

Course setter's Statement for Pre-Jukola 25.8.2024

The pre-Jukola which is also a relay league competition, will be run only 6 kilometers away from next year's Jukola terrain. The terrain has many of the similar elements as the future Jukola terrain. The hills are steep, about 30-50 meters high. The ground is mostly easy passable, but quite heavy in some parts, as the height differences and a few covered terrain parts and thinnings are slowing down the pace. Surely, there are faster and flatter areas too. In addition, the terrain of pre-Jukola has a few detailed and more technical terrain areas.

The size of the stones marked on the map varies slightly depending on the rockiness of the terrain. The description is consistent. The forest consists of variable and different-aged commercial forest, with only few small open-tree-cuts areas appearing on the map.

The courses are designed to offer the same challenges as the Jukola and Venla relays in the summer of 2025. As a course setter, I aim to offer change of rhythm and some route choices. All the best areas of the map have been utilized. The marked parts are short, so this time you get to navigate worth of every penny.

A longer intermediate leg has been requested for next Venla relay, which will also allow for a new kind of role-playing of the team's composition. As is the nature of the pre-competition, you will now get to practice this.

The competition terrain will have next year's Jukola model training and it is indeed one of the best terrains to prepare for Jukola. I recommend that you also take advantage of the numerous Jukola trainings on the same weekend.

I wish everyone a pleasant autumn day in next year's Jukola-like terrain!

Course setter Topias Ahola