

BULLETIN 3

- South American Orienteering Championships 2026
- XXXI Latin Countries Cup 2026

Valid for WRE

www.saoc2026.cl

SAOC 2026
Pucón - Chile

Latinum Certamen ORIENTEERING

Organizer:

FEDERACIÓN CHILENA DE ORIENTACIÓN
FCO

IOF
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTEERING FEDERATION

Sponsors:

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SCHOOL-

The South navigates

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Invitation

Dear orienteers from South America and around the world

With great enthusiasm, the Chilean Orienteering Federation and the Organizing Committee of the 2026 South American Orienteering Championship (SAOC2026) have the honor of inviting the entire international orienteering community to participate in this new edition of the continental event, which will take place in Pucón, Chile, from November 12 to 15, 2026.

SAOC2026 will be a true South American orienteering "fiesta", with highly technical races in an incomparable natural setting: native forests, volcanic trails, lakes, and the mountains of the Araucanía. We look forward to the presence of national teams, clubs, elite, junior, and master athletes, as well as Orienteering enthusiasts of all ages and levels.

For four days, orienteering will be the meeting point for countries, cultures, challenges, and friendship, under the motto that unites and inspires us: **The South Navigates.**

We look forward to sharing maps, races, and unforgettable experiences in the south of our globe. **See you in Pucón!**

XXXI Latin Countries Cup – CPL2026

We especially extend a warm invitation to all member countries of the Latin Countries Cup, namely ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, SPAIN, FRANCE, GUATEMALA, ITALY, MEXICO, MOLDOVA, MOZAMBIQUE, PARAGUAY, PERU, PORTUGAL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ROMANIA, SWITZERLAND, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA and CHILE, as well as any other Latin American countries that wish to join, to submit teams for this edition of the **Latinum Certamen**, which will be held in parallel with the South American Orienteering Championships.

1st S-SAOC (South American Orienteering Championship for the Deaf)

SAOC2026 takes a historic step by strengthening the values of inclusion, diversity and universal access to the sport of orienteering by incorporating, for the first time, the 1st South American Orienteering Championship for the Deaf (S-SAOC).

Held in parallel with the official competitions, the S-SAOC is fully integrated into the event's sporting program, reaffirming South American Orientation's commitment to inclusive sporting practices, in line with international sporting guidelines.

The championship will feature specific categories for deaf athletes:

- MSA – Male Deaf
- WSA – Female Deaf

The goal of the S-SAOC is to guarantee equitable participation, respecting the specific needs of the deaf community, without abandoning the essential principles of orienteering: precise navigation, decision-making, accurate terrain reading, and physical preparation.

By promoting this unprecedented initiative at a continental event, SAOC2026 not only expands the reach of the sport but also positions itself as an active agent in valuing human diversity and building an increasingly accessible sport.

More than a competition, the S-SAOC represents a milestone in the development of orienteering in South America, pointing to a future where inclusion is an integral part of sporting growth.

It is a reaffirmation that orienteering is, truly, a sport for everyone.

SAOC2026 Organizing Committee, Chilean Orienteering Federation

Competitions and Dates

The South American Orienteering Championship, the Latin Countries Cup, and the South American Open will be held from **November 12 to 15, 2026**, in the municipality of **Pucón**, which will host the SAOC Event Center.

The following competitions will be held as part of the SAOC2026 event:

- SAOC: South American Orienteering Championship (WRE IOF)
- SAJOC: South American Junior Orienteering Championship (IOF)
- SAYOC: South American Youth Orienteering Championship (IOF)
- CPL: Latin Countries Cup (WRE IOF)
- O-SAOC: South American Open Orienteering Championship
- M-SAOC: South American Masters Orienteering Championship
- S-SAOC: South American Orienteering Championship for the Deaf

Program

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Thursday 12-11-2026	9:00 am to 10:00 pm	Arrival and accreditation of delegations and athletes	Event Center SAOC2026 Pucón
	10:00 am to 06:00 pm	Model/Training Event	Pucón, Sector Cerduo
	07:00 pm to 08:00 pm	SAOC2026 Opening Ceremony	Stadium Osvaldo Muñoz Carrillo, Pucón
Friday 13-11-2026	10:00 (*) am to 03:00 pm	Long Distance Competition (WRE)	Pucón, Sector Cerduo
	07:00 pm to a 08:00 pm	South American Federations and CPL Meeting	Pucón, further info in next Bulletin

Saturday 14-11-2026	10:00 (*) am to 2:00 pm	Middle Distance Competition (WRE)	Pucón, Sector Cerduo
	15:30 a 16:30	Long and Middle-Distance Awards Ceremony	Arena Media Distancia
	07:00 pm to 10:00 pm	SAOC BBQ Social Event	Pucón, further info in next Bulletin
Domingo 15-11-2026	9:00 am to 12:00 am	Sprint Competition (WRE)	Pucón
	01:00 pm to 02:00 pm	Sprint Awards Ceremony, SAOC2026 Closing Ceremony	Arena Sprint, Plaza de Armas Pucón

(*) Note: Due to the large number of registered competitors, the start times for the Elite categories (WE/ME) may be moved earlier. Any changes will be communicated in due course, along with the quarantine start time.

IOF Senior Event Advisor and National Event Advisor

IOF Senior Event Advisor (SEA)	Gilson Schropfer (BRA), gilsonschropfer@gmail.com
National Event Advisor	Carlos Saldías (CHI), cargassal@gmail.com

Organization

The event is organized by the Chilean Orienteering Federation.

Organizing Team

Event Director	Kai Ostermann
Administrative Director	Erwin Thieme
Start and Finish Director	Carlos Galdames
Technical Director	Jorge Puschel
Timing & IT Director	Manuel Ostermann
Associated Director	Nelson Yañez

Contact Information

Please direct all inquiries by email to the Event Secretariat at the following email address: info@saoc2026.cl

- Spanish speaking Contact: Georgina Sánchez Astudillo
- English speaking Contact: Kai Thomas Ostermann Valencia
- Portuguese speaking Contact: Raylane Barros

- Contact Address: La Concepción 81, Oficina 608,

  Providencia, Santiago, Chile

Regulations & Rules

The official regulations governing the competitions can be downloaded from the SAOC2026 website: https://saoc2026.cl/boletines-2/

- Competition Rules for International Orienteering Federation (IOF) Foot Orienteering Events 2026
- Competition Rules Regulations for the Latin Countries Cup 2026
- Regulations for the 2026 South American Orienteering Championship
- World Ranking Scheme Rules April 2026

Classes

The following categories will be available for competitors to participate in: W= Ladies, M= Men

SAOC (Elite)	WE / ME	no age limit
SAJOC (Junior)	W20E / M20E	born in 2006 and later
SAYOC (Juvenil)	W18E / M18E	born in 2008 and later
	W16E / M16E	born in 2010 and later

CPL	Senior	equivalent to WE / ME
	Junior	equivalent to W20E / M20E
	Cadete	equivalent to W18E / M18E

O-SAOC (Open)	W12 / M12	born in 2014 and later
	W14 / M14	born in 2012 and later
	W16 / M16	born in 2010 and later
	W18 / M18	born in 2008 and later
	W20/ M20	born in 2006 and later
	W21 / M21	no age limit

M-SAOC (Masters)	W35 / M35	born in 1991 and earlier
	W40 / M40	born in 1986 and earlier
	W45 / M45	born in 1981 and earlier
	W50 / M50	born in 1976 and earlier
	W55 / M55	born in 1971 and earlier
	W60 / M60	born in 1966 and earlier
	W65 / M65	born in 1961 and earlier
	W70 / M70	born in 1956 and earlier

For the South American Open competition, there will be no categories based on difficulty (A, B, N), but two introductory categories will be organized for novices under 18 years of age (N-MENOR) and novices 18 years of age and over (N-MAYOR).

Additionally, the FAM recreational class will be open without age restrictions for the South American Open, allowing family groups to participate on a special course.

If necessary, additional categories older than W/M70 will be opened.

For the open championship, the organizers reserve the right to combine categories if the number of entrants is less than three, which will be communicated to all Federations and competitors in a timely manner.

O-SAOC (Open) Beginners	N-MENOR	born in 2008 and later
	N-MAYOR	born in 2008 and earlier
	FAM	families

With the aim of strengthening the values of inclusion, diversity and universal access to the sport of orienteering, the following categories are opened within the framework of the 1st South American Orienteering Championship for Deaf Athletes (S-SAOC):

S-SAOC (Deaf Athletes)	WSA	Deaf woman athletes
	MSA	Deaf man athletes

XXXI Latin Countries Cup – CPL2026



True to the spirit of this competition, our organization will work enthusiastically to facilitate the reunion of athletes from each country and the exchange of experiences in a friendly atmosphere of sporting coexistence. Furthermore, the annual meeting of the member countries will be included in the program of activities for this event.

Each country will present a team composed of three women and three men:

- SENIOR WOMEN and MEN
- JUNIOR WOMEN and MEN
- CADET WOMEN and MEN

The entrants on each team will compete on the same DE/HE, D20E/H20E and D18E/H18E courses, so that the races of South American athletes will also be valid for the South American Orienteering Championship and the South American Junior Orienteering Championship.

- The country ranking is carried out taking into account only the official athletes registered by the countries (6 athletes).
- A team is included in the race classification when it has at least one participating representative.

- Points in the country rankings will be awarded as follows:
  - In each of the three events, and for each category, the first-place finisher will receive one point more than the number of teams present. The second-place finisher will receive two points less than the first-place finisher. The third-place finisher will receive one point less than the second-place finisher, and so on. A disqualified rider will not receive any points. The maximum points for each category will correspond to the participation of all countries, even if a country has no riders in a given category.

- The CPL regulations will apply as last updated following the meeting held in 2025.
- As indicated in the "Registration, Deadlines, and Fees" section of this newsletter, our organization will handle the registration of athletes registered with teams in the Latin Countries Cup, with the exception of South American athletes who also participate in the South American Championships. The registration deadlines are the same as those indicated in the "Registration, Deadlines, and Fees" section of this newsletter.

Technical Jury Members

In coordination with Senior Event Adviser Gilson Schropfer and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF), the following individuals have been appointed to the Technical Jury:

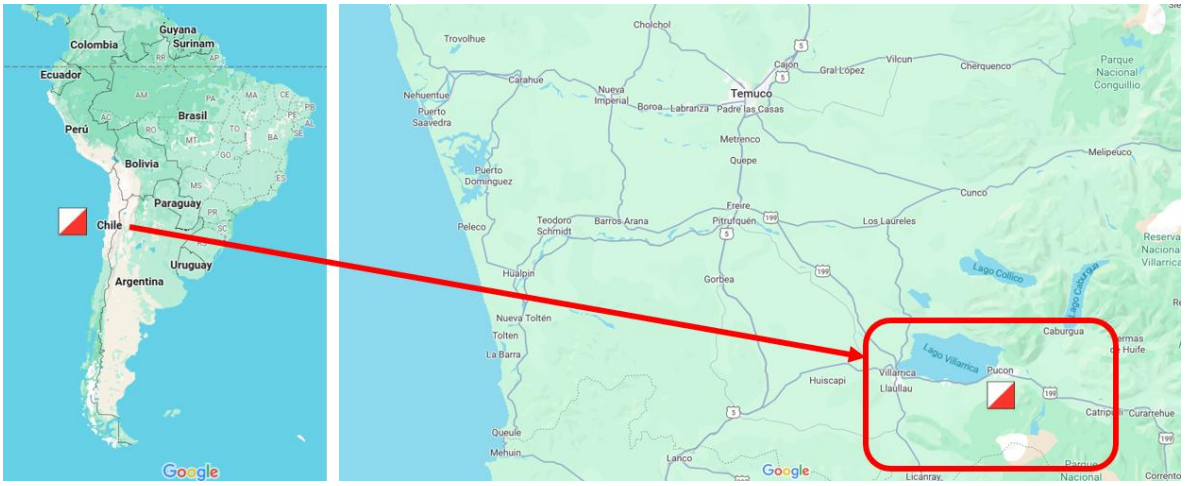
- Jhonny Francisco Segovia Romero (Ecuador)
- – Carlos Alberto Xavier (Brazil)
- – Unni Strand (IOF)

Reserve Members:

- – Alejandro Canese Ortellado (Paraguay)
- – Plinio Costa do Nascimento (Brazil)

General Map of the Region

The following map shows the general location of Pucón. The nearest regional capital is Temuco.



The South navigates

Competition Venues and Embargoed Areas

The South American Championship will be held in the Chilean city of Pucón and its surrounding areas, south of Temuco, capital of the Araucanía Region.

In accordance with IOF rules, all orienteering-related activities are prohibited in these areas from the date of publication of this bulletin until the end of the event. This includes organizing events, training sessions, terrain surveys, inspections, or any other actions that could create a competitive advantage for athletes or team members participating in the competitions.

The city of Pucón is located within the embargoed area for the Sprint competitions. In accordance with IOF regulations concerning embargoed areas, orienteering activities, training, terrain reconnaissance, or any other activities that could provide prior knowledge of the competition area and give competitors an unfair advantage are prohibited.

However, normal access to and movement within the city are permitted for everyday activities such as accommodation, dining, shopping, transportation, and recreation, provided that these activities are not intended for terrain reconnaissance, analysis of potential route choices, or any other form of technical preparation for the competition.

All competitors, coaches, and team officials are requested to strictly observe these restrictions to ensure fair and equal conditions for all participants.

Respect for these provisions is fundamental to ensuring sporting fairness and compliance with IOF international standards.

Additionally, embargoed areas and other georeferenced information will be published on the interactive map available at the following link:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1BdbBBSeCkjYg8yDrGikzTlzhJaQHd30&usp=sharing

Área Urbana de Pucón



Cerduo Bike Park



Maps and Terrain

Both the Long Distance and Middle-Distance competitions will take place on the lower slopes of the Villarrica Volcano, in the northeastern part of Villarrica National Park. The terrain is located between 550 and 1,200 meters above sea level and features native forests and a wide variety of vegetation.



The technically difficult terrain is marked by ancient traces of lava flows and volcanic eruptions.



There are two mountain rivers in the competition area, which can only be crossed at the points indicated by the organizers.

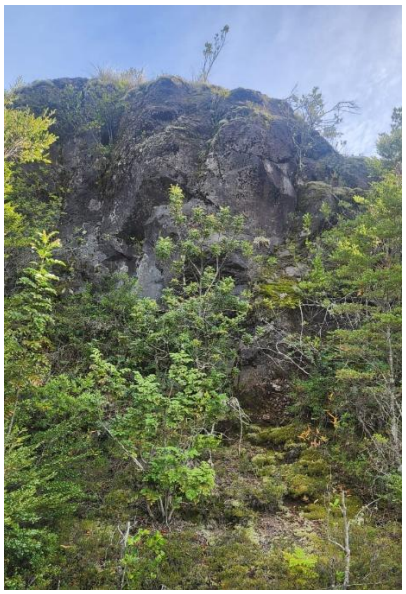
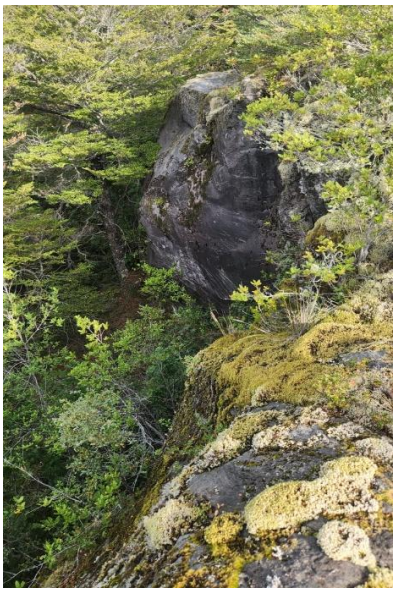


WARNING

In the middle and long-distance running areas, there are **sheer cliffs** up to **30 meters** high.

For SAFETY reasons, impassable and **DANGEROUS** cliffs are marked with the symbol '**201 Impassable Cliff**'.



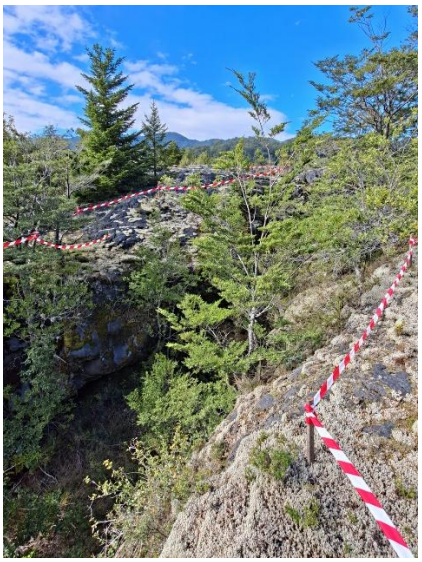




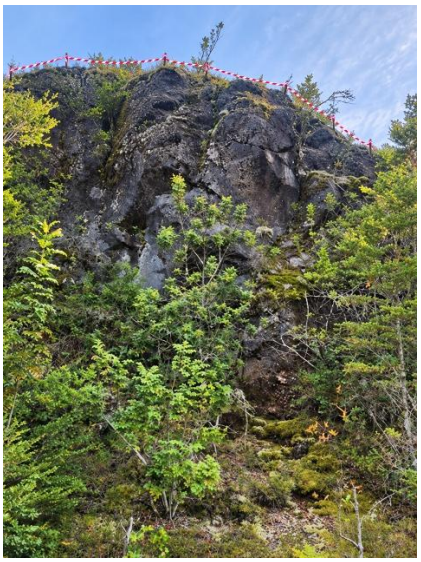
Under the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) regulations, specifically the International Specification for Orienteering Maps (ISOM), certain features are designated as "uncrossable" or "impassable."

Crossing these features during a competition **is strictly prohibited** under the regulations (for safety or private property reasons) or may be physically impossible due to the nature of the terrain.

To further enhance competitor safety, the organizers have decided to install safety tape along certain dangerous cliffs and steep drops to protect competitors from potential hazards. However, these safety tapes are not shown on the competition map.

The following images illustrate a simulated example:





ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FLORA AND FAUNA

The South American Orienteering Championships 2026 take place in a natural environment of extraordinary beauty and ecological value. The forests, native vegetation, and wildlife are part of an ecosystem that we must respect and protect.

Orienteering is a sport closely connected to nature. Therefore, we encourage all competitors, delegations, and accompanying people to act responsibly and minimize the environmental impact of their presence.

Following the recommendations of the Chilean National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), we particularly ask everyone to:

- **Protect native flora:** Do not cut branches, uproot plants, or collect flowers or seeds. It is springtime, and many plants are in bloom throughout the competition area. Protected species, including native orchids and the Copihue (Chilean Bellflower), Chile's national flower, grow in this area. **REMOVING OR COLLECTING THESE PLANTS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**





Shrubs and trees bearing small berries and fruits can also be found in the competition area. Some of these are NOT edible. **CONSUMPTION OF THESE BERRIES AND FRUITS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

- **Respect wildlife:** Do not chase, capture, feed, or disturb wild animals. Keep a safe distance and allow them to continue their natural behavior.
- **Avoid damage to soil and vegetation:** During competitions, move carefully, avoid unnecessary trampling of fragile vegetation, and respect all prohibited or restricted areas marked on the maps and in the terrain.
- **Do not leave litter:** All waste, including food wrappers, energy gel packets, and bottles, must be removed from the forest and disposed of in the designated waste containers.
- Prevent forest fires: Lighting campfires, using open flames, or smoking in the competition areas is strictly prohibited.
- **Respect waterways:** Do not pollute streams, creeks, ponds, or other natural water sources.
- **Respect signs and markings:** Follow all instructions provided by the organizers and observe restrictions established to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Our commitment is simple: Enjoy nature without leaving unnecessary traces of our presence.

Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility. Help us preserve these magnificent landscapes for future generations of orienteers.

SPRINT COMPETITION

The Sprint competition will take place in the urban area of Pucón, featuring predominantly flat terrain with a mix of streets, urban buildings, parks, and beachfront areas.

The organizers reserve the right to include **virtual uncrossable barriers** on the competition map to introduce additional navigational challenges.

There will be **NO** road closures in the city during the competition. Therefore, every competitor is **RESPONSIBLE** for their own safety when crossing streets during their race.



The maps will meet the requirements of ISSprOM 2019 (International Specification for Sprint Orienteering Maps) and ISOM 2017/2 (International Specification for Orienteering Maps).

With authorization from the Senior Event Advisor, the map scales will be as follows:

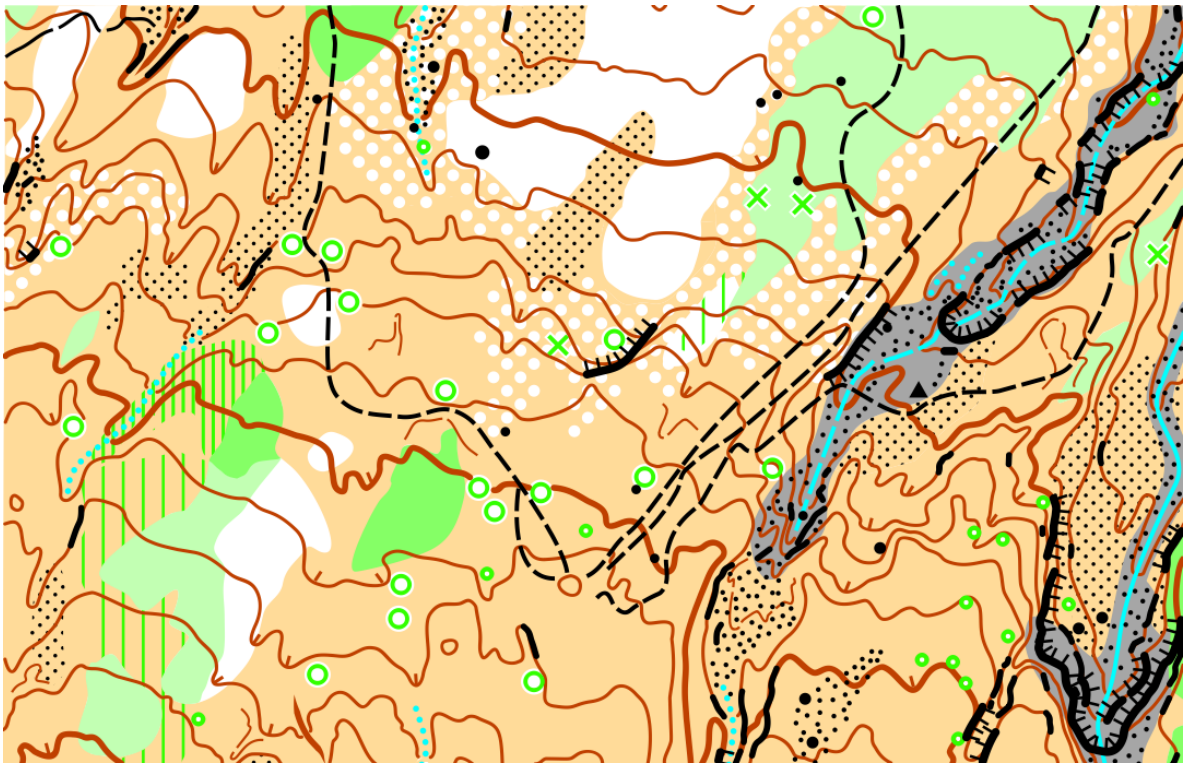
Competition	Classes	Map Scale	Equidistance
Sprint	All	1:3.000	2,5 m
Middle and Long Distance	WE / ME, W20E / M20E, W18E / M18E, W16E / M16E, W16 / M16, W18 / M18, W20/ M20, W21 / M21, W35 / M35, W40 / M40, W45 / M45	1:10.000	5 m
Middle and Long Distance	W12 / M12, W14 / M14, W50 / M50, W55 / M55, W60 / M60, W65 / M65, W70 / M70, W75 / M75, N-MENOR, N-MAYOR, FAM, WSA/ MSA	1:7.500	5 m

The image shows an example of the competition area for long- and middle-distance races, characterized by highly technical terrain that demands precise navigation and excellent terrain reading.

Slopes predominate in open and semi-open terrain, with a high density of contour lines and numerous micro-landforms, such as ridges, spurs, valleys, depressions, and changes in slope. Detailed interpretation of the terrain will be crucial due to the proximity of features and the variability of visibility.

Deep ravines and watercourses are present, along with rocky sections, cliffs, and potentially dangerous passages, requiring careful route selection. There are also some trails and paths, mainly used for hiking and mountain biking, which may influence navigation options.

The vegetation cover is varied, including areas for fast running and sections for slow progress, due to the dense vegetation and low visibility. The large open areas feature grasslands, rocky outcrops, sandy surfaces, and areas with heavy erosion, reinforcing the need for controlled and careful movement.



Awards

SAOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Orienteering Champion**.

SAJOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Junior Orienteering Champion**.

SAYOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each category for each race, and diplomas to the first six places. Winners will receive the title of **South American Youth Orienteering Champion**.

CPL2026: The **Latin Countries Cup** will be awarded to the winning country. Since the cup travels from one country to another until it is won permanently, trophies will also be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placed countries, and medals will be given to the top three finishers in the official CPL categories, although these categories are also open to non-official runners.

O-SAOC2026 y M-SAOC2026: Medals will be awarded to the top three finishers in each category.

The winners of the **Sprint** race will be declared **South American Orienteering Champions** in their respective categories based on their race times.

The winners of the **Long- and Middle-Distance** races will be declared **South American Orienteering Champions** in their respective categories, **based on the sum of their times**.

In the FAM, N-MINOR, and N-MAYOR initiation categories, all participants will receive awards.

S-SAOC2026: Athletes participating in the S-SAOC will be declared **South American Orienteering Champions** in their respective categories, and medals will be awarded to those who finish up to 3rd place for each class.

All events (O-SAOC, M-SAOC, and S-SAOC) are open to athletes from any IOF member federation. Official race results will include all participating athletes, regardless of nationality.

However, titles, medals, and official South American Championship rankings will be awarded exclusively to athletes representing South American countries.

Athletes from other federations will normally appear in the overall competition results but will not be eligible for South American Championship titles or medals.

Insurance and Authorizations

Each competitor participates in the event at their own risk. However, the organizers will provide first aid in case of accidents. Participants are expected to have their own medical insurance.

All participants under 18 years of age must have permission from their legal guardian to participate in the event, posted at the following link:

https://saoc2026.cl/boletines-2/

Additionally, all participants of legal age must submit a duly signed liability waiver form at the time of accreditation, published at the following link:

https://saoc2026.cl/boletines-2/

Participants are expected to submit these documents, already printed and signed, during their pre-event accreditation.

Time Control System



The Huichang electronic timing system will be used, supported by punches at each checkpoint. According to IOF rules, it is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their checkpoint pass is registered.

The system is "Air" type, meaning it is contactless. Registration cards will be provided free of charge to each participant.



Athletes will be able to test and familiarize themselves with this new technology at the Model Event.

Partial results will be displayed in the finish area (arena) via multimedia.

Athletes who have already paid for a SICARD rental as part of their subscription will receive a refund upon accreditation.

Contact-Free Punching Mode

During the competition, the Huichang Contact-Free Card (HC-Card) is worn on one of the competitor's fingers.

In Contact-Free punching mode, competitors only need to bring their card within **0 to 30 cm** of a control station to successfully register their visit.

Successful punching is confirmed by:

- Visual signal: The LED on the card flashes.
- Audible signal: The card emits a beep.
- Vibration: The card vibrates for approximately 3 seconds.

Important!

It is essential to check for the flashing light and feel the vibration, as these are the main signals confirming that the punch has been successfully registered.

Battery Check Before the Competition

Before each race, always check the battery status of your card:

- **Sufficient charge**: The indicator light flashes slowly in green. The card is ready for use.
- **Low battery**: The indicator light flashes slowly in red. The card requires immediate charging.

The organizers will provide all cards fully charged (100%).

To watch a demonstration of how to punch correctly, click the link below. Pay close attention to the audible, visual, and vibration signals.

https://oss.verymuchsport.cn/press/images/doc-competitor-hc-card-use.mp4?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Characteristics of CF Stations (Base Stations)

Detection range: The effective Contact-Free punching range is 30 cm when the card is stationary. This distance decreases when the competitor is moving at high speed.

- Installation: Each station will be clearly visible and securely attached to a support.

Procedure for Competitors

1. Card Preparation and Activation (Check-In)

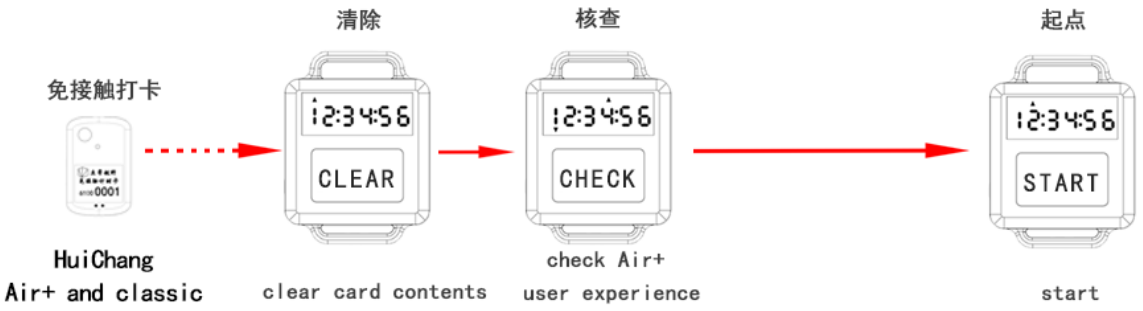
Before starting the competition, each participant must complete the following procedure:

1. Clear: Insert the HC-Card into the Clear station using contact punching mode to erase all records stored from previous competitions.

2. Check: Insert the card into the Check station, also using contact punching mode, to activate the card.

3. Confirm activation: If the card emits audible, visual, and vibration signals, it has been successfully activated and has sufficient battery charge.

Important: If the card does not emit any of these signals, its battery is depleted. In this case, the card can only be used in contact punching mode during the competition.



2. Start

The Start station can be configured for either contact or Contact-Free punching.

Competitors must use the punching method specified in the official information published before the competition to register their start and officially begin their race timing.

- For SAOC2026, all START stations will be configured in contact punching mode. Competitors must physically touch the station with their cards to register their start.

3. Control Points

Competitors must follow the course shown on their competition map, correctly registering their passage at all corresponding CF control stations in the prescribed order.

4. Finish

Competitors must complete their race by registering their finish using one of the following systems:

- Contact-Free Finish Mat: Allows competitors to cross the finish line at full speed without stopping.
- Finish CF Station: Allows competitors to register their finish by punching at a CF station installed at the finish line.

The organizers will provide both options.

5. Results Download

After finishing their race, competitors must proceed to the results area and download the data stored on their Contact-Free HC-Card at the Master Station.

This process transfers all recorded punching data to the electronic timing and results system.

Use of GPS Watches

All competitors are reminded that, in accordance with IOF Rule 21.4 (WMOC, ROC, WRE) regarding the use of GPS watches, competitors may not use or carry any equipment capable of transmitting or receiving information to or from a remote source between the entrance to the quarantine zone (or the exit area if there is no quarantine zone) and the finish of a race, unless the equipment is approved by the organizer.

Equipment using GPS (watches, etc.) may be carried, provided that:

- Does not display a map;
- Does not have any communication capabilities other than receiving GPS data;
- and is not used for navigation purposes.

However, the organizer reserves the right to specifically prohibit the use of such equipment. The organizer may require competitors to use a tracking device and/or a GPS data logger.

Event Center and Office



The Event Center will be located at the Osvaldo Muñoz Carrillo Municipal Stadium in Pucón, Colo Colo Street 475.

Image Google Earth (Image Airbus 2025)

On November 12, the Event Secretariat will operate at the Event Center located at the Municipal Stadium. Access is via Enrique Novoa Street:



Athlete accreditation and the distribution of Competition Kits will take place at this location, along with other event-related administrative services.

IMPORTANT: ALL ATHLETES MUST SUBMIT THEIR SIGNED LIABILITY WAIVER FORMS DURING ACCREDITATION.

The Event Secretariat will operate on a flexible basis. On competition days, it will be located at the respective competition venues, providing administrative support throughout the event.

Event Transportation

The organization will provide official transportation for athletes. This transportation will cost **USD 15**, and athletes must indicate whether they require transportation at the time of registration.

From	To	Distance	Round trip included	Public Transportation Available
Event Center	Model Event, Long/Middle Distance Arena	14,5 km	Yes	No

The SAOC2026 approach buses will only leave at the Events Center in Pucón, arrive at the Arena in the Cerduo sector and return to the Event Center. Bus departure times will be published in due course in the Event Center and the SAOC2026 website.

For the Model Event, the SAOC2026 shuttle buses will depart from the Event Center in Pucón, travel to the Arena in the Cerduo area, and return to the Event Center.

During the competitions, the buses will remain parked at the Arena and may be used as shelter in case of bad weather by competitors who have purchased the transportation service.

The departure times are listed below.

Day	Starts	Arrival Arena	Starts	Arrival Pucón
Model Event (2 minibuses)	10:00 am 12:00 pm	10:40 am 12:40 pm	11:00 am 01:00 pm	11:40 am 01:40 pm

	02:00 pm 04:00 pm	02:40 pm 04:40 pm	03:00 pm 05:00 pm	03:40 pm 05:40 pm
Long Distance (5 minibuses)	07:00 am	07:40 am	03:00 pm	03:40 pm
Middle Distance (5 minibuses)	07:00 am	07:40 am	03:00 pm	03:40 pm

Transportation tickets will be given to participants who registered and paid for the service. If there are free places, they can be purchased on site at an additional cost.

Private parking is available at the Long and Medium Distance Arena, but spaces are limited. Tourist buses **do not go** to the Arena and must be parked at the Cerduo Bridge.

Warning:

Navigation apps such as Google Maps or Waze do not provide accurate directions to Cerduo Park.

The organizers will install orienteering control markers and directional signs to guide competitors to the Arena.



Model Event

The organizers will prepare a Model Event and provide training maps to each registered competitor. Athletes will be able to train on Thursday, November 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

At the model event, there will be an opportunity to learn about and test the Huichang timing system selected for SAOC2026.

Expected Winning Times

The SAOC2026 courses will be planned using the following expected winning times established in the event regulations.

These times correspond to the estimated winner time for each category or competition format. These times are a technical reference for route design and do not represent maximum race times or participation limits.

		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
SAOC	WE / ME	88–92 min	30–35 min	12–15 min
SAJOC (Junior)	W20E / M20E	70 min	20–25 min	12–15 min
SAYOC (Youth)	W18E / M18E	70 min	20–25 min	12–15 min
	W16E / M16E	70 min	20–25 min	12–15 min

		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
CPL	Senior	88–92 min	30–35 min	12–15 min
	Junior	70 min	20–25 min	12–15 min
	Cadet	70 min	20–25 min	12–15 min

		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
O-SAOC	W12 / M12	40 min	20–25 min	12–15 min
	W14 / M14	50 min	20–25 min	12–15 min

	W16 / M16	50 min	20-25 min	12-15 min
	W18 / M18	70 min	25-30 min	12-15 min
	W20/ M20	75 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W21 / M21	88-92 min	30-35 min	12-15 min

		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
M-SAOC	W35 / M35	70 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W40 / M40	65 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W45 / M45	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W50 / M50	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W55 / M55	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W60 / M60	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W65 / M65	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W70 / M70	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	W75 / M75	60 min	30-35 min	12-15 min

		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
O-SAOC (Open) Beginners	N-MENOR	50 min	25-30 min	12-15 min
	N-MAYOR	50 min	25-30 min	12-15 min
	FAM	50 min	25-30 min	12-15 min
		Long Distance	Middle Distance	Sprint
S-SAOC (Deaf Athletes)	WSA	65 min	30-35 min	12-15 min
	MSA	65 min	30-35 min	12-15 min

The courses will be designed to ensure winning times fall within these ranges, considering terrain characteristics, map scale, technical difficulty, estimated running speed, weather conditions, and applicable international event technical standards.

The final distances, elevation gains, number of checkpoints, and technical details of each course will be published in subsequent bulletins or in the official event technical information, once the planning, review, and approval process is complete.

The organizers remind participants that orienteering is not defined solely by the physical distance of the course, but also by technical difficulty, route choice, navigation, elevation gain, vegetation, accessibility, and the specific terrain conditions. Therefore, the published distances may vary between categories and events, with the primary criteria being the achievement of expected winning times and the technical quality of the courses.

Maximum Time and Overall Classification

For the sole purpose of calculating the SAOC2026 Overall Classification, any competitor who is disqualified (DSQ) in one of the races will be assigned the maximum time established for that race and category. This time will be used exclusively to calculate the total accumulated time that determines the Championship Overall Classification.

The assignment of the maximum time does not modify or overturn the disqualification received in the individual race, for which the official result will remain DSQ. Its sole purpose is to allow the competitor to remain eligible for the SAOC2026 Overall Classification.

The maximum times for each race are:

- Long Distance: 4 hours
- Middle Distance: 2 hours
- Sprint: 50 minutes

Artificial Barriers – Sprint

During the Sprint competition, artificial barriers will be used at certain locations along the course. These barriers will be clearly represented on the competition map and must be strictly respected by all competitors.

In some areas, particularly on streets and other public spaces, the barriers will be marked with tape placed on the ground. Since the competition takes place in an open urban environment, it will not be possible to physically block normal vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Therefore, the absence of physical obstruction does not mean that competitors are permitted to cross. **Whenever a barrier or area is marked on the map as forbidden or uncrossable, competitors must respect the restriction and choose a permitted route.**

Event officials will be stationed at specific locations to monitor compliance with these restrictions. Nevertheless, each competitor is responsible for correctly interpreting the map and respecting all artificial barriers, forbidden areas, and restrictions shown on the competition map.

Competitors must not cross artificial barriers, even when it is physically possible to do so.

Warning

The representation on the competition map determines whether crossing is permitted. The physical possibility of crossing a location does not mean that doing so is allowed during the competition.



Start Order

To ensure fair and transparent conditions for all participants, the SAOC2026 start orders will be established according to the criteria outlined below.

For the Elite categories, when a race is designated as a World Ranking Event (WRE), the principles established by the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) for preparing start lists will be applied.

ME and WE Categories

Long Distance

For the ME and WE categories, the start order will be established based on the IOF World Ranking valid on the reference date determined by the organizers.

Ranking reference date: The IOF World Ranking as of November 1, 2026, will be used to determine the start order for the Elite categories (ME and WE).

Athletes with a valid IOF ranking will be placed in reverse ranking order, so that the highest-ranked athletes start toward the end of the start field.

Athletes without a valid IOF World Ranking position will have their start order determined by a random draw and will start before the athletes ordered according to their ranking.

Middle Distance

The start order will be determined based on the results of the first forest race, in reverse order of classification. This means that the highest-placed athletes from the previous race will start toward the end of the start field.

Athletes participating only in this second forest race will be included in the start order by the organizers, considering their IOF World Ranking position, where applicable.

- **Sprint**

For the ME and WE categories, the Sprint start order will be established specifically using the IOF Sprint World Ranking, in reverse ranking order, so that the highest-ranked athletes start toward the end of the start field.

Athletes without a valid IOF Sprint World Ranking will have their start order determined by a random draw and will start before the group of ranked athletes.

All Other Categories

- **Long Distance**

For all other categories, the start order for the first forest race will be determined by a random draw within each category.

- **Middle Distance**

The start order will be established based on the results of the first forest race, in reverse order of classification, so that the highest-placed athletes start toward the end of their respective category.

- **Sprint**

For all categories except ME and WE, the Sprint start order will be determined by a random draw within each category.

Publication of Start Lists

The official start lists will be published by the organizers before each race.

Competitors are responsible for checking their official start times and arriving at the start area sufficiently in advance, as instructed by the organizers.

Start Intervals

Start intervals will be 2 minutes for Long and Middle Distance and 1 minute for Sprint.

Distances from the Arena to the Starts and Quarantine

Long and Middle Distance

Starts 1 and 2 are located at different distances from the Arena:

- **Start 1 (Elite Categories):** 640 meters from the Arena, approximately 12–15 minutes of uphill walking at a pace of 3 km/h.
- **Start 2 (All Other Categories):** 1,200 meters from the Arena, approximately 25–30 minutes of uphill walking at a pace of 3 km/h.

The routes from the Arena to the start areas will be clearly marked with signs indicating distances and estimated walking times.



Sprint

For all categories except ME and WE, the Sprint start order will be determined by a random draw within each category.

Quarantine for the Elite categories will close 10 minutes before the first start.

Competitors are responsible for arriving at the start area sufficiently in advance, as instructed by the organizers.

Ceremonies, Meetings, and Social Event

A solemn opening ceremony will be held jointly for the South American Orienteering Championship and the Latin Countries Cup, with the participation of all delegations. The location will be announced in the next newsletter.

The closing ceremony will take place immediately after the awards ceremony at the end of the Sprint race on Sunday, November 15, at the competition venue. In addition, the Chilean Orienteering Federation invites you to hold the annual Latin American Countries Cup meeting, along with the biannual meeting of South American orienteering leaders. The location of the meetings will be announced in the next newsletter.

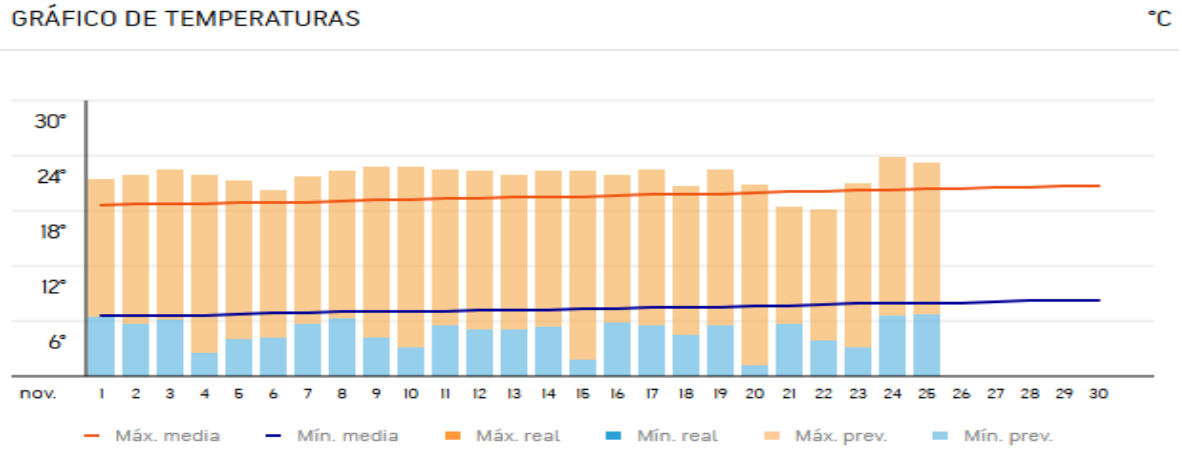
The “SAOC BBQ” gathering will take place at Villareal Restaurant in Pucón and is open to all participants who have paid for the event.



The image is for reference only. More information about the menu will be provided in the next bulletin.

General Weather Conditions

Average temperatures during this time are around 18°C, rarely dropping below 13°C. It's spring, so we'll have better weather, more sunlight, and warmer days than in previous months, but without the sweltering temperatures of summer.



Probability of precipitation in spring in Pucón:



El porcentaje de días en los que se observan diferentes tipos de precipitación, excluidas las cantidades ínfimas: solo lluvia, solo nieve, mezcla (llovió y nevó el mismo día).

Even if the sun isn't as strong as it is in summer, you should still be careful of sunburn and sunstroke. We recommend using sunscreen and drinking plenty of water, especially while competing.

Extreme Temperature Conditions

The **SAOC2026** organizers announce that they will adopt the International Orienteering Federation (IOF) guidelines for competitions in extreme temperatures, with the aim of increasing the safety of athletes, delegations, officials, volunteers, and other participants in the event.

These measures seek to ensure that the championship is conducted in accordance with international best practices, giving special consideration to the potential effects of heat, solar radiation, humidity, wind, and other climatic factors on the health and performance of the participants.

Monitoring of thermal stress – WBGT index

The **WBGT (Wet Bulb Globe Temperature) index** will be used as a reference to assess heat stress during the event. This index combines temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind, allowing for a more comprehensive evaluation of heat-related risk than ambient temperature alone.

During SAOC2026, the organizers, in coordination with the Senior Event Adviser and Event Director, may monitor WBGT values before and during competitions, using available measurements, reference calculations, or meteorological information applicable to the event area.

Based on this information, the organizers may adopt the necessary operational measures to protect the safety and well-being of athletes, officials, teams, and other participants.

WBGT reference ranges

As a general guideline, the following ranges will be considered:

- **Below 28°C WBGT:** normal conditions for holding the competition.
- **Between 28°C and 30°C WBGT:** conditions requiring special attention, especially for vulnerable groups, young athletes, people with less acclimatization, or participants with pre-existing medical conditions.
- **Between 30°C and 32°C WBGT:** conditions requiring active mitigation measures. The organizers may consider operational adjustments, schedule modifications, reduced exposure, postponement, or partial suspension of the competition.

- **Above 32°C WBGT:** high-risk conditions. The competition may be modified, postponed, suspended, or canceled if the organizers and the referee determine that there is a significant risk to the participants.

These ranges will be used to support decision-making and may be supplemented by local terrain assessment, start times, estimated duration of routes, availability of shade, hydration points, medical services, weather forecast and actual conditions observed in the competition area.

Possible operational measures

In the event of high heat or significant heat stress, the organizers may take one or more of the following measures:

- Adjust starting times.
- Reduce athletes' exposure time.
- Increase or reinforce hydration stations.
- Provide shade, rest, or cooling areas.
- Cancel competition if conditions are deemed dangerous.

The organizers remind participants that, in accordance with applicable IOF rules, a competition may be interrupted, modified, or canceled if conditions become dangerous for the participants.

Shared responsibility

Safety in extreme temperatures is a shared responsibility among the organizers, teams, coaches, officials, and athletes. All participants are advised to:

- Stay properly hydrated before, during, and after the competition.
- Know their own physical limits.
- Immediately inform officials, coaches, medical personnel, or volunteers of any symptoms they or another participant may experience.

Commitment to the well-being of the participants

The **SAOC2026 organizing committee** reaffirms its commitment to the well-being and safety of all participants, applying preventative measures and international best practices for managing challenging weather conditions.

General Hazards

There are no special hazards in the area, given that Chile is a seismic country and the Villarrica volcano is an active volcano, with the risks that this entails.

The event organizers will implement all the necessary safety measures required in Chile for these situations and will publish the rules of conduct in the event of an event.

The organization will develop and implement a comprehensive Security Plan for the event, which will detail preventive procedures, action protocols, communication channels and response measures in the event of possible emergency situations. This plan will be disseminated in a timely manner to participants, technical teams, volunteers and other people linked to the event. Safety is a shared responsibility: all people must know, respect and follow the rules and instructions established by the organization and the competent authorities.

Transportation, Food, and Accommodation

Arrival by plane: Santiago International Airport, Chile, and Araucanía Airport, Temuco. It is recommended to book a flight to Temuco, where there are various transportation services (shuttle, bus, or taxi) to Pucón. There are several domestic flights from Santiago to Temuco, which, depending on the fares, can cost between $50 and $180 USD.

The distance between Temuco and Pucón is 105 km, and the trip by car takes approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes. Transportation costs from Temuco to Pucón vary, but bus tickets can be found starting at $10.00 USD. A taxi can cost between $50 and $70 USD.



Arrival by bus: Pucón is 786 km from Santiago, approximately 8 to 9 hours by bus. Bus tickets range from $20 to $40 USD.Pucón is one of the country's most tourist-friendly cities, with 98.6% hotel occupancy during peak season, so it's easy to encounter crowds of tourists. However, at this time of year, November, you can still enjoy the benefits of traveling during the off-season,

making it ideal for holding the event, given the peace and security afforded by the less crowded months.

Accommodations in Pucón and its surrounding areas are widely varied in terms of services and prices. You can find them on the most popular websites for searching for and booking accommodation, such as:



https://www.airbnb.cl/

https://www.booking.com/

https://puconchile.travel/alojamiento/

You can find a wide variety of accommodations, from hotels, hostels, cabins, and campsites. The cost of these accommodations can range from USD 30 to USD 120 per person per night.

Links with detailed information about agreements the organization will establish with various establishments will be posted on the SAOC2026 website in the future.

Food in Chile is varied and generally unremarkable, with prices ranging from USD 7.00 to USD 25.00 in restaurants.

Visa to enter Chile

Most citizens of South American countries do not require a visa to enter Chile as tourists and can enter with their valid national identity document.

Participants from other countries can check the visa information at:

https://www.consulado.gob.cl/informacion-sobre-visas-para-ingresar-a-chile

¡SEE YOU!

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The South navigates