

Orienteering World Cup Round 1 continued on Thursday when city of Lohja hosted individual sprint qualification and finals. Most of the world's best elite orienteers took part to the race. Day started with a qualification in Mäntynummi where 40 men and 40 women run their way to the finals. Total of 119 men and 114 women took part. Qualification was even with the top three women, all of them with a same finish time.

Later the same day sprint final took its place in sunny Lohja city. First was the men's race. Fight for the win was between Yannick Michiels from Belgium and Matthias Kyburz from Switzerland. Michiels won with only two seconds marginal. Emil Svensk did great job by coming 3rd only one second between him and another Swedish orienteer Martin Regborn. Besides Kyburz, Swiss orienteers didn't perform quite how expected: Florian Howald and Daniel Hubmann were 14th and 15th. Top ten included delightfully eight different nationalities.

Women continued performing even times as 6th place was shared with three athletes. Two best female runners of the day were the winner Maja Alm and Tove Alexandersson 2nd place. Alm had very strong last minutes of the course, and beat Alexandersson by 10 seconds.

Men's final course was 3,8 long with 24 controls. Women's was 3,3 with 22 controls. Lohja town square was the hot spot of the competition and lots of locals and orienteers did arrive to see the event. Finnish broadcasting company Yle made a live broadcast from the finals.

World Cup round 1 continues with a middle distance competition on Saturday.