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## Wildrunner Trail Running Grading System

Welcome to the **Wildrunner Trail Grading system (WTG)**, developed by Wildrunner in 2009 and designed to help you make informed decisions on trail running events around the country. Unlike road running, **trail running routes & races have many more facets to them, making them either harder or longer (in time) than you may expect.**

Every race/event should give you the total distance and accumulative ascent, but using road running sense to work out your time based on these factors alone would be a mistake!

The three primary 'trail factors' affecting your overall time & effort on a trail run are as follows:

1. **Terrain difficulty (easy or tricky?)**
2. **% single track/off-road to on-road (how much on difficult terrain?)**
3. **Route severity (how steep?)**

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The three factors mentioned above have been expanded into an easy three part grading system. Each trail factor is listed below with the descriptions. Look out for races with an WTG and use this guide to make informed decisions.

### DEFINITIONS:

'**Technical**' terrain = trail that is 'busy', that requires extensive concentration and trail running technique - for example a rocky hiking path, or a 4x4 track.

'**Off-trail**' = Describes sections that do not have any obvious or established route, for example a river bed, grass field or a section of beach.

'**Single-track**' = Describing a trail that is narrow and typically only wide enough for one runner to run on at a time and in single file. Examples of typical single track would be a hiking trail, mountain bike trail, game trail, livestock trail

### FOR EXAMPLE:

Cape Trail Series™ - Tygerberg Nature Reserve: **ORANGE 8B**

Gauteng Trail Series™ - Pelindaba Nature Reserve: **ORANGE 7A**

Jonkershoek Mountain Challenge 36km: **BROWN 7C**

Skyrun 100km: **RED 9B**

### PART 1: ROUTE TERRAIN

YELLOW	Easy, non-technical terrain, all on established trails & tracks
ORANGE	Moderately easy terrain, short sections of 'technical' terrain but largely easy running, all on established trails & tracks
GREEN	Moderate challenging terrain, with a mix of 'technical' and 'non technical' terrain, mostly on established trails & tracks but may or may not have extended sections regarded as being 'off-trail'
BROWN	Moderately difficult terrain, more 'technical' terrain than 'non-technical' terrain, challenging but mostly on established trails & tracks although may or may not have extended sections regarded as being 'off-trail'
RED	Difficult terrain, majority 'technical' terrain that is extremely demanding, may or may not have large sections on un-established trails & tracks

### PART 2: % SINGLE TRACK/OFF-ROAD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1-10%	11-20%	21-30%	31-40%	41-50%	51-60%	61-70%	71-80%	81-90%	91-100%

### PART 3: ROUTE SEVERITY

A	Mostly runnable gradient
B	Mostly runable gradient, but has some steep ascent and descent that may require walking
C	Lots of steep ascent and descent that may require walking