

Course Setter's Comments

The terrain in Tapanila is typical pine forest, but due to the formation of the Salpausselkä ridges, the area contains many depressions — both large and small. As is common in pine forest terrains, there aren't many prominent details, so smaller features have been mapped as well (such as fallen trees, anthills, and individual boulder fields).

There are many ski tracks in the area, most of which are relatively flat with only little elevation change. Visibility near the ski tracks varies from poor to good, and thanks to forestry work carried out last autumn, visibility is in places exceptionally good. This allowed for the creation of a wide variety of tasks: some controls are just a few meters from the paths, while others are located nearly 100 meters away.

The **PreO sprint competition** serves well as a model event for the upcoming TempO and PreO1 competitions, which are held in a similar terrain. Forestry work has also been done along the sprint course, and the mapping style becomes clear during the race. The tasks are varied, and attention has been paid to select a wide range of control features.

Designing the **TempO competition** proved to be the most challenging in this terrain, as it was difficult to find locations with a good number of visible features. Eventually, eight suitable TempO stations were identified along the set route. Although the terrain near the stations is quite similar, the tasks themselves are diverse.

In the **PreO1 competition**, the terrain type will already be somewhat familiar to competitors from the PreO sprint and TempO events, but new challenges have still been introduced. As is typical in PreO, the tasks are more challenging and require more time and attention to solve — at least that is the hope! Along the course, there are some areas with tall grass, but these will be mowed where necessary. In addition, the course passes through a larger forestry area, where long-distance visibility is excellent.

The **PreO2 competition on Sunday** will be held in **Kiveriö**, where the terrain consists of more typical Finnish mixed forest. The course passes through areas of swampy spruce forest, young dense and mixed forest, as well as bare rock hill dominated by pine trees. In planning the course, the specific features of each terrain type have been considered, and the tasks are designed to suit each forest type. The map used for Sunday's competition is an updated sprint map, and therefore not as detailed as the Tapanila map used in the days prior. Nevertheless, the tasks are challenging yet unambiguously solvable.

Welcome and enjoy the tasks ahead!
Teemu Niskanen