Golden Goat, Black Diamond Mines, Sunday Nov. 22, 2026

Course Setter's Notes — By François Léonard



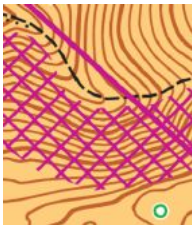






Safety Warnings

- **There are dangerous cliffs and steep slopes in the park. Some of them are marked as out-of-bounds with red cross-hatched patterns. Stay out of these areas.**



- **For one of the legs you will have to cross a long, steep area that is marked as out-of-bounds. There are two corridors (marked on the map) that you can use, or you can go**

around on the North side. Don’t cross any other place! It is dangerous and unfair to the other competitors.

- **The main road is allowed, but be careful and respectful of motorists and cyclists. Be aware that it is fenced on both sides. It is possible to get across, but requires some effort to crawl under two fences. If you plan on skipping many controls, you may want to consider this in your planning.**
- **There are fences throughout the park. Look for gates that are indicated on the map like this:**



Note the gap in the fence and the two small perpendicular lines. You can also cross without using a gate, usually made easier by crawling under.

- **Some areas of the map have very thick vegetation, indicated on the map with the dark-green coloring. Don’t be tempted. It’s the same stuff that is at the center of black holes.**

  In this example, the trail is perfectly fine, but you don’t want to go off-trail.



- **There is a small amount of poison oak here and there. It’s in the form of low sticks 2–3 feet high, or dense small bushes, or in some of the steeper reentrants. It is usually quite visible and mapped as light-green areas or dark-green bushes. You do not need to go through any of it during the courses.**
- **Depending on the weather, the park might have lots of other people (hikers, mountain bikers, cavers) enjoying the park. Please be considerate. Don’t be rude if someone is blocking part of your way, don’t startle people, and give way to mountain bikers.**
- **The cemetery is out-of-bounds. Ghouls are the main safety concern.**

Map

The map, which is completely new, was created in 2026 using LIDAR from 2022. Computer drafted and field checked throughout 2026, the map follows IOF standards.

The maps will be printed at 1:8250 scale, so they can fit on 12"x18" paper. The contour interval is 5 m.

Open areas are mapped with a yellow hue between the standard-open and rough-open yellows to reflect the changing conditions throughout the year (i.e., grass height).

In addition to the out-of-bounds areas where the terrain is steep (see the Safety Warnings) there are also areas that are outside the park boundary. These are also marked with the out-of-bounds cross-hatch. You will come close to some of these areas, but there is no reasonable route choice that would take you through them, and they are delimited by fences.

The map and courses go near the edge of the available LIDAR data. The contour lines get a bit distorted very near the edge but not where the controls are.

Rock features take different forms

Cliff with teeth—uncrossable, dangerous: 

Cliff *without* teeth—uncrossable, dangerous: 
Used to declutter the map when there are many features close together.

Boulder: 

Group of boulders: 

Small boulders: 
If you see one dot, it usually means that a small distinct boulder is there. If there are several dots together, it means that several small boulders are there and not mapped individually.

Boulder field: 

Small cliffs: 

Vegetation:

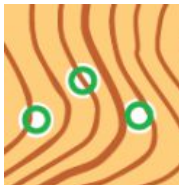
White forest is usually not dense, consisting mainly of sparse oak trees.

The clearings and associated vegetation boundaries were accurately drawn and can be reliably used for navigation. If it looks like there is more than one tree together it is mapped as a white patch. Individual trees are discussed below.



Light-green vegetation requires more effort to get through for various reasons. 

Areas with sparse bushes are indicated like this: 
The green dots do not represent each individual bush, just that the area has many such bushes.

Large distinct trees: 
Most often oak trees, but not always.

Small distinct trees: 
These can be any type of tree that I judged to be smaller than most of the large distinct trees. Several kinds of species, usually not oak.

Fallen/ruined trees, green X: 
I made extensive use of this symbol. It can be a dead tree that has completely fallen down, a dead tree standing up, or a combination of the two. Some of these occupy a sizeable area on the ground, others not.

Sandy ground: 
Note the small black dots over an area. These are not rocks, it's sand.

Deadfall: 
In a couple of places there are small areas of deadfall, marked with the vertical, dashed, green lines.

Courses

The base course is 10 km (i.e., cumulative straight-line distances), with 750 m climb, and 21 controls. That course will be printed on all the maps.

However, all of the following course reductions are allowed (with varying effect on distance and climb, depending on skip selections):

Goat	skip 1 control
Kid	skip 3 controls
Pygmy	skip 5 controls
Decimicro	skip 7 controls
Nano	skip 9 controls
Pico	skip 12 controls
Femto	skip 15 controls

While you can skip controls, the remaining ones must be done in order. (For any of the options, you are free to skip *fewer* controls than the number shown. For example, skipping 8 controls will be scored as *Nano*.)

The Start is 1 km from the Assembly Area; the Finish is 100 m from the Assembly Area.

Water will be placed at two locations, indicated on the map with the cup symbol. One of the water stations is close to a control, but the water is **not** at the control—you have to go to the cup symbol (don't forget to punch the control!). Plan on carrying additional water if you feel you will need more.

Note: All the course options involve *advanced navigation*. **There will *not* be a Beginner course.**

Registration

You will most likely register for the *Goat* course and will be assigned to the appropriate course when you download.

Assembly Area

The Assembly Area is the first parking lot to your left after you pass the payment booth. Pay the $5 (cash or card) park fee, enter the parking lot, and follow the directions to park.

There is a public restroom and potable water from a spigot. We will also have bottled water and snacks.

Schedule

9:00–9:45 am	Registration
10:00 am	Instructions in Assembly Area
10:10 am	Walk to the Start (1 km)
10:30 am	Mass start
2:30 pm	Courses close—everyone must have returned to the Finish