

HAUTE ROUTE – Event Rules and Regulations

1) Preamble

The Haute Route events are each a multi-day road cycling event, which will take place for a certain amount of days (each, as applicable referred herein as the "Event"). The Event will take place over several timed and ranked stages. The Event Rules and Regulations, which follow, shall govern the entire Event and are in place to ensure a safe and fair environment for all participants. It is the participants' responsibility to be familiar with them and to ensure compliance. These Event Rules and Regulations apply in addition to any and all other terms and conditions incorporated to the contractual relationship between the Event organiser and the participants of the Event, including but not limited to the ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISKS & RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (the "Waiver"), the Withdrawal Conditions and the Privacy Policy, provided by the Organiser of the Event.

2) Bib Collection

Bib Collection will take place at the Event Village, on the day prior to the start of the first stage. Participants will receive their rider pack once they have completed the following actions:

1. Provided a valid form of photo identification;
2. Confirmed their emergency contact information;
3. A medical certificate or licence meeting cycling federation criteria (depending on the Event)
4. The Haute Route is open to all cyclists, competitive and non-competitive (aged 18 or older in the year of the Event) from any country.

For French events please note: In accordance with the article L.231-3 of the French Code of Sport from the 5th April 2006 (specific law for protecting sportsmen and women's health and anti-doping controls), participation in the Haute Route Events is subject to the presentation of a sporting license. A French license (FFC, FFTri, FSGT, FSCF et UFOLEP) or international license recognised by UCI carrying the attestation of a medical certificate confirming an appropriate level of fitness for cycling in competition. The cyclists holding such a "competition license" will need to send a copy of their license to validate their registration (license clearly showing the mention "cycling" or "cyclospor" and attestation of a medical certificate). All the other participants (licensed, but with no presentation of a medical certificate, license not recognised by UCI or unlicensed) will need to send the original copy of a medical certificate with the wording "fit for competitive road cycling in a mountainous environment" and dated less than 1 year before the first day of the Event.

It is mandatory for each participant to retrieve his/her bib in person, no third-party bib collection will be permitted. The Organiser reserves the right to prohibit a participant to start at the Event should the participant fail to complete these requirements or meet any of the required conditions of the Waiver.

3) Equipment

All participants must have a road bike and a hard-shell helmet in order to participate in the Event.

The following equipment is mandatory and may be randomly inspected by the Organiser's team on-site:

- Hard-shell helmet
- Long sleeve jacket for cold weather
- Overshoes
- Leg warmers
- Full-finger gloves
- Seat-post red light

The Organisation will enforce a strict "NO HELMET – NO RIDE" policy.

Failure to present this equipment could result in a participant not being allowed to start at the Event.

The following modifications or equipment is strictly forbidden:

Any system that does not conform to the definition of "road bike"; Triathlon handlebars and any other handlebar extension system; Bottles/cans made of non-deformable material (including but not limited to glass, aluminium or stainless steel); Recumbent bikes, monocycles, tandems, electric bikes; Wheels having less than 12 spokes.

The Organiser reserves the right to perform random inspections on all bicycles and the failure to comply with these conditions could result in a participant not being allowed to start at the Event or a stage thereof.

4) Categories

The Events are multi-day road cycling events with two distinct classifications: individual (Solo) and team (Team).

All participants will appear in the Solo ranking and can choose to join a team to appear in the Team ranking. To appear in this classification, a team must be composed of a minimum of three (3) participants, and a maximum of ten (10) participants. Participants wishing to compete as a team, but failing to meet the sufficient number of members will only appear in the Solo category. Participants will be ranked in the following categories:

Solo Men, Solo Women, Men's Team (comprising only men), Women's Team (comprising only women), Mixed Team (comprising at least one woman and one man)

Solo Riders courses will be ranked in the following age categories (age determined by age on December 31st of current year): 18-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60+

4) Categories

The Events are multi-day road cycling events with two distinct classifications: individual (Solo) and team (Team).

All participants will appear in the Solo ranking and can choose to join a team to appear in the Team ranking. To appear in this classification, a team must be composed of a minimum of four (4) participants, and a maximum of six (6) participants. Participants wishing to compete as a team, but failing to meet the sufficient number of members will only appear in the Solo category.

Participants will be ranked in the following categories:

Solo Men, Solo Women, Men's Team (comprising only men), Women's Team (comprising only women), Mixed Team (comprising at least one woman and one man)

Solo Riders courses will be ranked in the following age categories (age determined by age on December 31st of current year): 18-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60+

5) Event Safety Rules

The route for the Event will not take place on closed roads, normal vehicle and pedestrian traffic must be expected.

The Organiser will provide safety and traffic support on the route in order to ensure that the Event takes place in acceptable racing conditions, but participants must remain vigilant at all times.

Participants must adhere to the rules along the road, race officials, marshals and traffic police at all times including the following:

Cycle on the right-hand side of the road, at all times;

DO NOT cross the middle of the road at any time;

Comply with all Event road signage put in place by the Organiser;

Respect traffic signal lights or signs if they are not secured by a race official, marshal and traffic policeman;

Respect other road users who are not involved in the race.

The following rules have been put in place to ensure the safety of the participants and to allow for the effective management of the Event:

Participants must have their bib clearly visible on their back;

Bike plates must be placed on the front of the handlebars and must be clearly visible at all times;

Bibs and bike plates must not be modified, defaced, cut or reduced in size;

It is strictly prohibited to wear earphones at any time during any stage of the Event.

Most of the stages of the Event will start by means of a secured and non-timed convoy, riding at a regulated speed. Participants must respect the instructions given by the Organiser during this time and until the point in time the official start of the stage is given.

When reaching the 'FINAL STOP TIMING' point, located outside of the Host City, the participants must continue to abide by the traffic laws for the remaining kilometres to the Event Village.

Failure to abide by the Event Safety Rules could result in a participant being awarded time penalties or disqualified from the Event as laid out in Article 16.5 of these Event Rules and Regulations.

6) Medical Assistance

The medical service of the Event will consist of highly experienced doctors, medics, emergency response workers, and ambulances, the number of which will depend on the current legal specifications of the Event. For medical reasons, a participant can temporarily or permanently be withdrawn from the race. A medical emergency number will be put in place so that each participant can easily, in case of any major medical emergency, inform Organiser and medical personal about their situation and do so 24/7 during the entire Event.

7) Race Timekeeping

The timekeeping of the Event will be carried out by an electronic timing system. All participants will receive a bike plate that includes a sensor for timekeeping. This bike plate, which must be installed in front of the handlebars, will be used to control the race at various points on the route and to provide race timing for each participant. For stage 1, the start time for each participant will be the one given by the chip when crossing the first timing mat. From stage 2 onwards a grouped start time will be given to the top riders of the peloton (25 first men, five (5) first women on General Classification Solo) based on the time of the first participant crossing the first timing mat. Rankings will be based on the cumulative times between the beginning and finish of each of the timed sections. Outside of the group start time for the first section, the time taken into account will be the one given precisely by the chip on your bike plate at the crossing of each timing mat (start and end of each timed section and finish line). A participant who has not completed the entire course will not be given a ranking at the finish. For safety reasons, the Organiser may decide not to time some portions of the course. These untimed sections must be entirely covered on the participant's bike without external assistance (car, bus etc.). Participants who fail to respect these regulations are subject to time penalties and/or exclusion from the race as detailed in Article 16.5.

8) Time Limits

Participants must complete every stage inside the stated cut-off time in order to obtain an Official Finisher Ranking. Cut-off times are dependent on several factors: distance and difficulty of each stage, weather, road conditions and total altitude gain and/or loss. Cut-off times are produced in partnership with the regional permitting agencies and law enforcement. Intermediary and stage cut-off times for each stage will be communicated in advance in the On-Event App, and at the daily briefing the evening before each stage. The following rules apply to cut-off times:

1. If a participant does not meet a cut-off time, they will be removed from the course and will be required to return to the Event Village in the broom wagon or by their own means.
2. Missing the cut-off time on one day means the participant will no longer have an overall ranking for the Event or for that stage. The participant will receive a Did Not Finish (DNF) on the official results for that stage. In such a case, the participant will be permitted to continue the Event the next day but will not appear in the Event General Classification. The participant will still receive a ranking for each subsequent stage completed and be eligible for other daily podiums.
3. The "End of Race" vehicle will have the authority to stop riders that have fallen outside of the cut-off time.
4. Lanterne Rouge – The Lanterne Rouge is an important personality on all Events, and its role is critical in assisting, cajoling, encouraging and willing participants who are struggling to find the right mix of courage, ability, technique and energy to get themselves to the stage end within the stage cut-off time limit. The Lanterne Rouge does NOT define the cut-off time for a stage.

9) Personal Assistance

The participants of the Event may not receive assistance outside of the feed station zones put in place by the Organiser. This includes all forms of support including receiving mechanical and food/water assistance. Private support vehicles may not intervene outside of feed station zones in any way. All drivers of private support vehicles must attend a mandatory briefing prior the Event. Failure to abide by the rules relating to receiving personal assistance could result in a participant being awarded time penalties or disqualified from the Event as laid out in Article 16.3 of these Event Rules and Regulations.

10) Rankings

Only the Solo participants who have completed all the stages and who have crossed the finish line each day within the set time limit, will appear in the final General Classification of the Event. All participants must cross the finish line at the Event Village in each stage, especially where the "final timing line" is situated before the finish line. Each Team will be classified in the General Team Classification. This ranking will be established by cumulating the times of the three best members of the Team during the different stages.

If riders of a Team retire, bringing the number of riders in the Team under three, the Team will then be removed from the General Team Classification. Team members still in competition will remain classified in the General Solo Ranking. Mixed Team: In the specific case of a Mixed Team, the ranking will be established by cumulating the times of the three best team members through the different stages, with at least one woman and one man classified during each stage. If participants from a Mixed Team retire and the team can no longer fulfil this condition, even if three riders are still present in the Mixed Team (3 men or 3 women), the latter will then be withdrawn from the General Team Classification.

11) Abandoning a Stage or the Event

Abandoning during a stage: If a participant is unable to complete a stage for any reason, the participant can use the broom wagon to get to the Event Village. In this case the participant will be permitted to take part in the remaining stages but will no longer be ranked in the General Classification, as there will be no attributable time. If a participant abandons or is removed from a stage for medical reasons, they may not start the next stage unless the Event Medical Director provides authorisation for them to do so.

Abandoning the Event: In case of complete abandoning the Event, the participant will be responsible for getting to the next accommodation locations or leaving the Event and returning home, along with participant's equipment and luggage (including bike bag/cover which will be at the finish location for 7-day events).

Failure to start a stage: If a participant fails to start a stage for whatever reason participant will be given a "Did Not Start" (DNS) for the given stage. Does the participant want to continue riding in the Event at the remaining stages, the participant will not be eligible for placement in the Event General Classification. The participant must make own arrangements to get to the start line of the next stage.

12) Official Prize Giving Ceremonies

An official prize giving ceremony will take place, at the end of each day, immediately followed by the compulsory Rider Briefing. Participants who fail to attend are subject to penalties detailed in Article 16.5.

The presence of the participants below is mandatory:

- The male and female winners of the stage;
- The leader of the Solo Male General Classification;
- The leader of the Solo Female General Classification;
- The Men, Women and Mixed Team winners of the stage;
- The leading team of the Women Team General Classification;
- The leading team of the Men Team General Classification;
- The leading team of the Mixed Team General Classification.

During the official prize giving ceremony, a distinctive jersey will be given to each leader of the Solo categories (Men and Women). It will be mandatory for recipients of these leader jerseys to wear them during the following stage. Winners of the Event will be given prizes but no cash will be awarded.

13) Daily Safety Briefings

The Technical Director will present a summary video of the next stage at the Daily Safety Briefing. The following day's stage will then be presented to the participants, which will include essential information on the route, timing, road closures and other important safety information. Any last-minute changes to the stage will be communicated during this briefing. It is mandatory that all participants attend the Safety Briefing.

14) Changes to individual stage arrangements

For each stage of the Event, the Organiser reserves the right to change at any time the course and/or the position of the feed stations and/or the cut-off times. In case of bad weather and to ensure the safety of participants, the Organiser reserves the right to postpone the time of departure, to stop the current stage or to cancel it. There is no right of compensation if Organiser is changing or cancelling any stage or other part of the Event for safety reasons.

15) Protest Form

Participants can submit Protest Forms to the Organiser to:

Notify breaches of the rules from another participant.

Notify about an action that may give them a deduction of time (Protest Forms for waiting for the mechanical support will never be accepted)

Complain about any action of the Organiser.

If necessary, the protest can be combined with additional pieces of evidence (witnesses, GPS data, photos, etc.).

The Protest Form must be submitted in writing at the Info Point not more than one (1) hour after the finish of the stage.

An Organiser's jury will deliberate and issue a decision on the protest that can contain sanctions according to Article 16.5. This decision will be communicated to the participant not later than before the start of the next stage and/or at the end of the Event, up until the final prize giving ceremony.

16) Sporting Penalties

1. Respecting the environment:

The Event has a ZERO TOLERANCE TO LITTERING. Participants must keep their waste with them and only dispose it in the waste bins provided by the Organiser at the feed stations or any other official waste bins they may come across along the route. The following penalties apply to the failure to abide by this rule:

Disqualification from the stage; Disqualification from the General Classification; The participant will be allowed to continue the race but will not appear in the overall results; In case of a second infringement, the participant will be disqualified from the Event.

2. Start line / Finish line:

All participants, without exception, will be required to cross the official start line and official finish line of each stage (this could be different from where the timing starts/finishes). Before each stage, the first 25 riders of the General Classification will be obliged to sign at the official start line. The following penalties apply to the failure to abide by this rule:

Time penalty of 5 minutes added to the stage result;

Time penalty of 5 minutes added to the General Classification.

3. Outside Support

The participant may use the products offered by the Organiser or may use their own support team to provide them with specific products within the feed station zones. It is prohibited for participants to receive food, beverages, or mechanical assistance during stages, outside of the dedicated feed station zones or Organiser support vehicles, managed by the Organiser. The following penalties apply to the failure to abide by this rule:

Time penalty of 30 minutes added to the stage result;

Time penalty of 30 minutes added to the General Classification;

In case of second infringement, the participant will be disqualified from the Event.

Participants whose support vehicles fail to respect safety rules or instructions provided by the Organiser and its race management staff are subject to time penalties and/or exclusion from the race depending on the infringement.

4. Wearing Earphones

Time penalty of 15 minutes added to the stage result for any participant found using earphones.

5. The penalty for any other infringement or failure to adhere to the regulations set up in this document, which are not mentioned in this Article 16 is:

30 minutes added to the stage result.

17) Acceptance of Rules and Regulations

By entering the Event, each participant acknowledges having read and accepted these regulations explicitly and without reservation. In case of any disagreement in the interpretation of these regulations, the English version shall prevail.