



Inspire India

The Deccan Cliffhanger

Pune, India

10th Edition | 25th November 2023



643KM Solo Self Supported

Rules and Regulations

Rules and Regulations

Guiding principles

- Safety of all persons involved
- Running a Clean and Healthy race with a level playing field for all
- Creating a Race of International standards
- Protecting Race integrity and reputation

The guiding principles will dictate decision making by the Race Committee on any issue not specifically covered in these rules

1. General

- A. All participants are responsible for reading and understanding the rules, event information and instructions given before and during the event.
- B. Standard Race Across America and RAAM Style Event Rules apply as listed in Appendix A with exceptions detailed at the bottom.
- C. Safety is a primary concern. In an emergency, riders are expected to help, and will be given credit for any lost time, if necessary.
- D. All rules and regulations must be obeyed by all riders at all times.
- E. Race Across America (RAAM) Rules may be referred to in the event that a situation is not covered in these rules. The race committee has the authority to override, modify, or create rules based on extenuating circumstances.
- F. The race is open to any amateur cyclist over the age of 18 as on December 31st, 2023.

2. Conduct

- A. Riders must conduct themselves in a civil manner at all times during the race.
- B. Riders may not act maliciously toward any other person for any reason. Riders may not intentionally impede the progress of or misdirect any other person for any reason.
- C. Riders must at all times behave respectfully toward all Race officials and volunteers.
- D. Violation of the conduct rules and/or any other inappropriate behaviour by a rider will result in the rider's immediate disqualification and possible suspension from future Inspire India events. This may include the suspension from participation or supporting any Inspire India Races.

3. Traffic Laws and Laws of the Land

- A. Riders must obey traffic laws at all times.
- B. This includes, but is not limited to: riding on the correct side of the road, stopping and waiting at red lights until they turn green, stopping at stop signs and checking for traffic before proceeding, using hand signals for all turns, keeping as far to the left as safety permits, using the shoulder whenever possible and obeying speed limits.
- C. Race officials may issue penalties for traffic violations.
- D. Riders are expected to follow all pertinent laws, regulations, and mandates from time to time.

4. Route and Tracking

- A. All riders must ride (or walk with their bikes) the entire route as prescribed by the official route book.
- B. All protocol about Control point distance, cut offs, stages and reporting at controls is detailed in Appendix B. Each Control Points passage must be noted and protocol must be followed as prescribed.
- C. The route will not be marked. Each racer will receive GPX file and a cue sheet at the start of the race indicating the route and location of checkpoints. Riders must stay on the route at all times.
- D. A mobile based app will be installed on the rider's phone for tracking them. Phone battery must be kept charged to allow the tracking application to function at all times during the race. All rider's locations will be publicly available through a dedicated tracking weblink.
- E. If a racer leaves the route for any reason, and using any means, they must return to the route at the same point at which they departed the route prior to continuing in order to avoid shortcuts and detours, unless specified otherwise by the race committee. The rider must inform Race Officials as soon as they leave the route and when they rejoin the route.
- F. If for any reason racers are forced off route by road construction, diversion due to accidents, or by traffic police for any reason, they must immediately contact one of the Race Officials and report exact details of diversion along with location details including co-ordinates or location pin of start of diversion. They must do the same at the time of re-joining the race route. Racers may continue to race.
- G. Race Committee will assess whether a time penalty is to be added to Racer's time or whether a time deduction is required. This decision will be conveyed to the racer so that they can re-calculate race cut-off time for the racer. No time credit will be given for navigational errors or for leaving the course.
- H. Racers have the obligation to inform to the officials in case of accidents, closed roads, detours, non-functioning of GPS device or quitting the race. If for any reason they are unable to establish a telephone call, they must send a text message or WhatsApp message.

5. Checkpoints and Cut-offs

- A. At a manned checkpoint, riders must report their arrival with the Race Card to the official when they arrive, and sign the checkpoint log. Time will be recorded as of when they report, not when they arrive, if there is a lapse. At an unmanned checkpoint Riders must report their arrival in the manner prescribed.
- B. It is solely the rider's responsibility to make sure their time is recorded, when they pass through a manned checkpoint. Failure to do so will result in penalties and/or disqualification.
- C. There are no hard cut offs in between, for RAAM Qualification. You have to reach the Finish within the Time limits of your respective Category. But if you arrive at Manned checkpoints after the Race Officials have left, you will be automatically disqualified from RAAM Qualification.
- D. The Close of Control timings of checkpoints as listed in Appendix D are the latest time till which Volunteers will wait at manned check points. These timings are primarily to validate a finish within Inspire India Finishers timings and not recommended for RAAM Qualification.
- E. Riders may not be eligible for Finishers awards if they reach a manned checkpoint after it has closed and officials have departed. Participants may continue riding the course but their timings will not be validated. Ref Appendix D.

6. Timings and RAAM Qualification

- A. Finish Cut off timings according to categories based on Age and Gender are detailed in Appendix B.
- B. Solo racers who successfully complete the entire course of 643 km in accordance with the RQ (RAAM Qualification) timings for their respective category will be qualified for Race Across America (RAAM) 2024 and 2025.
- C. All Solo racers who finish within the 42 hour cut off will be acknowledged as Finishers of the Deccan Cliffhanger by Inspire India and eligible for the finishers Medal. Solo racers who finish Outside of Time Limit will be listed as OTL in the results.

7. Race Officials and Race Committee

- A. Race Officials are individuals designated to enforce the Rules of the Race upon racers. Race Officials include Marshals, Control Point Officials, Head Official, Race Director, and Race Management members.
- B. Race officials may be stationed along the route as well as at checkpoints, and will be marshaling the route marked or unmarked vehicles.

- C. The Race Committee is comprised of the Race Director, Head Official, and the Executive Director. From time to time, the committee may also include other Officials or individuals who the Committee deems necessary and fit.
- D. The Race Committee has the authority to override, modify, or create rules based on unfolding circumstances during the course of the event. Race officials have complete authority and the decision of the Race committee is the final word on all matters.

8. Bicycles

- A. All bicycles must be propelled solely by human force. Disc wheels, wheel covers and/or aero bars are allowed.
- B. There are no bicycle categories at this time. Special bikes will be considered and ruled upon by the Race Director. Solo Racers must use a road bike. Use of other bike types such as MTBs is permitted subject to prior permission from the Race Committee.
- C. All bicycles must be deemed to be in race condition. If a bicycle is judged to be unfit or unsafe to ride, riders may NOT use it until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Race Director.

9. Helmets

- A. Riders must wear an approved helmet, properly fastened, at all times when riding a bicycle. Riders without a helmet will not be permitted to start. Riding without a helmet, even briefly will result in immediate disqualification of the racer.

10. Lights and Reflective Gear

- A. Riders must use at least one steady white front light visible from 500' (150 lumens or more) mounted to the bicycle and a steady (not flashing) red rear light visible from 300' mounted to the bicycle. A second red rear light visible from 300' mounted to the bicycle or rider, may be kept on flashing or steady mode. Be warned however that the flashing mode can cause extreme irritation and/or hypnotic effect on the follow car driver.
- B. Riders must wear a reflective gear during the night hours, in the form of a vest or bandoleer. (Adhesive reflective material and jerseys with reflective material stitched to them, are not acceptable in lieu of reflective gear)
- C. Lights and reflective gear must be used during night hours from 6:00 PM – 7:00 AM, and switched on when passing through a tunnel. All lighting requirements must be met by all riders, during the night hours (mandatory direct follow hours). Any rider caught riding without lights and/or reflective gear during the night hours will be immediately penalized (no warnings) Ref 18A-18E.
- D. These are the minimal requirements we will accept, but are nowhere near optimal. For optimal lighting, we recommend using a front light of at least 600 lumens, with a secondary front light in use with the other light or to use as a backup. For the rear, we recommend using lights with visibility up to 500'.

11. Self-sufficiency, Official Support & Drop Bags

- A. Each racer must be fully self-sufficient. No support vehicles of any kind are permitted during the race. Violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification of the racer. Racers within the same category may however help each other. Category does not apply to gender or age categories, but to Distance/Relay/supported/unsupported.
- B. Racers must be fully self supported in terms of all hydration, food, nutrition, mechanical requirements etc and particularly at all times must be fully equipped to combat the elements. Racers may avail of whatever vendors, shops, hotels, restaurants are available on route. Racers must ensure that all purchases are paid for in full and interactions are conducted respectfully. Complaints of non-payment of any other form of nuisance will attract a penalty.
- C. Racers may not have friends/family come on the route to cheer or in any way assist racers. With prior intimation to Race officials they may only cheer at a manned control point. No support, food, drink, supplies may be exchanged. Violation will lead to a penalty or disqualification
- D. Racers may use technical/mechanical assistance available en route provided they adhere to 3:D if they leave the route
- E. Racers will be given 1 sling bag during pre race registration to pack with drop bag requirements for the drop bag location. These bags are to be handed over before race start, and may only be accessed at drop bag location. No valuables and no perishable items are to be put in the bags.

- F. Drop Bags will be made available by the official vehicle at the prescribed location only, and may NOT be accessed along the route. Official vehicles are only there to observe racers and in case of emergency.
- G. Drop Bags Must be repacked before rider's departure from control point on each instance. Race management will not be held accountable for missing items not packed into the Drop Bags.

12. Support, Vendors & Resources

- A. Inspire India provides resources in the form of information on technical support, accommodation and enroute restaurants, as also support personal in the form of volunteers. Inspire India cannot be held responsible for any disappointment to the Racers, or any disagreement that may arise.
- B. Racers are expected to behave respectfully toward all resources, vendors and support that is made possible through the goodwill of Inspire India and throughout the period of the race, including the days before and after the race at the Start/Finish Venues. This is particularly important at Bogmalo where you must keep all interaction respectful with the local community , and ensure all bills are cleared.
- C. No misuse, littering, damage to property is permitted in the hotel rooms provided by Inspire India for racers. Any damages MUST be made good by the racers. Racers vacating rooms in a manner that is not acceptable by Hotels will be given a time penalty.
- D. All expenses towards any resources, vendors used are to be borne in full by the Racer. All expenses for the duration of the race, including accommodation as required at start and finish are to be borne by the racer.

13. Safety, Sleep and Medical Support

- A. Racers are responsible entirely for their own safety at all times during the race. Decisions to rest, or quit based on health to avoid a particular section of route during night are to be taken by racers with full responsibility towards their own wellbeing and safety.
- B. The safety rules prescribed are to be strictly adhered to. Traffic rules must be followed at all times. If riding with a buddy, riding single file is recommended. Cyclists may not obstruct traffic or ride on the wrong side of the road for any reason.
- C. Hand signals must be given to indicate turns or that you are stopping to avoid accidents with vehicles behind you. Racers MUST ONLY STOP after pulling fully off the road on the left.
- D. Race officials reserve the right to stop a racer deemed to be riding in an unsafe manner, and only allow them to continue once they are satisfied about their ability to continue safely. Repeatedly riding in an unsafe manner will lead to an immediate disqualification to prevent injury or harm. Race officials' verdict on what is safe or unsafe is final.
- E. Race officials reserve the right to pull a rider off the course and order them to rest or retire from the race, if that person is suffering from sleep deprivation and/or riding or acting in an unsafe manner.
- F. In case of any medical emergency, racers must immediately inform the race officials and also immediately seek local medical help.

14. Warning and Penalties

- A. Riders must obey all rules and regulations at all times. There will be no exceptions. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure that they do not give any cause for doubt.
- B. Race officials and volunteers may issue warnings to riders for minor violations not including willful cheating. If the situation warrants, a penalty may be issued at the first offense.
- C. In the situation of a race such as this, race marshals may take spot decisions that will be conveyed to the Race Committee. Every attempt will be made to convey it to the racer, but Race Officials may not be held responsible if contact is not made with them for this purpose.
- D. Repeating an offense will result in a penalty, regardless of whether the racer has been notified or warned about the first offence.
- E. Race officials reserve the right to immediately disqualify a rider and ban them from future races for inappropriate behavior or if the situation warrants it. It is within the discretionary powers of Race officials to make a decision about warnings, penalties or disqualifications, based on their judgment and observations.
- F. Penalties will be meted out in accordance with RAAM race rule no. 13. In Appendix A, but are not limited to the ones listed there.

15. Cheating

- A. Drafting of any motorized vehicle is strictly forbidden. Any rider seen attempting to gain advantage by drafting a motorized vehicle will be immediately disqualified.
- B. Towing any vehicle is strictly forbidden. A violation will lead to immediate disqualification and a ban from future races.
- C. Any Racer seen using a motorized vehicle to move ahead on the course will be disqualified. If for any reason a racer decides to withdraw from the race, she/he must inform a race official before moving ahead on the course in a vehicle. If telephonic contact cannot be established, a text message/sms or WhatsApp message must be sent.
- D. Any deliberate act of taking advantage over others is considered cheating and will lead to immediate disqualification.
- E. A very serious view is taken of any manner of cheating. If found cheating Race officials WILL immediately disqualify a rider and ban them from future races.

16. Drafting

- A. Drafting of any motorised vehicle is not allowed and will constitute to cheating.
- B. Drafting of any Human Powered Vehicle (bicycle or other) that is not participating in your distance format of the self-supported race is not allowed and will constitute to cheating.
- C. Any violation of the drafting rules 15:A and 15:B will result in a rider's immediate disqualification.
- D. Racers within the same distance format of the self-supported race may ride together and draft each other provided it is with mutual consent. If a racer explicitly says that s/he does not wish to have a competitor draft or accompany him/her that must be respected. Complaints will be dealt with by warnings and penalties as required.

17. Compliance

- A. All racers have to pass inspection of mandatory requirements before being cleared to race. This will include documentation and Bicycle inspection as described in Appendix C.
- B. It is the responsibility of the racers to ensure that compliance is strictly adhered to for the entire duration of the race.
- C. In case a change of bicycle is necessitated between inspections and race start, Race officials have to be informed and new bicycle inspected.

18. Appeals, Protests, and Complaints

- A. During the course of the race, a racer may make a verbal protest to any Race Official or the Race Director, but it must be made privately and respectfully. Any public protest or display of disgust with the contents of the Rules, their application or to a Race Official may result in a penalty.
- B. Any rider wishing to make an official protest must do so in writing and submit it to the Race Director along with a Complaint Fee of Rs. 5000/- no later than two hours after their race's respective time limit has expired. The Race committee will rule on all protests after due deliberation, as time permits.
- C. Please refer RAAM RULES – Appendix A – Cheating and Accusations of Cheating (quoted below) "RAAM is first and foremost a competitive event – it is the Race Across America. It is also an event characterized by camaraderie, shared experience and personal achievement. You will have a better experience if you are supportive of all Racers. Your priority is racing, not officiating.
- D. Concentrate on your race, the Race Officials will focus on rules. Invariably, becoming fixated on what may be perceived as violations of rules by others and/or what you believe to be officiating mistakes, will generally cause both Racers to lose focus on racing and negatively impact performance.
- E. Cheating versus Mistakes - Mistakes happen. Racers get tired and forget and rules are broken. In most cases it is not intentional. Cheating is a flagrant and purposeful violation of the rules."
- F. Riders may not make allegations of cheating in public or in social media of any kind. Racers may not make allegation of cheating to Race Officials without substantiating it with evidence. Protocol is to be observed. Riders must submit a formal letter of complaint to the Race committee along with eye-witness accounts, evidence and a complaint fee, for it to be taken seriously.
- G. Complaint fee will be refunded in full if the Race committee rules in favor of the complaint. In the absence of substantiating evidence, race committee will be unable to take action.

- H. Airing opinions, making allegations and complaints regarding Race and Race officials over Social or other Media before or after making a formal protest, that are considered harmful to the Race Reputation may result in a disqualification or a ban from future races.
- I. All Racers are encouraged to report to race officials, any suspicions (with or without evidence) if they see some infraction of rules by other teams or racers. These reports must be made during the course of the race, with details of racer/team no. and location, to enable race officials to check on the report. Any racer, witnessing a cheating or rule infraction and not reporting it to race officials immediately, will lead to witnesses being held complicit in the act itself.

19. Communication Protocol

- A. In addition to conduct during the race (ref rules and regulations #2: Conduct) that pertain mostly, but are not limited to face to face conduct during the race, all communication between participants and Race organisation, through any and all means, must be respectful and polite in nature.
- B. In addition to any appeal/protest/complaint covered in Rules and Regulations #22 Appeals/Protesting/Complaints, all communication between Participant and Race Officials must be private and respectful.
- C. The objective of the communication must clearly be to receive clarity and resolution, on race related issues or information from Race officials.
- D. Acceptable means of communication are via email for any official communication that need to be kept on record, and via phone call, text to phone or whatsapp for any inquiries during race days.
- E. Posts on social media are not acceptable means of communication about race inquiries or addressing of issues. These are public forum that are critical to the well-being and growth of this race, and we will use our discretion in judging whether a racer is being disrespectful.
- F. A social media post deemed disrespectful, and harmful to the race reputation (guiding principal #4) may result in a disqualification or a ban from future races.

20. Media, Race Publicity and PR

- A. Riders agree to the use of their images for the purpose of Race Promotion in all Media.
- B. Riders must not through their actions on any media (print, social, internet, FB, twitter, etc) harm Race Reputation. The continuation of the Race is dependent on maintaining its integrity and reputation and any action that is considered harmful to the Race Reputation may result in a disqualification or a ban from future races.

21. Littering

- A. Racers may not litter, throw garbage, plastic etc at any point during the course of the race.
- B. All waste must be disposed off at private or public garbage bins on waste collection sites only
- C. This includes but is not limited to the finish line at Bogmalo where it is forbidden to throw any waste out of the vehicles into the public parking or the streets at the end of the race. Racers must only do this activity at their own respective hotels and dispose off the garbage as recommended at their hotels.
- D. It is the responsibility of the racers to ensure that compliance is strictly adhered to, not only for the entire duration of the race but until departure from Bogmalo the following day.
- E. Any breach of this will result in a penalty without warnings.

22. Substance Abuse

- A. Consumption of alcoholic beverages, drugs, Narcotics, Opioids or any other substance that may have an effect of intoxication or impediment to functionality is STRICTLY PROHIBITED for all Racers!
- B. This rules applies from the day before the race start till the participants finishes. For Safety reasons, racers are expected to impose this restriction on themselves and each other.
- C. Race Officials will take the strictest action upon breach of rules, even in the case of suspicion or suspicious behaviour. In addition to a disqualification, Race Officials reserve the right to report offending person to local authorities.

Appendix B

Categories And Timings

SOLO Self Supported

The Self-Supported format is derived from bike-packing wherein racers are self-sufficient for their needs during the race. Racers can ride along with other self-supported racers. Most importantly, racers do not require a crew to support them at the race. As such, DC Self-Supported is a RAAM Qualifier and is a single stage non-stop race. Drop bag facility will be available at CP03 Kagal and racers can access drop bags and avail of rest rooms to freshen up.

	Category	RAAM Qualification Cut-Off	Inspire India Timing Cut-Off
Solo Self Supported	E Self Supported Women Over 50	41:00:00	42:00:00
	F Self Supported Women 18-49	39:00:00	42:00:00
	G Self Supported Men Over 50	39:00:00	42:00:00
	H Self Supported Men 18-49	37:00:00	42:00:00

Note:

- All Categories finish under 42 hours
- All Participants will receive a Medal and Certificate on completion of the route.
- There are no bicycle categories at this time. Special bikes will be considered and ruled upon by the Race Advisor.

Appendix C

These are the mandatory pre-race requirements that each racer must meet in order to receive a clearance to race the Deccan Cliffhanger 2022. Racers failing to meet these requirements in the required timeline may be denied a clearance to race and their registration cancelled without a refund.

A. Bike Inspection:

All bikes that racers intend to use at the race must be inspected by race officials. The bikes must meet the following requirements in order to pass inspection. Racers will need to arrange for the required equipment listed below unless otherwise stated:

1. Front Bike Light - at least 150 lumens or visible from 200m (recommended 700 to 1000 lumens)
2. Rear Red Tail Light - at least 150 lumens or visible from 500m, must have steady mode (recommended 200 to 600 lumens)
3. Reflective Tape strips of 10mm x 50mm pasted on:
 - i. Fork Legs
 - ii. Seat Stays
 - iii. Cranks
 - iv. Back of Pedals or Shoes
 - v. 3 strips on each side of each wheel rim
4. Helmet
5. Reflective Vest or Bandoleer
6. Bike Number Plate attached on seat post of bike - Provided by Officials at Inspection Venue
7. Helmet Number sticker pasted on front and both sides of helmet - Provided by Officials at Inspection Venue
8. Power Bank capable of keeping all lights and mobile phone for tracking charged during the entire duration of the event.

B. Documents:

Racers will have to provide the following documents at the inspection venue. Please note that the inspection venue is NOT equipped to make prints and/or copies. Racers are advised to carry copies of documents themselves.

1. Identity Document of all Racers - Aadhar Card / Driving License / Passport (mandatory for non-Indian participants)
2. Waiver and Discharge Forms duly signed by racers



BIKE AND HELMET INSPECTION



Reflective vest



Helmet with number on front and both sides

Front bike light
(150 Lumens visibility 500ft)

Rider number

Rider number

Rear light
(300ft visibility steady mode)

Reflective tape
(seat stays)

Reflective tape
(front fork legs)



Wheels
(3 strips of 2 inches each side)

Reflective tape
(Crank & pedal)

Rider numbers will be provided at inspection venue. Reflective tapes of approx 1/4 inches by 3 inches long st
ise at the venue.



Inspire India

The Deccan Cliffhanger

Pune, India

10th Edition | 25th November 2023



Self Help Checklist - RQ and RAAM Style Relay

Use the self-help checklist to ensure that you have met all the requirements for pre-race registrations and inspections

Requirement	1
Front Bike Light	
Rear Red Tail Light	
Spare Batteries for lights and Power Bank for charging phone	
Reflective Tape on Fork Legs	
Reflective Tape on Seat Stays	
Reflective Tape on Cranks	
Reflective Tape on Back of Pedals or Shoes	
Reflective Tape 3 strips on each side of each wheel rim	
Helmet	
Reflective Vest or Bandoleer	
Bike Number Plate	
Helmet Number sticker	
Identity Document of all Racers	
Waiver and Discharge Forms	

Appendix D

Race Route and Checkpoints

Appendix D (Solo Self Supported)					
Control Point	Place	Landmark	km from Start	Type	Close of Control
CP01	START	Keshavbaug Pune	0	Manned	25/11/23 4:14 AM
CP02	Mahabaleshwar	Bagicha Hotel on Left	110.6	Manned	25/11/23 11:30 AM
CP03	Karad	Hotel Sangam	220.2	Unamned	25/11/23 5:30 PM
CP04	Kagal	Hotel Ashoka	302.8	Manned	26/11/23 00:00 AM
CP05	MK Hubli	Swagat Retail Indian Oil Petrol Pump	422.4	Manned	26/11/23 7:00 AM
CP06	Belgaum	Infinity Bike Studio	451.1	Manned	26/11/23 8:30 AM
CP07	Sawantwadi	Shiv Udyan Park on Right	553.8	Manned	26/11/23 3:30 PM
CP08	FINISH	John's Seagull Bar and Restaurant	643	Manned	26/11/23 10:00 PM

- The Close of Control timings of checkpoints as listed in Appendix D are the latest time till which Volunteers will wait at manned check points. These timings are primarily to validate a finish within Inspire India Finishers timings and not recommended for RAAM Qualification.
- For RAAM Qualification, you have to reach the Finish within the Time limits of your respective Category, however if you arrive at Manned checkpoints after the Race Officials have left, you will be automatically disqualified from RAAM Qualification.

Contact Details of Race Officials

Core Team

Divya: 98220 91003

Rutvik: 77986 52300

Greeshma: 99706 57647