

GREETINGS FROM THE COMPETITION DIRECTOR



Welcome to Keuruu and Keurusselkä Sports Park to compete for the Biathlon Orienteering World Championships and the Finnish Championship 2025. For two years, we practiced the Finnish Biathlon Orienteering Championships with Kalske from Kangasniemi and Jalas from Jalasjärvi.

When we were offered these competitions last year, we didn't have to think long when we accepted the challenge with the orienteering group of association Keuruu Kisailijat. As a competition director from Keuruu, I know the area very well, because I served in the Pioneer Regiment for 33 years, the old barracks area can be seen in the northern part of the map.

The Keuruu Cross-Country Sports Centre and its neighbourhood sports areas and terrain, as well as the Resort Hotel Keurusselkä, offer the best setting for biathlon orienteering competitions. I have the help of experienced officials and the city of Keuruu has supported the organization of the competitions nicely. Matti Peltola of Keuruun Kisailijat has updated the maps during the spring and summer, and Timo Sivil from Vaajakoski Terä has made a new sprint map of the area at the beginning of the summer. Supervisor Mister biathlon orienteering Mikko Hölsö has made sure that the level of requirements of the competition is worthy of the World Championships.

As a runner who has practiced the sport myself, I know that luck doesn't matter at all in these competitions, skills and physique makes the winners.

"IN THE FOREST

Here I walk in the countryside and in the swamp areas. Often, I get lost in the forests for the night, making containers, hymns, whisks and poems as a daily job.

In the twilight, knife marks remain, the smell of conifers and birch bark remains. What else if they only have rhythm and a lively wild run.

In the forest, you don't have time to measure every step with an elbow; They are listened with ear of forest and written with the mount of forest."

-Einari Vuorela, poet from Keuruu