



OFFICIAL REGULATIONS 2023

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1. Definition of the competition

1. The **Mongolia Bike Challenge (MBC)** is an off-road-bicycle stage race that takes place in Mongolia



2. Mongolia Bike Challenge Organizer

1. **PA Events S.L.** is the official organizer of the Mongolia Bike Challenge. In the rest of this document we will refer to it as the "Organizing Team".
1. **PA Events S.L.** is furthermore holder of the trademark and takes care of the event appearance, logistics and image as well as communication with the local authorities where the race takes place. Those authorities are identified as the Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, and the Mongolia Tourism Association.



3. General requirements and acceptance of regulations

2. The rules set out below are designed to ensure the safety of racers, support fundamental concept of fair play and maintain the overall integrity of the race itself.
3. Every racer must have read and understood the Official Regulation of the race and must follow it.
4. A failure to comply with any of the rules will result in penalties, which could include racer's disqualification. Categories for penalties are detailed in section 27 (Offenses and penalties).
5. In case any additional rule is required, or in the event that a specific provision regarding an incident has not been included in these rules, **the decision of the Race Director is final.**



4. Conditions for the admission to the race

6. Anyone 18 years of age at the moment of the start of the race, from any nationality, is admitted to the competition with no discrimination as long as fitness, medical and health conditions are appropriate for the event.
7. Professional athletes are also welcome to the race.
8. Each applicant must present a medical/sportive health certificate proving he is fit. Those documents must be handed in at the same time of registration and are mandatory to complete the registration successfully.
9. Every racer must sign a waiver form, thereby releasing the organization from any responsibility regarding their health condition.
10. During the race, every racer must possess and use a GPS device with the tracks uploaded from the race organization. Although this is not an orienteering race and the race route is clearly marked at all times, there are

external factors that might cause some signs to be missing, so it is the racer's responsibility to always double-check with the official GPS track on their device.



5. Racer Categories

11. Racers will be divided in age categories, plus categories for professionals, female racers, **SINGLESPEED**, **GRAVEL** and Tandem:

Khan	Professional athletes	Veteran	Over 50 years
Sportman	18 to 32 years	Female	18 years and above
Master 1	33 to 42 years	Tandem	18 years and above
Master 2	43 to 49 years	SS/gravel	18 years and above

For a category to be official, and for racers to be awarded at the end of each stage and at the end of the race, it has to be composed of a minimum of 5 athletes. Racers competing in the Gravel category will have their special classification, which is NOT the same as the General Classification.

2. In addition to the categories above, every racer can request the Organizing Team to compete as a 3-person team (with a maximum of one Khan and other 2 racers as team members) in an extra category called **TEAM 3**, providing a name for the team.

Team 3	18 years and above
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Team 3 category will have its own classification and prizes. However, every member from any team competing in Team 3 category will also compete in their own category.

- A mandatory condition for Team 3 classification is that all team members cross all of the stage finish line. If this condition is not met by any of the team members, the entire team will be removed from Team 3 classification.
- Racing time for each stage for each team is determined as the sum of the times for each of the three team members crossing the stage finish line.
- The Organizing Team will prepare a list of the overall results, as well as one for each category at the end of each stage and at the end of the race. For prize ceremony and acknowledgements please refer to the article within the **Race Information Package**.



6. Stage Start

6. There will be only one start for all the racers at the beginning of every stage.
7. All the racers must ride under the starting arch if designated by the Organizing Team. Otherwise, racers must cross the start line. Racers not crossing the start line/passing under the starting arch may be disqualified.
8. If a rider arrives late to the start line, they will be treated as if they started with the race, but they will be added a penalty consisting of the time difference between the racer and the official start). However, the rider must start within 60 minutes from the official start time. If they arrive later, they will be treated as a Non-Finisher for the stage (they may still ride the stage, but will have their race number showing Non-Finisher status).
9. Timing for all racers will be based on the official time provided by the Organizing Team by chip timing (hours, minutes, seconds).
10. Start time, as well as technical issues and track details, will be communicated during a briefing every evening before the next stage.



7. Nutrition and hydration during the race

11. Every racer is authorized and encouraged to organize their water and energy supplies as they wish.
12. For each stage, the Organizing Team will provide a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 Refilling Stations along the route. The number of Refilling Stations on the distance and difficulty level of the stage.
13. Racers cannot ride through the Refilling Stations and grab a bottle or food without fully stopping, with both feet on the ground. Failure to stop will result in a penalty.
14. Refilling Stations are of non-specific character, giving everybody the chance to use them as they wish. Therefore, it is not allowed to entrust them with personal food, drinks or other objects. Should a racer have special needs, it will be their responsibility to carry those items with them during the race.
15. Racers are not allowed to throw food, drink, containers or waste along the route. Failure to comply will result in a penalty. Waste must be discharged at the Refilling Stations or at the checkpoints.



8. Checkpoints

16. Time checkpoints will be placed along the track and at refreshment points.
17. Racers who are not detected at the checkpoints may be disqualified.
18. The Race Organization may include hidden checkpoints during the course of a stage.



9. Rider identification

19. Racers must display their number plate on their bike as well as on their jersey at all times and in good condition.
20. Bike number plates must be firmly fixed on the front of the bike and must not be hidden by cables, GPS units or other items. Racers not displaying their number properly will be given a first warning and, following a second offense, a time penalty as specified in section 27 (Offenses and penalties).
21. Bike number plates cannot be altered, cut or forged in any way. Tampering with the plate may lead to disqualification from the race.
22. Should the racer change bike during the race, the number must be transferred to the new bike accordingly.
23. Should the number during the competition degenerate, the racer must hand it to the staff and ask for substitution.
24. Every category leader must wear the official shirt of the leader provided by the Organizing Team.
The color of the leaders' jersey (male and female) will be **PINK**
25. Leader not wearing the pink jersey will be charged with a time penalty.



10.Sponsors

26. Racers cannot change or hide the race sponsors on the race number plates or those provided by the Organizing Team.
27. Every racer is allowed to wear sponsored uniform or to carry trademarks of any personal sponsor, if they do not hide the race sponsors provided by the Organizing Team.
28. The Organizing Team will hide any racer's sponsor that is considered not compatible with MBC, offensive or of bad taste.



11.Route

29. Racers must complete the designated route and distance of all stages foreseen by MBC.
30. The designated route will be marked clearly with posts and signs by the Organizing Team. However, due to the extreme nature of the environment, **the use of a GPS device is mandatory** to ensure racers always follow the route and, in case they get lost, they are able to find the course again.
31. Every racer must follow the official route at all times, follow the direction of the Organizing Team without taking shortcuts. The responsibility to follow the official route lies within every racer.
32. If a racer exits the route for any reason, they must return to the course at the same point from which they exited.
33. Official and hidden checkpoints will be key points to avoid racer shortcuts, and therefore ensuring the spirit of a sports competition.

34. Race Director ultimately decides over the application of a partial or complete change to the route of the stage, depending on unforeseen situations such as extreme necessity or general security.



12. Mechanical assistance

35. Racers should count on their own abilities and not be dependent upon the Organization to repair their bikes. However, for basic repairs, there will be a mechanical workshop present at the camps.
36. At each Refilling Station, the Organizing Team Staff will be present in order to help out in case of small repairs.
37. Mechanical help can only be accepted from authorized members of the Organizing Team or from other willing racers, officially registered. Should the racer use help from the outside during the stage they will get a penalty.



13. Medical assistance and insurance

38. Every racer participates under their will and responsibility. Therefore, the Organizing Team cannot be made liable for any accident, fall or illness occurring during the entire duration of the race.
39. Every racer must report as soon as possible to the Organizing Team about any accident/injury witnessed along the route.
40. At every Refilling Station there will be equipment available in order to transport injured racers to the camp (radio stations connected to the camp and to the vans of the Organizing Team).
41. Any injured racer transported to the finish line will lose their chance to be considered as "Official Race Finisher". He will be considered as "Non Finisher" (see section #15).
42. Every racer requested by any member of the Organizing Team to help in case of serious injury occurred to another racer must stop riding and make themselves available. The racer will still be considered as "Official Finisher", even if they do not cross the stage finish line within the time limit, and they will maintain the position they had in the previous day's classification. If the racer does not follow the Organizing Team direction and indications, they will be disqualified from the race.
43. There is no full-time helicopter coverage.
44. There will be a first-aid center as well as a medical team at the camp after the finish line of every stage.
45. No personal insurance is foreseen for the racer by the Organizing Team. However, the Organizing Team requires to join the MBC only with a personal insurance.



14. Seconding and drafting

46. No assistance or help from the outside is permitted under any circumstance. The penalty for such unsportsmanlike behavior is disqualification.
47. Towing from other riders or vehicles is strictly prohibited and the penalty is disqualification.
48. Drafting is permitted only between racers taking part to the MBC, however, NOT during the time trial stage. Any other form of drafting (e.g.: drafting behind an outcast rider, private vehicle, motorcycle, truck or official race vehicles) is not permitted and may lead to disqualification.



15. Time limit

49. There will be a set time limit for every stage of the MBC. The time limit is determined by the Organizing Team according to the length of each stage and the conditions of the terrain.
50. The time limit is defined as the maximum time allowed to ride the length of the whole stage of the official route, from the start to the finish line.
- 51. Only racers who complete all the stages and every stage within the stage time limit will be considered "Official Race Finisher".**
52. The time limit can be updated (reduced or increased) by the Organizing Team for logistical or security reasons. Any update will be communicated to the racers during the briefing prior the start of every stage.
53. The time limit may be also changed during the course stage by the Organizing Team, due to environmental or safety reasons. These changes will be informed in the most appropriate way according to the circumstances.
54. Any racer who fails to complete the stage within the official time limit is equivalent to a "partial withdrawal" racer (see next Item #17). The racer will be assigned the time of the last racer of the stage who finished within the time limit, plus a penalty of 50% of the difference between the first and last time of the stage in progress, with a minimum of 30 minutes.
55. Failure to meet the time limit in a single stage, as well as the partial withdrawal in a single stage, will automatically remove the racer from being an official Race Finisher (see Item #27: Ranking and Prizes). The racer will be then considered as "Non Finisher". They will keep the same race number, but with different color plate to distinguish them from those who still qualify to become "Official Finishers".
56. "Non Finisher" racers will be authorized to continue the race (i.e. they are able to ride the following stage) but they will be excluded from stage and general classifications.
57. "Non Finisher" racers who decide to continue the race, must still abide by the time limit set for each remaining stage.
58. Racers who fail twice to finish a stage within time limit will not be allowed to continue the race.



16.GPM Time bonuses

59. At the top of the highest climbs along the route of the stages, the Organizing Team will place GPM's (Grand Prix of the Mountain). Total GPM number and exact location will be reported within **Race Information Package** and will be confirmed during the briefing prior the relevant stage.
60. At every GPM, a crossing line will be marked in order to identify 1st, 2nd and 3rd racer to cross it.
61. Based on classification, the first 3 racers will get a time bonus that will be computed in the final overall ranking (30" for the first, 20" for the second, 10" for the third).



17.Partial or definitive withdrawal from the race

62. **Partial withdrawal:** when a racer withdraws from the stage for any reason (e.g. mechanical problems), but they are willing to continue the next day.
63. Any racer withdrawing from the race must inform the Organizing Team as soon and hand over his number. Organizing Team will transport him/her and their bike to the camp at the end of the stage.
64. Any racer withdrawing for whatever reason from a stage will be considered as "Non Finisher" (see item #15.7-15.10). In this case, as per item#15.6, the racer will be assigned the time of the last racer of the stage who finished within the time limit, plus a penalty of 50% of the difference between the first and last time of the stage in progress, with a minimum of 30 minutes.
65. **Definitive withdrawal:** when a racer withdraws from the race.
66. Any racer withdrawing from the race must inform the Organizing Team as soon and hand over his number. Organizing Team will transport them and their bike to the camp at the end of the stage. For the remaining days, the withdrawn racer will be transported in the vehicles of the Organizing Team following the race convoy until the end of the race. In case of any other transportation arrangement requested by the withdrawn racer (e.g.: transport to nearest town/airport), the Organizing Team will make all the efforts to organize it, granted that entire cost will be charged to the racer.
67. Any racer forced to withdraw from the race will be removed from all classifications.



18.Coverage and image rights

68. The Organizing Team has all image rights for the images of the event. By registering, every racer automatically authorizes the Organizing Team to use their name, image and contextual situations. This rule is valid for every

- racer, including those whose image is protected by other sponsors in different contexts (e.g. professional racers).
69. Any photo or video created privately during the MBC can only be used for private purpose prior to specific authorization by the Organizing Team.



19. Technical equipment and personal security

70. As stated in 4.5, every racer is required to use a GPS device to follow the race route and for security reasons, although MBC is not an orientation race and the complete route is clearly marked. However, there are external factors that might cause signs to be missing, so it is the racer's responsibility to always double-check with the official GPS track on their device. Each stage will be marked only at crucial points by means of wooden signs and ribbons.
71. In order to guarantee racer's personal security, each racer is recommended to carry the following security equipment during every stage of the race:
- Officially approved helmet (closed and correctly worn at all times);
 - Whistle;
 - Thermal Blanket;
 - Reflective surface (mirror);
 - Head lamp or light source;

See **Race Information Package** for further details.

3. Appropriate riding gear must be worn at all times. Based on past years' experience, every racer must be prepared for possible heavy rains and sudden temperature changes.



20. Bicycles

4. Only mountain bikes (26", 29" and 27.5" and Single speed) in good working order will be admitted to start the race. **THE MONGOLIA BIKE CHALLENGE ALSO WELCOMES GRAVEL OR CX BIKES, BUT RIDERS WILL COMPETE ONLY FOR THE "GRAVEL" CATEGORY AND WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OR AWARDED FOR STAGE AND/OR GENERAL CLASSIFICATION**
5. Bicycles will be propelled only by the racer's legs action through a chainset, without any form of assistance (electrical or otherwise).
6. Bike number plates must be firmly fixed on the front of the bike and perfectly visible (see item#9).
7. Handlebar ends and extensions shall be plugged and must not have sharp or jagged edges.
8. **MOUNTAIN BIKES**, Tandems, **SINGLESPEED AND CX / GRAVEL** bikes complying with the requirements set out in rules 20.1-20.4 are admitted to start the stage.
9. Any component or equipment may be changed or swapped during the race but a racer must complete the race with the same number plate assigned prior to the start of first stage.
10. Swapping or exchanging of complete bicycles between racers, due to extreme necessity, must be requested and agreed with Organizing Team.

11. In case of any repair or maintenance activity needed on the bicycle during any stage, racers are still required to finish the stage within time limit (see item #15).
12. Every rider is responsible for the maintenance of their bicycle during the race.



21. Protests

13. Protests must be submitted in writing within 2 hours to the Race Referee after the racer crosses the finish line.
14. A deposit of 50 Euros must be submitted for a protest to be considered.
15. The deposit will be returned only if the protest is upheld.
16. Results of the protest will be submitted within 30 minutes of the results being posted.



22. Respecting the environment and infrastructures

17. Every racer must follow the directions for the protection of the environment and infrastructure given by the Organizing Team with care, respecting therefore the place and the population as well as keeping up the sport spirit of this event.
18. It is strictly prohibited to wash bikes in rivers or streams, as well as contaminating those with any chemical substance. Rivers and streams represent most of the times the only water supply available to the local population.
19. It is strictly prohibited to light fires at any camp location.
20. Racers are responsible for their own trash. They must leave each camp as they found it. In the event that leftover trash is found at a camp after the race has started, the responsible racer will be assigned a time penalty. In case the trash is found in a communal tent, all the racers assigned to that tent will be held responsible and assigned a time penalty.

Any incorrect behavior regarding the environment will be severely punished by the organizers.



23. Traffic regulations

21. The race does not have exclusive use of any public or private roads during the race.
22. All regular traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the race.
23. Indications given by authorized staff along the way must be followed.



24. Doping

- 24. MBC Organizing Team reserves the right to conduct doping tests on all racers.
- 25. Positive results will lead to disqualification from the event.



25. Fair play

- 26. All racers are expected to show good sportsmanship and must not use offensive or abusive language during the race, act in an unsporting manner, be disrespectful to the officials or ignore the race regulations.
- 27. Racers must act in a polite manner at all times and permit any faster racer to overtake without obstructing.



26. Ranking and Prizes

- 28. "Official Finishers" of the MBC will receive the unique bike shirt that proves and confirms the great performance achieved.
- 29. Stage ranking will be defined at the end of each stage considering the time amount necessary for any racer to complete the official stage route from the start to the finish line.
- 30. Final overall ranking at the end of the race will be defined by the sum of all stage times of each racer to get a total time adding also time bonuses (see item #16) and penalties, if any, accumulated during all the stages.
- 31. Prizes will be given to the first 3 racers of each category and to the first 3 racers of the overall ranking.
- 32. The first 3 classified in the general classification will not be awarded in their own category.
- 33. A prize for fair play will be awarded to the racer who will distinguish themselves for their availability, sportsmanlike conduct and selflessness.
- 34. All participants, regardless the final result, will receive an official MBC gadget.



27. Offences and penalties

- 35. Every racer can collect only one warning, it does not matter which offence is related to. After the first warning and in case of a second offence, the racer will get a time penalty as per the second offence based on the table below:

<i>Offence</i>	<i>1st infringement</i>	<i>2nd infringement</i>	<i>3rd infringement</i>
False information in race registration	Disqualification	-	-
Helmet not officially approved, or worn and secured properly	Warning	10-60 minutes	Disqualification
Seconding and help from the outside	Warning	10-60 minutes	Disqualification
Not respecting the environment and the infrastructures	Warning	10-60 minutes	-
Unsportsmanlike behavior/unfair play	Warning	10-60 minutes	Disqualification
Partial/complete covering of the event's official trademark or sponsors	Warning	10-60 minutes	-
Skipping or missing a time checkpoint & shortcuts	10 minutes-2 hours	10 minutes-4 hours	Disqualification
<i>Offence</i>	<i>1st infringement</i>	<i>2nd infringement</i>	<i>3rd infringement</i>
Altering, removing, obscuring a racer's bike identification number	Warning	30 minutes	Disqualification
Not crossing the starting line/passing under starting arch	Warning	30 minutes	-



Live the Legend, be a Khan

Grabbing food or water at ref. points with no foot on ground	Warning	30 minutes	Disqualification
Leader's jersey not worn properly	10 minutes	10 minutes – 2 hours	-
Violating Organizing Team's directions	2 HOURS	Disqualification	-
Positive at doping check	Disqualification	-	-
Throwing or leaving waste/food/drink/bottles along the route	Warning	10 – 60 minutes	Disqualification