

THE PIONEER

MTB STAGE RACE, SOUTHERN ALPS, NZ

RACE RULES

*The rules (as at Jan 2016) of the Pioneer are available online.
The rules may be updated and amended up to the start of the race.*

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- The Pioneer ("the race") is a 2-person team mountain bike stage race.
 - The rules are intended to be definitive and final. The rules can be updated and amended at any time. The version of the rules which are enforced on day one of the event in any year will be applicable to that year's race.
 - Failure to comply with any of the rules will result in a penalty, which could include a rider's disqualification in certain circumstances. The various categories of penalties are set out in section D below.
 - The interpretation of any rule by the Event Director will be final and binding on all race participants.

RIDERS

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- Participants must be a minimum of 18 years old on day one, the first stage of the race.
 - There are nine riding categories for teams.
 - Your age group is your age at the day of the first stage.

MEDICAL

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- It is the riders responsibility to ensure that they are in good health and well prepared.
 - Race management reserve the right to remove a rider from continuing the race on receipt of medical advice from an official race Doctor or any other medical doctor recognised by the race organisers - the decision of the race organisers in this matter will be final.

BIKES

Only mountain bikes in good working order and race ready at the start of each stage will be permitted on the course and allowed to start that stage. "Race ready" means the following:

- Race number is securely fitted and visible from the front;
- The frame marking is displayed as per instructions received at registration;
- The bike is in safe working order, as determined in the discretion of the Event Director;
- Handlebar ends and handlebar extensions shall be plugged and must not have sharp or jagged edges. The use of tribars and bladed wheels is not allowed
- Bicycles may be propelled only through a chainset and by the rider's leg action, without any form of assistance (electrical or otherwise)
- Tandem bikes are not allowed

Each rider is responsible for the maintenance of his/her own bike for the duration of the race. Limited mechanical support is available at checkpoints on course and mechanics can also provide support at the race village each day.

In all cases of maintenance and repair, riders are required to complete the full distance of the stage and must complete the stage within the maximum stage time. Time spent on maintenance and repair will thus not entitle a rider to any extension of the maximum stage time.

HELMETS AND CLOTHING

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- Each rider must wear a helmet at all times while riding during the race. All helmets must comply with international 'ANSI' standards. Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.

TEAM RIDING

- Riders must ride with their team partner at all times, and must remain within the maximum allowable separation time, namely 2 minutes.
- Rider separation may be measured at the finish of each stage and at various designated check points during the stage, but can also be enforced at any point during the race.
- Rider separation may be measured more than once during any stage, and penalties may be applied to each occurrence of rider separation outside the allowable limit during a stage.
- Any rider may receive physical assistance from his/her team partner or from a fellow competitor. For purposes hereof, "physical assistance" shall mean the sharing of water and nutrition, sharing of bike parts and accessories (including the swapping of bike frames), assistance with maintenance and repair, and pushing by physical contact only.
- No towing between or pushing of riders by means of any mechanical or physical devices is allowed (e.g. Bungy cord or spare tubes).
- A rider is allowed to "double back" on the route at any time in order to rejoin his/her team mate or in order to reach the nearest tech support zone (if applicable), provided that he/she shall not endanger any other rider in doing so.
- If your partner needs to pull out due to injury, you may continue to ride the remaining stages on your own. However you will not be eligible for prize money or prizes.

RIDER IDENTIFICATION

- Both riders in a team must display their race numbers at all times.
- Bike numbers must remain firmly fixed on the front of the bike, and may not be obscured by cables or any other item.
- Back numbers must be attached to the rider at all times in a visible position either on the rider's jersey or on the back of his/her hydration pack. A Rider will not be penalised if his/her number is obscured while wearing a rain jacket.
- Race numbers may not be modified or mutilated in any way, including cutting, adding stickers, removing existing stickers or trimming.
- Race and category leaders are obliged to wear the leader jerseys supplied by the race organisers.

TIME TRIAL PROLOGUE

- Participation in the time trial prologue is compulsory for all teams. A team's time in the time trial/prologue counts towards the team's overall time and overall ranking.
- Each team will receive a pre-allocated start time for the time trial/prologue. It is the rider's responsibility to know his/her start time. Start times will be advertised via the race website.
- Riders must report at the entrance to the start chute at least 15 minutes before the allocated start time.
- If a team misses their start time, they will be allowed to start at the discretion of the Race Director but their time for the time trial/prologue will be measured from their originally allocated start time.

STAGE STARTS

- The start chute opens 30 minutes before the start of each stage, unless communicated otherwise.
- Differential start zones will be allocated according to overall ranking in the race, and the organisers may allocate different (i.e. "staggered") start times for each starting zone. Should staggered start times be allocated, any reference to start times in these rules will be to the start time applicable to the particular rider's start zone.
- The seeded starting zones will close strictly 10 minutes before their start time. Teams arriving late must start at the back of the field.
- Riders must enter the start zone as a team with their bikes, and once entered must remain in the start zone with their bikes.

ROUTE AND STAGES

- Riders must complete the full designated route and distance of all stages, including the time trial prologue.
- Only riders who complete each of the stages within the maximum stage time will qualify as official race finishers.
- The actual race distance or route may vary from the published or briefed distance.
- A rider must at all times follow the official route, obey the directions of the course marshals, and may not take any shortcuts or take any other advantage of a similar nature against competitors. The responsibility for following the official route lies with each rider.
- Riders who exit the route for any reason must return to the course at the same point from which they exited.

- No rider shall trespass at any time of the year on land which is not open to the public for mountain biking and which forms part of the race route.
- The course cut off time for each day is 8:00pm. For Health and Safety reasons we cannot allow riders to be out on the course any later than 8:00pm each day.

RESULTS

DID NOT FINISH (DNF)

- Where one team member in a team does for any reason does not complete a stage/ stages, but the other team member has continued; or if a team crosses the finish line more than the allowable separation time of 2 minutes between team members, the team will continue to appear in the daily Stage results under a different section called 'Incomplete' and no longer appear in General Classification results. DNF teams/ athletes will not be eligible for prize money or prizes.
- Where both team members for any reason do not complete a stage/ stages, or if a team does not meet a cut-off time or if a team crosses the finish line more than the allowable separation time of 2 minutes between team members, the team will continue to appear in the daily Stage results under a different section called 'Incomplete' and no longer appear in General Classification results. DNF teams will not be eligible for prize money or prizes.

DID NOT START (DNS)

- Where a 7 Day Epic Team member does not start a stage/ stages, they will be considered a DNS and will not receive a stage result, and will be removed from the General Classification and therefore not eligible for prize money or prizes.

NB, If an athlete/ Team is classified DNF or DNS they will be able to ride subsequent stages, but not appear in GC results.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

- The race organisers may at any time prohibit any other item of equipment (other than essential cycling equipment) at their discretion and riders shall at all times comply with any such prohibition.

RACE TIMING

- Only team times will be advertised, but individual rider times will be recorded for purposes of measuring rider separation.
- The team time will be taken as the time at which the second team member passes the stage finish line.
- No rider may carry more than 1 transponder at any time, and no rider may pass his/her transponder on to anyone else at any time throughout the event.
- Timing will start with the start line time every morning
- The start line will remain open for 15 minutes after the start time.
- Any rider who does not make the start time must report to the Race Director within 15 minutes of the start time to seek approval for a late start.
- No rider is allowed to start late without approval. If no approval for a late start has been given, the rider will be considered a DNS (did not start), and will not receive a stage result.
- The maximum stage time will not be adjusted for any rider who is permitted a late start and/or who started in a start zone with a later start time than his/her own.

ABANDONING OF A STAGE

- The race organisers may abandon any stage at any time, in their sole discretion, for safety concerns or any other reason which they consider appropriate.
- Any rider/team who withdraws from a stage before any official abandonment or who does not reach the designated cut-off point for abandoning the stage will be classified as an 'Incomplete Team'.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- The race will not always have exclusive use of any public or private roads throughout the event.
- All regular traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the race. (In New Zealand we drive/ride on the LEFT HAND SIDE of the road!)
- Instructions of marshals must be strictly adhered to.

CHECKPOINTS

- There will be checkpoints during each stage, during which rider separation rules will be enforced.
- Teams that are not detected when passing the checkpoints may be disqualified

REGISTRATION AND BRIEFING

- Race registration takes place at the venue, time and location indicated on the race website.
- Riders must report to registration as a team and bring a form of ID including a photograph on it, suggest passport or drivers license).
- A pre-race briefing will take place at the time and place indicated on the race website and is compulsory for all riders.

NUTRITION AND HYDRATION

- The Pioneer passes through the New Zealand high country and weather conditions are variable. Riders retain the ultimate responsibility to carry enough water and nutrition with them.
- The race organisers will provide water at official water points on the route, which is intended for drinking purposes only. No excessive use of water for any other purpose will be permitted at official water points.

RIDER SUPPORT

- No outside assistance is permitted under any circumstances including physical assistance by any person other than a fellow competitor or accredited check point staff at official water points on the route.
- Drafting is allowed between riders, their team partners and fellow competitors
- No other form of drafting is permitted whatsoever, including but not limited to drafting behind private vehicles, motor cycles, trucks and official race vehicles.
- Specific escort vehicles not provided by the race organisers are not permitted to follow the race route. However, supporters may drive their own vehicles along public roads to reach designated viewing points to vocally support riders.
- Some sections of the course may be closed to all non-event traffic - including some public roads. Their closure must be respected by all.
- No rider and/or team supporter may access any restricted and/or prohibited area in the race village.

MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Medical assistance will be available by the race organisers at all official check points along the route.
- Technical assistance will be provided for 'running repairs' at check points along the route.
- Technical assistance will be available at the event village each day and riders will be required to pay for spare parts.

WITHDRAWALS

- Teams or riders that cannot continue the race for whatever reason must immediately inform the race office. This can be done at the race start, the finish, check points or by calling the Pioneer emergency hotline (number to be confirmed in race briefing notes).
- Should any rider or team fail to inform the race office of his/her/its withdrawal, and should a search and rescue operation be initiated for such rider or team, the cost of the search and rescue will be for the account of that rider or team.
- Should any member of a team be incapable of finishing the race, his or her team partner will be entitled to continue riding in the race, however the team will be an 'Incomplete Team' in the official general classification results'.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ETHICAL

- Riders must respect the environment at all times, absolutely no littering or damage to the environment will be tolerated. This will result in time penalties and may result in disqualification and removal from the race.

PROTESTS

- All protests must be submitted in writing, on the official protest sheets provided in the race office, to the Race Director after the rider has crossed the finish line, within the allocated time period set out below.
- Race protests must be submitted within 2 hours of the rider crossing the finish line.
- Result protests must be submitted within 2 hours of posting of preliminary results for the relevant stage.