

Press Release: Orienteering Achievement of 2018

16 athletes or teams from 14 different countries are nominated for the annual poll to find the most impressive achievements in international orienteering. The poll is organized by World of O – the major internet presence for international orienteering news. Voting is open until December 18th.

Winning a Gold medal at the World Championships is always a great achievement – but sometimes even getting to a World Championships final can be an even bigger achievement – based on what your starting point was. The stories behind the medals and the great achievements is what makes the sport truly fascinating! In “The Orienteering Achievement of the Year” these stories are highlighted – to make it possible to get a background for the amazing achievements.



Voting is open from December 13th until December 18th using the following links:

- [The Orienteering Achievement of 2018 - Men](#)
- [The Orienteering Achievement of 2018 - Women](#)

In the women's class Karolin Ohlsson (Sweden), Judith Wyder (Switzerland), Natalia Gemperle (Russia), Maja Alm (Denmark), Tove Alexandersson (Sweden), Marika Teini (Finland), Isia Basset (France) and Csilla Gardonyi (Hungary) are nominated. In the men's class Daniel Hubmann (Switzerland), Ruslan Glebov (Ukraine), Colin Kolbe (Germany), Ahmet Kacmaz (Turkey), Milos Nykodym (Czech Republic), Eskil Kinneberg (Norway), Gernot Ymsén Kerschbaumer (Austria) and Tim Robertson (New Zealand) are nominated.

The international sponsors for the Orienteering Achievement of 2017 are Sardinia 3x5 days (Italy), WOC 2019 Spectator races (Norway), Antalya Orienteering Festival 2019 (Turkey), Scottish 6-Days Orienteering Strathearn 2019 (Scotland), Aguiar da Beira "O" Meeting 2019 (Portugal), Lipica Open (Slovenia), International 24-hour relay (Germany), Danish Spring 2019 (Denmark), Velidken Cup 2019 (Bulgaria), Bubo Cup 2019 (Slovenia), Portugal "O" Meeting 2019 (Portugal), Edinburgh University's big weekend 2019 (Scotland), Wawel Cup 2019 (Poland), NAOM 2019 (Portugal). Prizes valued to more than 5500 Euro are drawn among lucky voters & the ones suggesting nominations.

More info: <http://poll.worldofdo.com/2018/>



Nominations: Orienteering Achievement of 2018 – Men



Ruslan Glebov

Nominated for

Culminating a great season with a silver medal at the World Orienteering Championships Long

Story

Ruslan Glebov got a surprise 2nd place at the World Cup final middle distance in Switzerland in 2015, but had since struggled to come close to that level in important races ahead of the 2018-season, except for a 4th place at World Games in 2017 (and 8000 EUR lost for those 2 seconds away from a 3rd place). This season the Ukrainian came well prepared despite a difficult economic situation, and showed a new stability in all disciplines with 4th and 5th places at the European Champs Sprint and Middle, just missing the medals twice. After disappointing results around 10-12 in Middle and Sprint, Glebov got it all out at the Long with a silver medal. Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



Colin Kolbe

Nominated for

The big surprise of the Junior World Orienteering Championship - first gold medal for Germany in 27 years

Story

Only once has a German been on top of the podium in the Junior World Orienteering Championships - back in 1991 on homeground Kristin Liebich won the first JWOC Middle distance. Now Germany are back on top, with a runner who was far from a pre race favorite. He had both the speed and the concentration to keep it all together the whole race on a tricky and varied sprintcourse. With passion and determination he made his way up to the top while the circumstances and the support in Germany is not the best for an orienteer. His PWT results later this year where he also could win a race and beat some well established top sprinters, showed, that his JWOC Sprint was not a one hit wonder and that there is more to come next years with the new found self-confidence! Photo: JWOC2018



Ahmet Kacmaz

Nominated for

The first ever WOC final for Turkey after finishing on an exceptional 2nd place in the qualification

Story

Kacmaz started doing orienteering late - at age 22 - missing some of the skills many of his competitors have by growing up with orienteering. He ran his first WOC already in 2008 finishing as one of the last runners in 32nd place. 10 years later he took Turkey to a WOC final the first time with a 2nd place in the qualification - and a 37th place in the final. Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



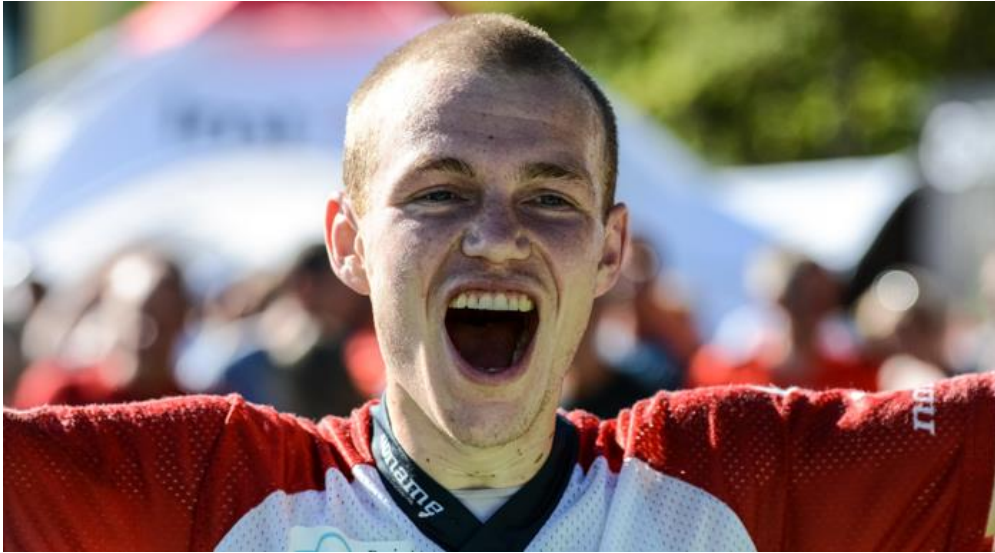
Milos Nykodym

Nominated for

Won his first World Cup victory on homeground, getting all out on the most important day

Story

Before this season, Milos Nykodym's best result in the World Cup was a 9th place, but after excellent winter training the Czech runner did his best ever individual result with a 7th place at the European Championships long distance this spring. This made Nykodym believe that everything could be possible at the World Cup final on homeground in autumn, in his own terrain. Nykodym prepared 100% for the middle distance at the World Cup final, even skipping the World Cup race the day before, and hit the jackpot. Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF



Eskil Kinneberg

Nominated for

Winning the middle distance at the World Orienteering Championships, out from the shadows of his team-mates

Story

Eskil Kinneberg has been running World class last legs in club relays for years and has been an important part of the Norwegian men's relay success. On club level he has been the big star, deciding several big relays for his club, but on the national team he has been more in the shadow of his team-mates. Even if you know you are good enough, actually having *that* performance on *that* day is what every athlete dreams of and Kinneberg did it, coming out of the shadows of his team mates. Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF



Daniel Hubmann

Nominated for

The first man to win three WOC Sprint titles - and making it the double with EOC Sprint victory the same season

Story

Emil Wingstedt has won the World Championships Sprint twice, so has Andrey Khramov - and so did Daniel Hubmann before this season. By defending his WOC Sprint title from last year, Hubmann is now alone on top with three World Championships titles in Sprint. Looking at all Sprint races since Hubmann's first WOC Sprint gold in 2011, Hubmann has not been the dominating runner, but he knows exactly how to get it all out on the day it counts. With 27(!) medals in 11 different World Orienteering Championships, Hubmann is truly exceptional. It is amazing how after so many World Championships, Hubmann is still able to make top results, culminating again with a gold medal! Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF



Gernot Ymsen Kerschbaumer

Nominated for

Bronze medal at European Championships Long and the first Austrian medal on the men's side ever

Story

For many years he is running in the "second line" of the world class - several times in top positions (some top 10 at the World Orienteering Championships, a podium at World Cup), but no real exploit. In 2018 he finally (at the age of 35) won his first individual medal in a big championship, a bronze medal at the European Championships Long in Switzerland. It was also the first Austrian medal on the men's side ever. Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



Tim Robertson

Nominated for

Stepping up on the big day to take his and New Zealand's first ever WOC medal

Story

Robertson was exceptional already as a junior, being nominated for "Orienteering Achievement of the Year" already in 2014, 2015 and 2016 for his fantastic sprint results, coming from a small orienteering nation. Now Robertson has taken another big step on the ladder with his silver medal at the World Orienteering Championships Sprint in Latvia. A man for the big occasions, devoted to his sport! Photo: Mareks Galinovskis, WOC2018

Nominations: Orienteering Achievement of 2017 – Women



Tove Alexandersson

Nominated for

Seven medals at the European and World Championships, of those four gold medals and medals in all five disciplines

Story

The Swedish multi-talent never stops impressing. This year Alexandersson dared to go for all disciplines in the World Championships, being awarded with medals in all disciplines except for the Middle where she showed her human side and did some big mistakes. However, with the silver medal from the European Championships Middle she still won medals in all disciplines. Alexandersson also won the Orienteering World Cup yet another time, and even showed the rest of the sports world her extreme capabilities by becoming SKY World Champion. Highly impressive! Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



Natalia Gemperle

Nominated for Taking the step to the top of the podium - winning the World Orienteering Championships Middle

Story

Natalia Gemperle had individual WOC medals in all disciplines ahead of the 2018-season - and had shown both impressive stability and that she can beat everybody on her best days. Getting it all out on the World Championships to win the gold medal is something special, though. Gemperle took the opportunity with both hands when Alexandersson struggled in the forest, and won her first WOC gold medal at the WOC middle distance. A nice and warming side story: Natalias twin sister Olga won the World Championships in MTBO over the Middle distance one day later! Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



Isia Basset

Nominated for

The biggest surprise of the orienteering season - bronze medal at WOC Middle and first ever for a French woman

Story

To say that Isia Basset was not among the main favourites ahead of WOC Middle 2018 is an understatement - her best World Cup result was a 16th place from the WOC Sprint in Strömstad back in 2016. But the French woman showed that with the best shape, right focus for the right distance and an excellent race plan everything is possible! This is the first medal for a French woman at WOC level ever - going in the footsteps of the strong men, including her brother Lucas. Photo: Janis Ligats, WOC2018



Marika Teini

Nominated for

Amazing victory at the EOC Middle in Switzerland - continuing to show class at WOC with silver

Story

Teini had shown the potential with some podiums in the World Cup in 2016 and 2017, but she did still amaze everyone with her victory at the Middle at the European Championships in Switzerland. She managed to keep cool and get her tight victory in the very tough, Swiss-friendly terrain, beating the almighty Tove Alexanderson and all of the strong, great Swiss girls on their home soil. Next, she proved that she can perform well in various terrains, as she won the silver medal at the very tricky middle distance in the world champs in Latvia. With that she is clearly the overall best Middle distance runner in the championships in 2018. Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF



Karolin Ohlsson

Nominated for

Into the World Orienteering Elite with a big BOOM: 3 - 2 - 2 - 1 in the final part of the World Cup and 2nd in the overall World Cup

Story

Karolin Ohlsson has been promising for years, but this year she has taken a big step up as an orienteer, being stronger both physically and mentally. Part of this is seen as her role in the Swedish relay team where she has been stepping out of Tove Alexandersson's shadow and becoming the woman who decides in relays for Sweden. Another part is her individual performances where she was the best woman in the final part of the World Cup. First she took her first two podiums at the World Cup Long and Chasing start in Norway, then she continued with a second place in the KO Sprint World Cup race in Czech Republic before finally climbing to the top of the podium with victory in the World Cup Final Middle distance. Photo: Mareks Galinovskis, WOC2018



Maja Alm

Nominated for WOC Sprint Gold for the 4th time in a row - always at the top when it really counts!

Story

Maja Alm has dominated the sprint discipline the last years - simply running away from the competition. This year she struggled more in the races in the run-up towards WOC, even missing the Sprint medal at the European Championships with only a 4th place. At the World Championships the Danish runner again showed what she is made of, and took her fourth WOC Sprint gold in a row. And to top that up, she also took the second WOC Long silver medal in a row, and nearly single-handedly won a medal for Denmark at the Sprint Relay. Interesting side story: Alm is aiming for the Olympics in athletics. Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF



Csilla Gardonyi

Nominated for

Gold and bronze at JWOC middle and sprint - first ever JWOC Gold for Hungary's women at the age of 17

Story

17-year old Csilla Gardonyi won the sprint at the European Youth Championships just a week ahead of the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) on homeground. At the start of JWOC she impressed everyone by taking the bronze at the Sprint, but her Middle victory was even more impressive. She also finished 9th at the long distance: 3 Top10 finishes from a 17 year-old girl at JWOC is highly impressive! Photo: JWOC2018



Judith Wyder

Nominated for

A wonderful comeback-year with three WOC medals and three EOC medals after childbirth

Story

Judith Wyder has been part of the orienteering elite for 10 years, but last season she took a year off due to childbirth. This year the Swiss woman wisely decided to put the focus where she could make the big results in the championships: On Sprint and on the relays. This decision gave her individual Sprint medals both at WOC and EOC and some fantastic experiences with her teammates, being a central part of the victories in the forest relays at both WOC and EOC, the victory at EOC Sprint Relay and the silver at WOC Sprint Relay. This also marks Wyder's withdrawal from the international orienteering scene; other sports challenges without map are now ahead. Photo: Matias Salonen, IOF