

Simpson Desert Bike Challenge – Race Rules

Version 6 – 10 Jan 2008

THE COURSE

- The Simpson Desert Bike Challenge (SDBC) starts at Purnie Bore on the Rig Road in South Australia and continues along the Rig Road through 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 race is approximately 600 kilometres depending on the prevailing weather and road conditions.
- Marker pegs along the track will indicate distance traveled and the course to be followed.
- Starting time for each morning stage will be 6.00am.
- After the first morning, the first ten placed competitors will be started in a grid formation at the front of the field.
- The afternoon stage start time is 2.00pm.
- Starting competitors for any stage are to be ready at the start marshalling area 15 minutes before the start time. Competitors failing to comply will be timed out for that stage unless they have notified officials of their withdrawal.
- The first four days will consist of two stages. The fifth day will be a single stage into Birdsville, QLD. Each morning stage will be approximately 80km long and each afternoon stage will be approximately 50km long.

WATER STOPS

- Each competitor must stop at all Water Stops located approximately every 15 – 20 kilometres. Failure to stop will incur a penalty and possible disqualification from the event. 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.
- Each competitor must dismount at each Water Stop to allow assessment by medical and race officials.
- Race officials will check that each competitor leaves each Water Stop carrying at least one and a half litres (1.5 L) of fluid. Failure to do so will incur a penalty and possible disqualification from the event.
- There will be a minimum of three Water Stops in the morning stage and three Water Stops in the afternoon stage.
- Competitors must ensure that replacement fluids for each stage are supplied to each Water Stop in appropriate containers e.g. biddons or hydration packs. Disposable bottles or containers will not be accepted due to the risk of breakage in transit.
- 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 8:00pm each night for the next morning's stage and by 1:15pm for the afternoon stage.
- 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 transfused due to dehydration, that competitor will be disqualified and not allowed to continue. Where that rider is part of a relay team, the other team members may continue but no substitutes will be allowed during that competition stage.

IDENTIFICATION

- All officially entered competitors, bicycles and support crew vehicles will receive individual identification 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.
- Support vehicles are to display one identification sticker on the driver's side door and one on the rear of the vehicle.

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.

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RELAY COMPETITORS

- Relay teams may be a minimum of three (3) a maximum of five (5) competitors. Each team will be issued with a race number and team riders will be issued with subsequent team identification, e.g. 14A, 14B, 14C, and 14D.
- Race Control is to be advised who will be competing each day by no later than 8:00pm on the previous evening. Each competitor and bicycle must be nominated to race for one complete day (i.e. both morning and afternoon stages) and no substitutes are allowed during that complete day.
- Any time penalties incurred by a team member will accumulate and be counted in the overall result for the relay team entry.
- The maximum number of bicycles to be used by a team is limited to the number of team members entered. No minimum number is imposed.
- Transport of additional bikes during the event is the team's responsibility.
- Competitors and their bicycles may attempt more than one complete day

DECLARATION AND INDEMNITY

Each competitor and support crew member must sign the Declaration and Indemnity Form. If support crew members are not known at the time of entry, they may sign the Declaration and Indemnity Form at the Pre-Race Registration at Purnie Bore.

ELIGIBILITY OF COMPETITORS AND SUPPORT CREWS

- The minimum age for competitors is sixteen (16) years of age as at race start date.
- Riders under the age of 18 on the start day of the race must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The minimum age for support crew members is fifteen (15) years as at race start date.
- Only individuals nominated on the entry form may compete in the SDBC.
- Competitors with an existing serious medical condition may be refused entry to the SDBC if in the opinion of the medical officers it is not practical to support a person with that condition under the circumstances of the race.
- Only all-terrain bicycles are allowed.
- Support vehicles must be all-terrain 4WD's. Extra vehicles accompanying a competitor/team must pay the appropriate registration fee.

ENTRIES & REGISTRATION

- Applications must be made online from the Desert Challenge Website (www.desertchallenge.org) or by downloading and completing a printed copy of the entry form and submitting it with the full entry fee.
- Competitors and support crew 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 at 9am on the first day in January and close at 5.00pm on the last day in August
- The field is limited to 40 competitors. A relay team will be counted as equivalent to one competitor.
- Registrations will be open from 1pm till 5pm on the day before the race start. Riders will bring helmets and bicycles for inspection and tagging.
- All competitors and support crews must be present at the Pre-Race briefing, which will commence at 5:00pm on the day before the start of the race, at Purnie Bore.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

- The SDBC is organised and conducted by Desert Challenge Inc, an 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 event.
- Enquiries related to the SDBC can be directed to the Race Director and contacts as listed on the website.

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COMPOSITE TEAM ENTRY

- Individual competitors will be encouraged to nominate a composite team consisting of three (3) individual competitors.
- Composite team results are not part of the relay team competition.
- Overall times for the three individual competitors nominated in a composite team will be added together at the finish of the SDBC to determine the composite team result.

INSURANCE

- It is the responsibility of each competitor and support crew to ensure they have adequate insurance cover during the SDBC.
- 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.
- Organisers and sponsors will not be liable for any action in the matter.

TIME LIMIT

- Timing will be taken from the start (morning) to the lunch stop control, then from the lunch stop control to the overnight stop.
- 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.
- A Sweep vehicle will travel at 12 km/hr.
- Competitors having been overtaken by the Sweep Vehicle will not be disqualified but will receive a time penalty.
- All competitors will compete under the same timing schedule (no handicaps).
- To be eligible for 1st place overall and 100% race completion trophies, competitors must complete 100% of all stages as set out by the organisers. If there are no riders that have completed 100%, the first place rider will be judged the winner.
- Competitors for all age group and team awards must complete a minimum of 75% of the SDBC course distance.

RETIREMENTS

A competitor wishing to retire from the SDBC must notify the Race Director and surrender his/her identification tags.

TIMING

- Timing of the event will be by the official timepiece carried by official timekeepers and set to Central Australian Standard Time (South Australian time).
- At each timing control, officials will record each competitor's time to the second.
- Riders who finish in a group will be recorded as having the same completion time.

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.
- 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.

BICYCLE ELIGIBILITY

- No power other than human power may be used. The design of the bicycle and its components is free (the original frame must be used at all times).

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- All bicycles will be checked prior to the start.
- For individual entries, only one bicycle per competitor is to be used throughout the SDBC. Any damaged component can be repaired or replaced except the original frame.
- Relay teams may use more than one bicycle but not in any one complete day and no substitutes are allowed. Repair and maintenance rules apply as per single entries.

SURVIVAL EQUIPMENT

- The event organisers require that each competitor must start each stage carrying a minimum of two (2) 750mL biddons 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.

SUPPORT CREWS

- Each competitor must be accompanied by a 4WD support vehicle.
- All vehicles participating in the event must be fitted with UHF CB radios.
- Support vehicles are permitted to provide support to any number of riders and bicycles.
- Each support vehicle participating in the SDBC must be officially registered and issued with a Desert Parks pass supplied by race administration.
- No support vehicles are permitted to be on the designated course during a competition stage.
- The towing of trailers is not recommended. Any trailer must be prepared for challenging off-road conditions.
- Support vehicles are not permitted to travel with competitors during a competition stage. They must travel in either the front or rear convoys. Support vehicles failing to comply will cause 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.

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.
- 100% of monies raised through donations/sponsorship of competitors shall be distributed to the nominated event charity(s).

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