

Rules

1. START AND FINISH

The entire route

a) odd-numbered years

All participants start at the same time from a designated appropriate eastern most part of Slovakia. The finish is an appropriate westernmost part of the Czech Republic. The finish location and organization details will be specified before the race's start.

The race has no time limit.

b) even years – Race route is in the opposite direction starting from the western-most point in the Czech Republic to the eastern-most part in Slovakia.

Short route

In approximately half of the race a shorter finish will be specified. The racer can then decide which finish destination he will choose according to his momentary physique dispositions.

2. RACE LENGTH

The exact length of the race will be announced after determining its specific route. It is a 1000 miles (approx. 1600km).

3. PARTICIPANTS

The race is open to mountain bikes, joggers, kick-bikers, walkers and all those who are willing to travel on the route under their own power and preferred method (scooter/ kick-bike, MTB, etc.).

The registration start will always be announced in time on the race website.

The participant must be older than 18 years during the time of registering.

4. RACE ROUTE

The route will run through the interior of Slovakia and to the Czech Republic near the borders with Poland and Germany including terrain such as natural trails, gravel paths, slopes, through forests, fields, asphalt roads and under those conditions that laws, and geographic factors permit.

A draft of the route will be uploaded by the first day of possible registrations. There may be changes to the route due to numerous reasons, however, the exact route will be released a week before the race start.

5. ROUTE MARKING

The route will be clearly specified, however not marked in the terrain. It will be drawn on the map on the Web and precisely electronically (GPS). The electronic version of the route can be downloaded to your navigation device a week prior to the race start.

The category of walkers/runners has an exception. They will only have specified certain marks on the route which lie on the official trail route and through which these racers must pass through. They may chose their own preferred route between these designated marks.

6. MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

The only mandatory equipment is your “safety kit” including: a compass, whistle, knife, string, cloth soaked with gasoline in a sealed container (for quick fire starting), matches, lighters, wound disinfectant, pepper spray against animals, headlamp, sleeping bag, rope (to secure bike in steep slopes or to help during creek crossings), small mirror (for signaling using the sunlight signals) and aluminum foil for thermal insulation. A bicycle helmet is mandatory for bikers and kick-bikers.

Having a functioning GPS is also mandatory. Map is only recommended. All racers must have all of the mandatory equipment with them during the whole duration of the race and may be subject to being checked at the start, during the race or at its finish. Helmets must be worn while biking at all times. Racers will be penalized for not upholding these regulations be either being disqualified or having time added.

Other equipment is not specified, however, each racer should take any equipment he/she sees necessary in order to “survive”. Participants should be equipped so that they can survive on the trail without the aid of others during all weather conditions, be able to sleep anywhere at any time, make basic repairs (wheels, etc.) in order to continue in the race or get themselves to population.

Equipment that is not mandatory may be replenished during the race (either bought on the way or by preparing drop bags for designated “support checkpoints”, etc., see below). Racers may also get rid of non-mandatory equipment along the way if necessary.

7. MOVEMENT ON THE ROUTE

Participants must follow the following rules:

- a) Follow the designated route from start to finish all under their own power. Crossing creeks is an exception. The racer may cross the creek in the most suitable location based on the water depth. The racer must then continue in the mandatory route right after crossing the water.
- b) The racer must complete the whole route and never shorten it by any means, anywhere.
- c) Never leave any trash behind in nature. Burying trash is also forbidden.
- d) Make sure that all is as before after your bivouac.
- e) Do not harm or harass others on the route (either other competitors or other path users) mainly by reckless riding (down steep slopes) or by other improper conduct.
- f) Comply with the rules and regulations of the given regions which are being crossed on the route and respect all road regulations. No bivaking is allowed in the Slovakian mountains one hour before sunset till one hour before sunrise.
- g) Conduct by “fair play” (gentleman) rules, meaning help any other participant on route in distress using your given means and capabilities.

Failure to comply with these rules, racers risk disqualification, time penalization or by receiving a monetary fine.

8. EXITING THE ROUTE

Leaving the route is allowed. “Exiting the route” means the following:

- a) Leaving the route for any reason, whether deliberately (for food, lodging or to find mechanical aid, etc.) or accidentally by getting lost.
- b) Any movement from the designated route, but no longer by his own power (i.e. if anyone transfers the racer from the route in order to solve some complications)

After leaving the route, the racer does not have to comply with the rules “movement under his own power “and may use all other means for traveling.

After each exit route, whether it be deliberate, accidental or necessary, the participant must always return to where he left the route under his own power and continue from that point.

Failure to follow these rules, participants risks disqualification.

9. CHECKPOINTS

The race organizers may arrange several simple support “checkpoints” (CP 1 , CP 2 , CP 3) along the way (about 3 on the route) in either some building facility, tent or a simple shelter which will be available to competitors 24 hours a day. Each checkpoint will be open for a limited amount of days. If a racer does not make it to the checkpoint before it is closed, this is no reason for leaving the race, though he will not find any support at the given location. He/she may continue on the route following the given regulations.

If the checkpoint has been already closed, the racer must send an SMS message that he or she is passing by the checkpoint where he will also state his position, if the racer is continuing in the race and briefly mentioning his current health situation.

Each of the facilities will provide the following:

- a) The participants can rest and possibly sleep there.
- b) The organizer may arrange food and drinks at the given checkpoint, but this is not guaranteed 100%.
- c) There may be tools and equipment for bike repairs, though this is also not guaranteed.
- d) Participants may have their reserve batteries dropped to the checkpoints in advance.

Each provided “support checkpoint” will have a different facility condition level.

The organizers will specify the exact facility location and condition level beforehand to all participants.

10. ADVANCED PARTICIPANT SELF-SUPPORT SPECIFICATION (DROP BAGS)

Checkpoint services:

Self-support is permitted and goes hand-in hand with the specified support “checkpoints”. Participants can only send packages with reserve batteries. These packages must be visible labeled with the racers name and will be delivered to the given checkpoints after the race start. If they will not be picked up at the checkpoint, the organizers do not send them back.

Services at checkpoints FINISH 500, FINISH 1000:

Racers may send packages to the FINISH 500 and the FINISH 1000. The address of both of these finishes will be released before the race start. The packages must also be labeled with a proper return address. The organizers are not responsible for undelivered packages.

Participants can send packages via mail to villages along the route and pick them up along the way. Preparing drop bags is not mandatory for any participant.

11. SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO A THIRD PARTY

During the event:

- a) Participants must not have and support-crew or teams; any planned assistance during the race on or off route is prohibited. In case of any complications, random help is allowed.

Random assistance is one that is not planned in advance and uses the resources and capabilities of those randomly occurring at the given point in time and location.

- b) Organizers, photographers and camera-men along the route may not help the racers in any way. The checkpoints are exceptions, where the organizers must offer the same services to all the participants. These regulations do not pertain in cases of emergency, injuries and if in danger of death.
- c) If anyone would like to offer one of the participants planned assistance or support, it must be approved by the organizers and the support must be available to all the participants. All of the participants must be informed ahead of time about the support assistance option.
- d) Calling help a friend or relative: in case of any complications, participants are not allowed to call their friend or relative by mobile phone or otherwise so that participants that do not have this option are not disadvantaged. This regulation does not apply in case of injuries or situations where a participant is in danger of health or death.
- e) Calling outside help: Participants may use a cell phone and other communication devices (local telephone, local e-mail, local internet, etc.) to solve their situation using their organizational skills to ensure any “foreign” assistance (i.e. calling a taxi, bike mechanic, etc.). This must not violate though paragraph c) and d) of this article.
- f) Contacting relatives and friends: The participant may however contact their friends and relatives during the race and to inform them of their status, etc. They are however, not allowed to obtain information from them that would assist them during the race (i.e. information about the nearest bike store, obtaining necessary phone numbers, weather info, etc.)

12. TRAVEL MODE

Each participant determines when and how long it will take him, when and where to rest or lodge, take food or take care of other necessities. His/her mode of travel is not specified.

13. SLEEP, REST AND FOOD REPLENISHMENT DURING THE RACE

Organizers do not provide participants lodging and food apart from the official “checkpoints” sites. The time and place for lodging, resting and eating are chosen by each participant. He/she can use all available options on or off route, either sleeping “under the stars” or in hotels. The same applies to restaurants.

14. PARTICIPANTS CHECKPOINT CONTROLS – participants may be checked along the route via:

- a) **Fixed Checkpoints:** they are placed in official facilities (i.e. official facilities are consistent with support checkpoints), they are predetermined, and accessible 24 hours a day (i.e. cottage, pub, etc.). Participants will then sign in a designated notebook stating his name, date, time of arrival and departure as well as time of inspection.
- b) **Randomly on route:** they can be anywhere and are created in order to verify the participant’s compliance with the rules and regulations.
- c) **Electronic Control (chips, GPS, etc.):** these check whether the participants are following the designated route and whether they are not moving by any other means of transport. All racers must hand-over their saved race route in order to have it check by the organizers. Any racer who does not hand-over the saved route from his chip or GPS, he or she will be disqualified. One of the reasons for disqualification is if part of the route is missing or the racer did not follow the official route. In case any racer's GPS is broken, the participant

must join another racer and use his recorded route. Joint travelling must be reported to the organizer.

15. PARTICIPANT REPORTING

Participants are required to report once a day (in the evening between 18:00 and 20:00) by SMS and in special cases by telephoning. The message must include the exactly specified format and include: name, start number, given location and very briefly describe his/her physical status, mood and mental state, bike situation, how they are doing, what they experienced, significant things that happened during the past 24 hours, something unusual, and his/her plan for the near future (i.e. “sleep all night, or take a relaxing four hours under the canopy and then continue”, etc.)

This “reporting” is used for checking the participants, determining their race position as well as providing up to date information about all racers to the public via website.

Failing to report each evening may lead to having the racer’s time penalized.

16. RACE INCOMPLETION

If a party decides to incomplete the race, he/she must report to the organizers when and where he left the route. He can also post a message for his fans or other competitors through the organizers.

17. PENALIZATION AND DISQUALIFICATION

By not upholding the given rules and regulations, racers may have their time penalized or be disqualified. If for any reasons a racer receives a monetary fine from any statutory department, the organizers shall demand this fine to be paid by the given racer.

Some of the reasons for immediate disqualification:

- absence of wearing a helmet while biking
- leaving rubbish along the way and polluting
- missing anything from the required equipment list
- using any pre-planned unauthorized assistance

18. TOTAL TIME AND PLACINGS

This race is without any breaks, it is nonstop. The participants’ total time taken to overcome the entire distance from start to finish regardless of how much actual time they really spent sleeping, resting, repairing, etc is taken into account. The participant’s position is determined by their total time.

If the participant does not reach the finish and quits the race, his/her position is decided upon using the order of the distance traveled.

19. PRIZES

Participants in this race do not compete to win a prize. Each participant that finishes either the short or long version of the race will receive a T-shirt with the text „Finisher 500“ or „Finisher 1000“. Those racers that decide to continue in the race after having finished the short version, but do not finish the long version, unfortunately cannot receive the T-shirt „Finisher 500“.

The winners in both categories (to 40 and above 40 yrs of age) will receive the T-shirt „Winner 1000“.

We reserve the right to alter or modify the rules.

Last update: June 19, 2015

Updates:

Section 3. PARTICIPANTS

Update: Participant must be at least 18 years of age during the race start.

Article 6: MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

Update: take a small mirror (to transmit signals by reflecting sunlight)

Article 7: MOVEMENT ON THE ROUTE - paragraph. E

Update: Participants must not bivouac or travel within the Slovak mountains from the hours – one hour before sunset and one hour after sunrise.

Article 9: CHECKPOINTS - FACILITIES AND SUPPORT BY THE ORGANIZERS

Update: If the checkpoint is already out of operation, the participant is obliged to send the organizer and SMS stating that he or she is paging by the CP, including his current position and information whether he is continuing in the race and a brief report on his condition.

Article 14: PARTICIPANTS CHECKPOINT CONTROLS – paragraph. C

Update: If no recorded and saved GPS route will be handed over to the organizers or saved in the device, the participant will be disqualified.

Article 15: PARTICIPANT REPORTING

The daily reporting to the organizers by SMS must be sent including the mandatory information and the in the proper format. This will be specified before the race start.

Note:

- Unlike in the Czech Republic, in the Slovakian National parks and National Nature Reserve it is prohibited to travel through these areas from the time between 22:00 pm to 6:00 am.
- Racer, do closely pay attention if your GPS track log is correctly set up since it is very unpleasant for us to disqualify a participant without any route record.