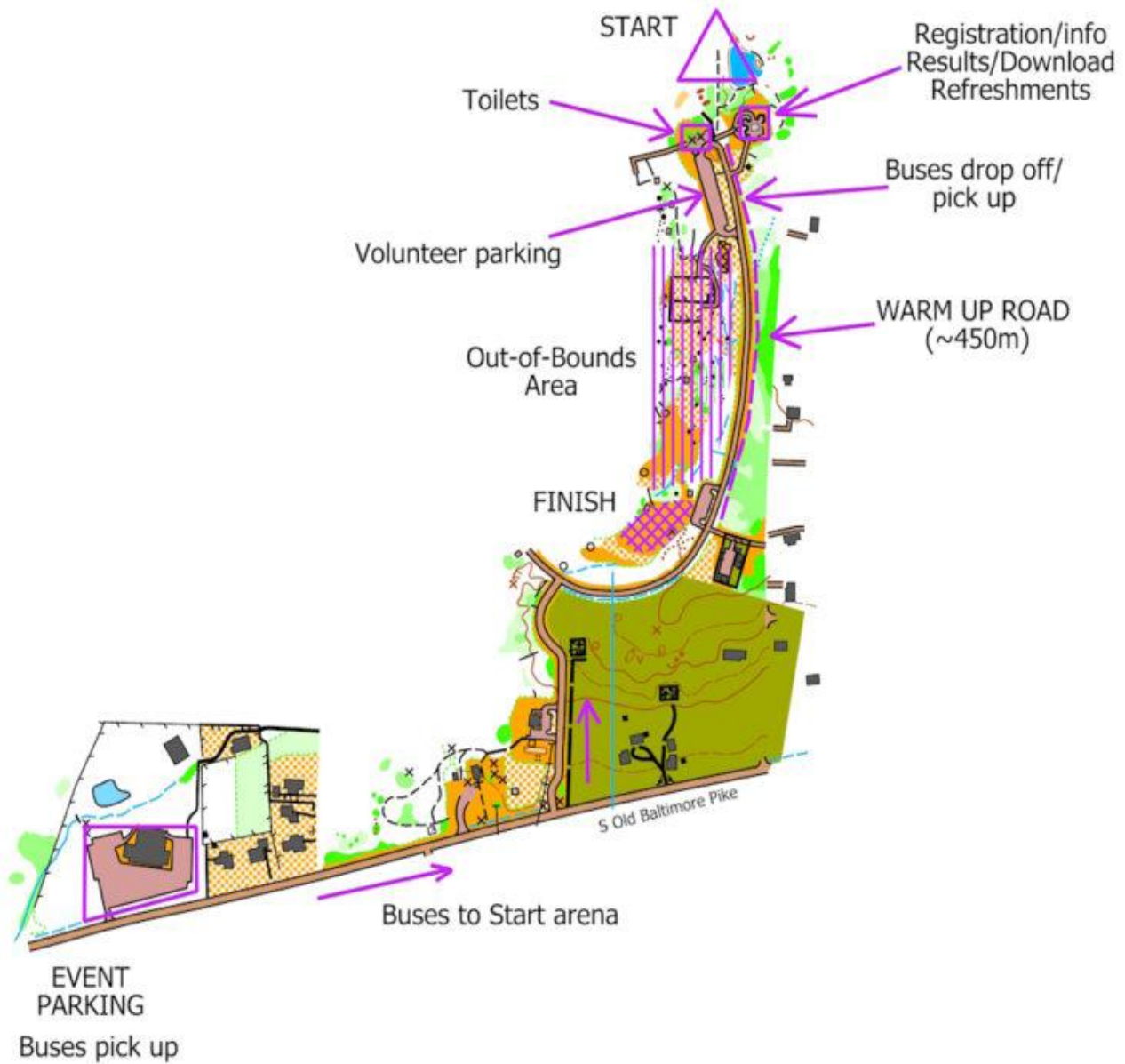
won't be able to get to the start, which is a 1.2 km walk from the Arena)

Open and Embargoed Terrain

The competition area of the park is closed to competitors before their race(s) – under “embargo” per orienteering rules since announcement of the event. Use warm up areas designated on the Arena maps below.

Meet Notes:

Saturday, Nov 4, 2023 - Iron Hill Park, DE



Please be mindful of others in the forest. This park is quite popular among disc golf enthusiasts. While there are no scheduled tournaments on the day of our event, you might encounter recreational players in the disc golf area on pleasant days. We have placed signs in the park warning disc golfers of our event.

START Day 1:

WALK TO START: 50 meters The Start Call-up Line is just outside of the Registration/Results.

Start Procedure:

Clear and check in the start area before call-up. When your start time appears on the call-up clock, the call-up person will check off your name and ask you to enter the first box. (The call-up clock is set 3 minutes ahead of actual race time.)

At the beep move to the second box, which will have loose control descriptions.

At the next beep move to the third box and to the map for your course. Pick up your map, but do not turn it over. You may ask the start crew to check that it is the correct course.

On the long beep, **punch the start box**, turn over your map, and enjoy your course! **NOTE: SI AIR users also must manually punch the start control** (it is not in "air / beacon mode").

Actual Start Triangle is 70 meters ahead of you on the trail. Your time will be calculated from the time you punched the Start box.

FINISH: 450 meters from Download at the Pavilion

After you finish, walk the marked route to the download/results/refreshment area in the Pavilion. *NOTE: If you are renting an SI stick (e-punch), please turn it in at Download. If you are competing at Fair Hill you can collect it again Sunday morning at Registration/Information.*

NRE ENTRANTS ONLY - COLLECT YOUR "GIVE AWAY" GIFT after YOU DOWNLOAD!



Sunday, Nov 5, 2023 - Fair Hill Park, MD



Fair Hill Park is a prestigious 5-star equestrian designation; you may see some beautiful horses! Be aware of horses and riders on the trails, and respect their right of way. Horses have the right of way.

START Day 2:

WALK TO START: 1200 meters

(Note) it is possible there are no toilets next to start – if it rains, the porta-potty company won't be able to get to the start. (will confirm closer to the event)

Start Procedure: Same as Day 1. The Start Triangle is 20 meters from the Start box. Finish is in the Arena.

Pet Policy

Pets are allowed in Iron Hill and Fair Hill Park but must remain leashed. Per OUSA Rule A.33.9, no animals with the exception of verified service animals may accompany competitors on the course.

Awards

All participants in competitive classes are eligible for awards. Since it is a combined time, two-day event, award eligibility requires running the same class both days. The awards ceremony is scheduled to start around 1 PM on Sunday or after the results are calculated! Awards will take place in the Arena at Fair Hill.

Class & Course Details

Standard Orienteering USA course & class structure:

Blue – M/F-21+

Red – F-21+, M-20, M35+, M40+, M45+, M-Red

Green X – M-18, M50+, M55+, M60+, M-Green,

Green Y – F-20, F35+, F40+, F45+, F50+, F-Green

Brown X – F-18, F55+, F60+, F65+, M65+, M70+, M75+

Brown Y – F70+, F75+, F80+, F85+, F90+, M80+, M85+, M90+, F-Brown,
M-Brown

Orange – F-16, M-16, F-Orange, M-Orange

Yellow – F-14, F-Yellow, M-14, M-Yellow, REC-Yellow

White – F-10, F-12, M-10, M-12, F-White, M-White, REC-White

Saturday - Day 1, Iron Hill County Park, DE

Course	Length	Climb	# Controls	Scale
Blue	9.7 km	225 m	33	1:10,000
Red	7.3 km	190 m	27	1:10,000
Green X	4.8 km	100 m	16	1:10,000
Green Y	4.3 km	110 m	15	1:10,000
Brown X	3.1 km	60 m	11	1:7,500
Brown Y	2.8 km	45 m	9	1:7,500
Orange	3.2 km	70 m	12	1:7,500
Yellow	2.2 km	55 m	8	1:7500

White	1.7 km	30 m	7	1:7500
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Sunday - Day 2, Fair Hill Park, MD

Course	Length	Climb	# Controls	Scale
Blue	12.0 km	385 m	30	1:10,000
Red	8.1 km	295 m	22	1:10,000
Green X	6.3 km	185 m	15	1:10,000
Green Y	5.3 km	135 m	14	1:10,000
Brown X	4.6 km	135 m	10	1:7,500
Brown Y	4.0 km	105 m	11	1:7,500
Orange	4.5 km	125 m	12	1:10,000
Yellow	3.8 km	90 m	11	1:7,500
White	2.4 km	65 m	11	1:7,500

Late Starts

If you miss your start, you will be assigned a new start time by the start crew. You may have to wait until a time slot is available on your course.

Recreational Starts

Upon arrival, REC competitors should check in at Registration, pick up SportIdent cards if reserved, and report to the start where a crew member will assign you a start time. Let Registration know of any roster changes (JROTC Teams). Remember to clear and check your e-punch in the Start area.

Clothing Drop & Water

Day 1 will have NO clothing drop. Finish is 450m away from the start/Arena/download.
Day 2 will have a clothing drop near the start. Items will be transported back to the finish arena.

Water will be available at or near the start both days.

SI Air - SportIdent ActiveCards (SIAC)

BOTH Days are SI Air-Enabled

- CLEAR and CHECK your SIAC as normal when arriving at the start. Reminder: The CHECK station switches on your SIAC with a normal beep & flash sequence. After that, there is a (faint) green LED flash (at 4 second intervals) visible on the tip of your SIAC.
- After passing the first call-up line, CHECK your SIAC again. The second CHECK will NOT turn off your SIAC.
- All users, including SIAC users, **must directly punch the START box**. It is NOT in beacon mode. All other controls (including the FINISH control) will be in beacon mode. **It is your responsibility to direct punch if beacon mode fails.**

Download and Live Results

After completing your course, please go directly to the download area.

Everyone must download, whether or not they complete their course; this is how we know that you are safely out of the woods.

If you are using a rental e-punch (SI card/stick), you will be directed to drop it into the container at Download. Anyone competing again on Sunday should stop by Registration at Fair Hill to pick it again.

There will be a computer screen with scrolling results. You can also use your smartphone to access live results with the QR Code printed on your map.

Time Limit

All courses have a time limit of **3 hours**. To prevent needless search & rescue operations, any competitor who exceeds this time limit must abandon their course and move expeditiously to Finish/Download. All competitors, including those who do not finish their courses, must punch finish and download—this is how we know you are safely out of the woods.

Complaints & Protests

Any protests will be handled in accordance with OUSA Rules of Competition. Complaints and protests must be submitted in writing to the organizers within one hour of course closure.

Map and Course Notes

SPECIAL NOTE FOR BLUE COURSE COMPETITORS:

Blue courses both days have 30 or more controls. If you own an SI-5 (# up to 499,999) or SI-8 (#2,000,000-2,999,999) e-punch stick, it will not hold all the control information. In such a case, ask at the Registration table for a loaner, and an SI-9 e-punch will be provided at no extra charge.

DAY 1, Iron Hill County Park

Course Setter: Sergey Ryzhkov

The Iron Hill map was professionally remapped in 2020 and used for a National Ranking Event in 2021. The map has been updated for our 2023 event by the course setter and by local mappers – aiming to update the most important changes at or near control sites, and anything else we spotted. If you are far from a control (or if another tree falls in the forest...), it's possible you'll find a new rootstock and downed-tree canopy green that we missed. Note that **rootstocks on the Iron Hill are mapped using the Brown "X"** (not IOF standard).

Blue, Red, and both Green courses use 1:10,000 maps; all other courses will have 1:7500 scale maps at Iron Hill, with 5-meter contour intervals.

The park is relatively small for a classic distance course, so expect a number of twists and turns (check that the line does go to the next control!) – and check your control codes.

On the Red & Blue courses, there is a map flip partway through the course – the first part of your course is printed on one side of the paper, and the second part on the other side. There are also a lot of controls – so many that, not only will the control descriptions on the map say “Red 1” for side one and “Red 2” for side two (and same for Blue), but also the loose descriptions will also come in two pieces corresponding to the sides of the map. Make sure to take both sets!

Be aware that some courses have loops where a control is used more than once. When this happens, the control sequence numbers are written side by side with a slash. For example, “6/10” means the control point is both your 6th and 10th control. Ex. The course order may then go 1 -> 2 -> 3 -> 4 -> 5 -> 6/10 -> 7 -> 8/11 -> 9 -> 6/10 -> 8/11 -> 12 -> 13.... You must punch each time you visit the control, even if it is your second (or third) visit.

The terrain is growing increasingly open with some long stretches of white forest, as well as some areas of reduced visibility, and many areas of complex contour detail thanks to the history of iron mining. In addition to many mapped large and medium boulders (generally larger than 1m high to be mapped, individually or in clusters), there are some small areas of mapped stony ground – as well as several areas of forest with a scattering of basketball-sized chunks of iron-ore rich rocks that are often too small to be mapped, but can still present a hazard to your footing.

In addition to interesting contour detail – often with 5-10 meters of climb to be avoided in good small-scale route choices over less than a 100m distance – there are numerous pits,

depressions, small trails, and landscaped Disc Golf forest cuts to keep things interesting. Speaking of Disc Golf, we have placed signs in some areas to notify Disc Golfers of our planned presence, but the park has not closed the course, so there may still be some flying discs on the fairways. It may be worth looking both ways before crossing them. Disc Golf targets are mapped with a black circle, "O", but they are movable, so don't be surprised if there's nothing where the map says there might be one – i.e. don't rely on the Disc Golf targets for navigation.

It's Fall, so as usual, trails can often be obscured by leaves. This is especially true at Iron Hill, where there are a large number of small trails, some of which have insufficient foot traffic to clear or tamp down many of the leaves.

DAY 2, Fair Hill Big Chapel Park

Course Setter: Bob Agosta

Fair Hill Big Elk Chapel is part of the larger Fair Hill Natural Resources Management Area and the Maryland Park Service. The site was originally mapped in 2004 and the map has had periodic updates, including a 2023 partial map update focused on control locations and routes for the November 2023 NRE using LiDAR and field checks.

The area is trisected by longitudinal Gallaher Road to the west, and the Big Elk Creek to the east. To avoid a road crossing, there will be a picturesque 1.2 km walk/warm-up to the start, from the parking/Arena/registration area to the west of Gallaher Road. White, Yellow, Brown Y, and Brown X courses will receive maps scaled at 1:7,500. All other courses including Orange will have 1:10,000 scale maps. All maps have 5-meter contour intervals.

All courses will visit the best wooded areas and open fields west and east of Gallaher Road, with Red and Blue courses venturing into wooded areas east of the Big Elk Creek. There are two mapped crossing points along Gallaher Road and while this is a low volume, 2-lane road, everyone is encouraged to use caution while crossing the road at these points. Signs will be posted to calm vehicular traffic in this area. **Courses crossing the Big Elk Creek will have mandatory bridge crossings.** Advanced courses should expect wet feet crossing several smaller waterways.

Fair Hill is a popular equestrian center and mountain biking area. The area will remain open to public use during our event. Trail etiquette at this park requires bikers to yield to hikers/runners, and both hikers/runners and bikers to yield to equestrian users. Horses are large flight animals, and when frightened may cause injury to themselves, riders, or others around them. While many of the controls and course legs are on non-equestrian trails and off-trail areas, you may encounter an occasional group of equestrian riders on major connecting trails – give them lots of space!

Rootstocks on Fair Hill are mapped with a Green "X" (symbol #419) and include those larger than 1.5 meters that have been recently updated in control location areas. There are many other rootstocks that have not been mapped. Wooded area perimeters are generally dark green and not passable with few light green or clear trail opening penetrations – choose your routes carefully. Rough open fields have had at least one seasonal mowing and should be very runnable. Groomed equestrian arenas are marked out-of-bounds – please do not run or walk in these areas.

Water will be available on the courses.

Health and Safety

1. **REMEMBER TO DOWNLOAD!** All participants must report to download after finishing, or retiring from, their course. This is how we know that you are safely out of the forest.
2. First aid equipment will be in the arena each day. First aid certified club members are available if needed.
3. Courses close at 3 PM on Saturday and at 2 PM on Sunday. All participants must report to download by course closing time.
4. Participants are required to carry a whistle with them on courses.

Emergency Resources

Police/Fire/Ambulance: 911

Hospital / Urgent Care: ChristianaCare, Christiana Hospital, 4755 Ogletown-Stanton Road, Newark, DE 19718. Phone +1 302-733-1000

Many thanks to our amazing volunteers for making this orienteering event possible!