



THE GREAT HIMALAYAN

Self Supported Race

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. Safety is a primary concern. All riders are responsible for their own health and well being and obliged to be physically prepared for the race.

- C. All rules and regulations must be obeyed by all riders at all times. The race committee has the authority to override, modify or create rules based on extenuating circumstances.
- D. The race is open to any amateur cyclist over the age of 18 as on January 1st, 2021.

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 of riders as potential crew members in Inspire India Races, from participation or supporting any Inspire India Races.
- E. Littering is not tolerated under any circumstances. Ref 20A-E for detailed rules wrt Littering

3: Route/Checkpoints/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. 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 by the race committee.
- E. A mobile based app will be installed for tracking racers, that will be available online. Phone battery must be kept charged to allow tracking at all times.
- 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. Racers may continue to race. If for any reason they are unable to establish a telephone call, they must send a text/WhatsApp message, giving co-ordinates or location pin of start of diversion. They must do the same at the time of re-joining the race route.
- 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.

- H. Each racer must possess along with the prescribed lighting equipment, batteries and replacement lights and powerbank in addition to items listed in Mandatory list in Appendix A.
- I. Racers must at all times have a charged cell phone that will be used as a tracking device and to communicate with the race officials. 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.

4: Traffic Laws & Law 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. Racers and support crew members are expected to follow all pertinent laws, regulations and mandates.
- D. Race officials may issue penalties for traffic violations.

5: 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 specific category of the race is also not allowed and amounts to cheating. Category does not apply to gender or age categories, but to Distance/Relay/supported/unsupported.
- C. Any violation of the drafting rules 5:A and 5:B will result in a rider's immediate disqualification.
- D. Racers within the same category, as described in 5:A 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.

6: 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. There is absolutely NO technical/mechanical assistance available en route!
- E. Racers will be given 1 sling bag on pre race day to pack with drop bag requirements for the 2 drop bag locations. 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 night halt control point only, and may NOT be accessed along the route. Official vehicles are only there to observe racers and in case of emergency.
- G. At the drop bag locations the hotel rooms are shared accommodation for quick halts, rest and change, and they must be used with due consideration of other racers.
- H. Drop Bags Must be repacked before rider's departure from hotel room on each instance! Race management will not be held accountable for missing items not packed into the Drop Bags.

7: 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 and all crew 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 Venue. 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.

8: 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 in a high altitude race and to avoid a particular section of route during night are to be taken by racers with full responsibility towards their own well being 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. Night halt for sleep is provided at the turn point. It is not recommended to take rest breaks on the high mountain roads.
- F. Race officials reserve the right to pull a rider off the course and order them to rest if that person is suffering from sleep deprivation and/or riding or acting in an unsafe manner.
- G. In case of any medical emergency, racers must immediately inform the race officials and also immediately seek local medical help.

9: Bicycles

- H. All bicycles must be propelled solely by human force. Disc wheels, wheel covers and/or aero bars are allowed.
- I. There are no bicycle categories. Special bikes will be considered and ruled upon by the Race Committee.
- J. All bicycles must be deemed to be in race condition as assessed by an authorised official at the start of the race. If a bicycle is judged to be unfit or unsafe to ride by a race official, riders may **NOT** use it until the issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the Race Committee.

10: 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.

11: Lights and Reflective Gear

- A. Riders must use at least one steady white front light visible from 500 feet (150 lumens or more) mounted to the bicycle and a steady (not flashing) red rear light visible from 300 feet mounted to the bicycle. A second red rear light visible from 300 feet mounted to the bicycle or rider, may be kept on flashing or steady mode. Spare lights and batteries are strongly recommended. Riders who fail to comply will be refused to start the race.
- 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 as replacement to reflective gear)
- C. Lights and reflective gear must be used during night hours from 6:00 PM – 7:00 AM and at times of low visibility conditions such as fog and rain. All lighting requirements must be met by all riders, during the night. Any rider found riding without lights and/or reflective

gear during the night hours will be immediately penalized (no warnings will be issued in this regard).

- 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 feet.
- E. Racers failing to comply will be penalised immediately without warnings.

12: Timings/Cut offs

- A. The Unsupported Great Himalayan Race is not a RAAM QUALIFIER.
- B. Racers must finish within all prescribed cut offs with an officials at the manned control points, and within the overall cut-off time to be listed in the rankings.
- C. Hard Mountain Cut Offs in the Great Himalayan Race will be strictly applied. Racers will not be allowed to continue on the course once they miss the cut off!
- D. Refer cut off timings and protocol for control points in Appendix B.

13: Cheating

- A. Any instance of fraud, cheating or deliberate violations of any rules will result in issuance of penalties or may result in further exclusions of the racer as a racer or a crew member in future Inspire India Races.
- B. Drafting of any motorized vehicle is strictly forbidden. Any rider seen attempting to gain advantage by drafting a motorized vehicle will be immediately disqualified.
- C. Towing any vehicle is strictly forbidden. A violation will lead to immediate disqualification and a ban from future races.
- D. Any Racer seen using a motorized vehicle to move ahead on the course will be disqualified. Racers must inform Race Officials of Withdrawal from the race before boarding any vehicle.
- E. Any deliberate act of taking advantage over others is considered cheating and will lead to immediate disqualification.
- F. 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.

14: Warning/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 s/he do not give any cause for doubt.
- B. Race officials and volunteers may issue warnings to riders for minor violations not including wilful 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 the racer 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. In case the first offense was notified, repeating the same rule violation may result in an escalated time penalty.
- E. Race officials reserve the right to immediately disqualify a rider and ban them from future races for inappropriate behaviour 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. Each violation of rules will result in a 15-30 minute time penalty depending on the offense. The fifth penalty will result in disqualification.

15: Race Officials and Race Committee

- A. The Race Committee comprises of but not limited to the Race Director, Head of Officials, Race Officials and Team Members. 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 final and binding on all participants on all matters.
- B. Race Officials may be stationed along the route in marked or unmarked vehicles. The race officials may change their location and drive along with racers if deemed necessary.

16: Appeals/Protests/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. Riders and support crew 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.
- D. Complaint fee will be refunded in full if the Race committee rules in favour of the complaint. In the absence of substantiating evidence, race committee will be unable to take action.
- E. 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.
- F. 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 or crew, 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.

17: Media, Race Publicity and PR

- A. Riders and support crew 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.

18: 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 #15: 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.

19: Compliance

- A. All racers must pass inspection of mandatory requirements before being cleared to race. This will include documentation and bicycle inspection as described in Appendix A.
- B. It is the responsibility of the racers ensure that compliance especially to safety rules 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 bicycle inspected. Once flagged off the entire route must be covered by the racer on the same bicycle.

20: 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. If disposed within a private property on the course like a hotel, restaurant or petrol pump, it must be with the permission of the property managers.

- C. This includes but is not limited to the start/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 for the entire duration of the race.
- E. Any breach of these rules, Racers found littering during the course of the race will result in a time penalty or disqualification at the discretion of the Race committee, without warnings and appeal.

21: 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, all 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 A

Mandatory Pre-Race Registration Requirements

PARTICIPATION WILL BE CANCELLED WITHOUT REFUND FOR NON COMPLETION OF PRE-RACE REGISTRATION FORMALITIES, BIKE AND EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS OR NON ATTENDANCE OF PRE-RACE BRIEFING.

Bike Check – Check List

- Rider Number on front and rear – will be provided at Inspection Venue.
- Rider No. on Helmet – will be provided at Inspection Venue.
- Front Bike Lights – 150 Lumens visible for 500 feet – minimum 2 with spare batteries and/or chargers
- Red tail lights – visible for 300 feet must have steady mode – minimum 2 with spare batteries and/or chargers
- Powerbank and charging cables.
- Reflective Vest/Bandoleer.
- Reflective tape (If you do not have Reflective tape, you may purchase some at the Inspection Venue) approx ¼ inch by 3 inches long strips to be affixed on.
 1. Front fork legs,
 2. Seat stays
 3. Cranks,
 4. either rear of pedals or heels of shoes,

5. wheels (3 strips of 2 inches on each side)

Documentation Check List

- Copy of Racer's ID proof - Get Hard Copy
- Copy of Racer's Age proof - Get Hard Copy
- Waiver Forms to be signed by Racer – will be provided at Inspection Venue.
- Adventure sports (high altitude) insurance for Racer – Mandatory

APPENDIX B

Control Point Details - To be updated

Route is Leh-Kargil-Leh – 444km

In Brief

222Km each day to be covered in 15 hours from 6am-9pm with a night halt at turn point.

On the way out Hard Cut off at 2pm will be strictly imposed at Lamayuru (115km) to prevent a descent in the dark.

On Return Hard Cut off at 2pm will be strictly imposed at Fotu La (88km).

There will be a second cut off each day at 6:30pm, or nightfall. Race Officials will judge the ability of the participant to reach Kargil or finish at Leh before 9pm and take a spot decision.

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