



Race Rules

The toughest mountain bike race on earth

Simpson Desert Bike Challenge Race Rules

EVENT MANAGEMENT

- The Simpson Desert Bike Challenge is organised and conducted by Desert Challenge Inc, a not for profit association incorporated in South Australia for the purpose of running this event.
- Membership of Desert Challenge Inc is available to all riders, support crews and others who support the ideals of the organisation.
- The event registration fee shall include twelve (12) months membership of Desert Challenge Inc.
- Members of the general public may nominate for membership to the association for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of payment of their fee.
- Enquiries related to the SDBC can be directed to the Race Director or contacts as listed on the website.

ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS AND SUPPORT CREWS

- The minimum age for competitors is eighteen (18) years of age on the 1st October.
- The minimum age for support crew members is fifteen (15) years on the 1st October, unless official approval has been obtained from the Race Director.
- Only individuals nominated on the entry form may compete in the SDBC.
- All participants are responsible for ensuring that they are fit and healthy enough to participate in the event.
- The Organisers require all riders, support crews and officials to complete a medical questionnaire, declaring that they are physically capable of participating in the event. The medical questionnaire must be received before the entry will be finalised.
- We recommend everyone joining this trip to take regular exercise for a period of time before departure.
- If you suffer from heart, chest, muscular or respiratory disorders, severe asthma or high blood pressure, we strongly advise against participating in the event.
- Competitors with an existing serious medical condition may be refused entry to the SDBC if, in the opinion of the medical director, it is not practical to support a person with that condition under the circumstances of the race.

REFUND POLICY

We love this event and want you to share the experience. It helps us plan if you commit early. We don't look to profit from our riders, so we offer a very generous refund policy.

- 100% refund to 30th June (less \$25 administration fee), 80% to 15th August and no refund on or after the 16th August.
- If there is a good reason that you still can't make the event such as breakdowns, sickness etc it is likely the committee will decide to roll your entry over to the following year. We want to see you ride!
- Should we need to cancel the event you can choose to roll over your entry to the following year or receive a full refund.

It may become necessary, due to weather, local conditions or various other reasons, to make changes to the event course. Such changes will be at the discretion of the Race Director and Committee and no refund will be considered in the event of such changes. Stages, distances and event timing rules may be adjusted according to track conditions. That's the nature of the desert.

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ENTRY REGISTRATION

- Applications must be made online from the Desert Challenge Website (www.desertchallenge.org) and submitted with the full entry fee.
- Early entries (before 30th May) will receive an Early Bird Entry discount as indicated on the entry form.
- Extra vehicles accompanying a competitor/team must pay the appropriate registration fee.
- Pre-race medical questionnaire can be downloadable from the website and must be submitted to the organisers within one month of entering (and before the 15th August).
- Competitors will be required to provide details of existing medical conditions. Failure to disclose an existing condition may result in disqualification of the competitor.
- Entries open on the first day in February and close on the 15th day in August.
- The field is limited to 40 competitors.
- Event Registrations will be open from 1pm till 4pm on the day before the race start.
- All Competitors, Support crews and Officials must attend the registration session.
- Riders must bring helmets and bicycles for inspection and tagging.
- All Competitors, Support crews and Officials must be present at the Pre-Race briefing, which will commence at 5pm on the day before the start of the race.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The Medical Questionnaire must be lodged online with all participants (this includes riders, support crews and officials) entry.
- The Medical Director will review these questionnaires and may require further information and medical checks.

INSURANCE

- Competitors will be required to have membership in the organising association or an affiliated group as necessary to meet the terms of insurance cover for the event organisers and officials.
- The SDBC is an affiliated event organiser of AusCycling. Each competitor shall be covered by AusCycling insurance, which covers the organisers for public liability and professional indemnity. The cost of this insurance is covered in the entry fee.
- It is the responsibility of each competitor and support crew to ensure they have adequate personal and vehicle insurance cover.
- Organisers and sponsors will not be liable for any action in this matter.

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DECLARATION AND INDEMNITY

- All participants (riders, crews and officials) must register and sign the Declaration and Indemnity Form at the Pre-Race Registration.
- Declaration and Indemnity Form requires you to acknowledge that this adventure race and in addition to the usual dangers and risks inherent with remote travel, the event has certain additional dangers and risks introduced by the nature of the event. You accept all the inherent risks of the trip and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting from your decision to participate.

THE COURSE

- The Simpson Desert Bike Challenge (SDBC) starts at Purni Bore on the Rig Road in South Australia and continues through the desert to Birdsville, Queensland.
- The SDBC will travel along well defined tracks and roads only. There will be no cross-country travel.
- The total distance for the 2024 race is approximately 500 kilometres depending on the prevailing weather and road conditions.
- Marker pegs along the track will indicate distance travelled and the course to be followed.
- Starting time for each morning stage is 6.00am and the afternoon stage start time is 2.00pm unless otherwise instructed by the Race Director.
- After the first morning, the first ten placed competitors will be started in a grid formation at the front of the field.
- Starting competitors for any stage are to be ready at the start marshalling area 5 minutes before the start time.
- Each morning stage will be approximately 80km long and each afternoon stage will be approximately 50km long.

BICYCLE ELIGIBILITY

- Unless the cyclist has entered the E-Bike Category, no power other than human power may be used.
- Only one bicycle per competitor is to be used throughout the SDBC.
- Only all-terrain bicycles are allowed. All bicycles will be checked prior to the start.
- The design of the bicycle and its components is free (the original frame must be used at all times).
- Any damaged component can be repaired or replaced except the original frame.
- Transport of all bikes during the event is the team's responsibility.

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SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

- The event organisers require that each competitor must start each stage carrying a minimum of two (2) 750mL bidons or other hydration system with the same volume (e.g. Camelback) of water or energy replacement fluid.
- Whilst competing, each competitor must wear a bicycle helmet that complies with Australian or other National Standards at the time of purchase.
- Competitors who fail to wear approved helmets while cycling will be penalised and may be disqualified from the event.
- Competitors must have lights suitable for lighting off-road riding (front and rear) for the night stage.

IDENTIFICATION

- All officially entered competitors, bicycles and vehicles will receive individual identification plates at race registration.
- Competitors must attach official race numbers (to be checked by an official) so that they are clearly visible at all times. Race numbers are to be attached to the front and rear of the bicycle.
- Race number 1 will be reserved for the previous year's overall winner if they are competing. Other race numbers will be allocated at the discretion of the event organisers, with Desert Challenge members able to express preference for a specific number.

TIMING

- Timing of the event will be by the official timepiece carried by official timekeeper and set to Central Australian Standard Time (South Australian time).
- At each timing control, officials will record each competitor's time to the minute.
- Riders who finish in a group will be recorded as having the same completion time.
- Any penalties incurred by an individual will accumulate and be counted in their overall result.
- All Individual Competitors shall compete in the overall winners' and age group divisions and be eligible for the 100% medallions.

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OFFICIAL PLACINGS

- All competitors will compete under the same timing schedule (no handicaps).
- Timing will be taken from the start (morning) to the lunch stop control, then from the lunch stop control to the overnight stop.
- A Sweep vehicle will travel at 12 km/hr. Any competitor who cannot compete at the minimum speed requirement for the stage (12 km/hr) will be picked up when overtaken by the Sweep Vehicle.
- Competitors having been overtaken by the Sweep Vehicle will not be disqualified but their distance will be recorded and they will receive a time equivalent to "Distance ridden (km) x 5 (minutes)".
- Official placings shall be determined by the "total distance ridden". If two or more riders have the same distance, their placing shall be determined by "fastest time".
- To be eligible for 1st place overall and 100% race completion trophies, competitors must complete 100% of the designated course. If there are no riders that have completed 100%, the first place rider will be judged the winner.
- Competitors are divided into age groups of U30, 30-U40, 40-U50 and 50+ (for male and female). To be eligible for awards, riders must complete a minimum of 75% of the designated course.

WATER STOPS

- Each competitor must stop at all Water Stops located approximately every 10 – 20 kilometres. Failure to stop will incur a 10km distance penalty and possible disqualification from the event.
- There will be a minimum of three Water Stops per stage unless the number is reduced by the Race Director in line with a shortened course.
- The location of Water Stops may be varied in response to conditions and will be advised to all competitors and support crews at least 30 minutes before the start of the stage.
- Competitors must ensure that replacement fluids for each stage are supplied to each Water Stop in appropriate containers e.g. bidons or hydration packs. Bottles or containers must be of sufficient strength to avoid breakage.
- All items supplied to Water Stops must be clearly marked with the competitor's race number.
- All items for each stage must be given to Water Stop officials by 7:00pm each night for the next morning's stage and by 1:00pm for the afternoon stage.
- Each competitor must dismount at each Water Stop to allow assessment by medical and race officials.
- Competitors will be marked off on an appropriate check list by Water Stop officials as they arrive at each Water Stop.
- If a medical officer deems it necessary for a competitor to be given intravenous fluids due to dehydration, that competitor will be disqualified and not allowed to continue.
- Race officials will check that each competitor leaves each Water Stop carrying at least one and a half litres (1.5L) of fluid. Failure to do so will incur a penalty and possible disqualification from the event.

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PUSHING, TOWING AND CARRIAGE OF COMPETITORS

- Competitors are permitted and encouraged to lend assistance to fellow competitors such as pushing or working on failed components.
- At no time shall a support crew assist a competitor by way of pushing, towing or carriage of a competitor during timed sections. Immediate disqualification of the competitor from the event will result.
- Support crews are not to work on any competitor's bicycle during competition stages.
- Riders may elect to return to the start line for assistance repairing their bike but their overall time will be taken from the official start time of the stage.
- Any competitor who cannot repair his/her own bicycle will be picked up when overtaken by the Sweep Vehicle and transported to the stage finish.

RETIREMENTS

- A competitor wishing to retire from the SDBC must notify the Race Director and surrender his/her identification tags.
- Race organisers take no responsibility for riders and support crews who choose to leave the event.

VEHICLES

- Each competitor must be accompanied by a 4WD support vehicle.
- Each support vehicle participating in the SDBC must be officially registered and issued with desert challenge vehicle stickers supplied by race administration.
- Support vehicles are to display one identification sticker on the driver's side and one on the rear of the vehicle.
- Support vehicles must be all-terrain 4WD's. Smaller all wheel drive vehicles are not suitable.
- Each vehicle must be fitted with a UHF radio (or carry a minimum of a 2W portable UHF radio system).
- Each vehicle must have sufficient fuel for the desert crossing, plus additional fuel for an extra 100km travel in the event of unforeseen diversions.
- Each vehicle must carry sufficient water for the duration of the trip. The recommended water requirements for the event are 100lt per rider and 70lt per support crew.
- All vehicles should be fitted with vehicle rated vehicle recovery points, front and back (a rear tow bar is considered a rated recovery point).
- Support vehicles are permitted to provide support to any number of riders and bicycles.
- No support vehicles are permitted to be driving on the designated course during a competition stage.
- The towing of trailers requires Race Director and Committee approval. If you are planning to bring a trailer, please reach out to the Race Director in the first instance racedirector@desertchallenge.org
- Any approved trailer must be prepared for challenging off-road conditions. People towing trailers will be asked to travel at the back of the rear convoy to avoid delays to other vehicles.
- Support vehicles must travel in either the front or rear convoys. Support vehicles failing to comply with directions of Race Officials may result in immediate disqualification of the competitor or competitors.
- Support vehicles travelling in the front convoy must depart the control point 30 minutes before the designated race start time for both morning and afternoon stages. All support vehicles remaining behind must depart with the rear convoy.
- Competitors receiving assistance from unregistered support vehicles will be disqualified

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PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY

- Drinking of alcohol is not permitted until you are at the end of the day's racing. No person is to drive under the influence of alcohol.
- Any reports of harassment will be investigated and competitors and their crews may be disqualified and asked to leave the event.

GENERAL

- The organisers reserve the right to amend these rules at any time prior to the start of the event. Competitors will be notified of any changes.
- These and any other instructions issued by the organisers shall together form the regulations under which the event will be run. It is the competitors' responsibility to familiarise themselves with the regulations. Any person taking part in the event will be deemed to have accepted these regulations for the event.
- During the event the Race Director, reserves the right to change the rules should it be deemed necessary for either the safe, or practical conduct of the event. Competitors and support crews will be notified as early as practical should any changes be made.
- 100% of monies raised through donations/sponsorship of competitors shall be distributed to the nominated event charity(s).