

# TERRA AUSTRALIS

Great Southern Land Mountain Bike Epic

## The Race Rules

Last updated 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### 1. Rider and Team rules

- 1.1. The Terra Australis is a 2-person team mountain bike stage race. Teams have to race together for the entire distance of the race.
- 1.2. Riders can register for the 3 person team option and the following rules apply
  - 1.2.1. On each individual stage only 2 riders have to complete the stage to receive a result. All 3 team members are allowed to participate in each stage.
  - 1.2.2. On any given stage, at least 2 team members must start the stage for the team to receive a result.
  - 1.2.3. All other rules, which apply to the 2 person teams, apply to the 3 person teams, including the 2 minute time separation.
  - 1.2.4. There are no restrictions on the number of substitutions that a team can make from stage to stage and no minimum number of stages that a team member has to participate in. Riders are not allowed to substitute when a stage is in progress.
- 1.3. The minimum age of participation is 18 years on the day the race starts.
- 1.4. There are 7 riding categories for teams, Open Men, Open Ladies, Open Mixed, Masters(40+) Men, Masters(40+) Mixed, Super Masters(50+) Open and Threes.
- 1.5. To start in the masters category both riders must be 40 years or older on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009. To start in the Super masters category both riders must be 50+ on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
- 1.6. The teams of 3 can be a mixture of any sex and age. The inclusion of this category in Terra Australis is to cater for riders who are possibly not able to complete the event in a team of 2. Teams of 3 are considered a Recreational category. Stage finish times and aggregate race times will be recorded and published for the personal benefit of riders in this category. Teams of 3 are not eligible for any overall placings.
- 1.7. All riders must have an MTBA racing licence to compete. If any rider does not possess an MTBA racing licence then an event licence must be purchased for \$15.00.

### 2. Bicycles and equipment

- 2.1. Only riders with mountain bikes in good working order will be allowed to start the race. Both 26" and 29" wheel sizes are allowed.
- 2.2. Bikes must be race-ready at the start of each stage, and during the race. Race ready means the following:
  - 2.2.1. The number plate is securely fitted and clearly visible from the front.
  - 2.2.2. The bike is in safe working order.
  - 2.2.3. Handlebar ends and handlebar extensions shall be plugged and must not have sharp or jagged edges. The use of tri-bars and bladed wheels is not allowed.
  - 2.2.4. Maintenance of bikes during the race is the responsibility of each rider.
  - 2.2.5. Basic bike repair services are provided by the Terra Australis technical service partners at stage finish locations and at designated tech zones.
  - 2.2.6. In all cases of maintenance and repair, riders are required to complete the full distance of the stage with their bikes and must complete the stage before the designated cut-off time. No allowance is made in the cut-off times for mechanical failure or associated repair time. A rider may not swap their bike mid stage or receive mechanical assistance off the course.
- 2.3. A rider not wearing a helmet at any stage of the race will be disqualified.
- 2.4. All helmets must comply with "Australian Standards" and display a compliance sticker.
- 2.5. Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times when competing.
- 2.6. Eye protection is strongly recommended.

- 2.7. It is compulsory that fully enclosed footwear be worn when competing.
- 2.8. Riders should carry basic tools and spares to enable simple repairs to be undertaken on course. Tools and spares can be shared between teammates and other competitors.

### **3. Medical**

- 3.1. Riders must be in good health and reasonably well trained.
- 3.2. The organisers reserve the right to withdraw a rider and/or team from continuing the race for medical reasons.
- 3.3. Terra Australis organisers will provide first response medical support in the field of play and first aid support at the finish of every stage. Medical staff will have access to emergency communication. All riders are responsible for their own Medical and Ambulance insurance. Terra Australis organisers reserve the right to organise medical attention and emergency evacuation of any rider that they deem necessary. Costs of any medical attention and evacuation are to be borne by the rider.
- 3.4. It is recommended that each team carry a first aid kit that contains as a minimum the following items:
  - 3.4.1. Foil survival blanket
  - 3.4.2. First aid dressings x3 (sizes 2,3, and 4 recommended).
  - 3.4.3. Adhesive first aid plasters x5
  - 3.4.4. Sun block with a minimum SPF factor of 30.
  - 3.4.5. Whistle.
  - 3.4.6. Any riders on specific personal medications are responsible for supplying and carrying such medication.
  - 3.4.7. At least 3 litres liquid capacity per rider.
  - 3.4.8. Mobile telephone.
- 3.5. Riders retain the ultimate responsibility to carry enough water and nutrition with them.
- 3.6. The Terra Australis race organisation will provide water at official feed/aid stations on the route. This water is for drinking only; no bike cleaning will be permitted.
- 3.7. If a team stops to assist another rider and/or team in an emergency medical situation and incurs time delays, the race director has the discretionary power to award time credits to the team stopping to assist. Stopping to assist another rider and/or team for a mechanical problem does not qualify for time credits.

### **4. Rider Identification**

- 4.1. Both riders in a team must display their number plates at all times.
- 4.2. Number plates must be firmly fixed on the front of the bike, and may not be obscured by cables or any other item. Cable ties must be cut with no pointed ends.
- 4.3. Number plates may not be modified or mutilated in any way, including cutting, adding stickers, removing existing stickers or trimming.
- 4.4. Removing or obscuring any official Terra Australis sponsor logos or advertising may result in disqualification from the race.
- 4.5. Riders may display their sponsor's logos on clothing, helmets and bike. Riders or supporters are not permitted to erect any signage at the race start/finish area or presentation venue.

### **5. Separation Time Penalties**

- 5.1. Riders must ride within 2 minutes of their team partner at all times.
- 5.2. Riders who are separated by more than 2 minutes from their team partner at any point in the race may receive a Separation Time Penalty (STP) of 1 hour.
- 5.3. Team rider separation may be measured at the start, at the finish, at the feed station checkpoints or at any point during the race.
- 5.4. More than 1 STP per stage can be encountered and will be enforced.
- 5.5. 3 STP's will result in the disqualification of the team, even if obtained during a single stage.
- 5.6. STP's will be applied to both stage results and overall results.

### **6. Routes and Stages**

- 6.1. Riders must complete the full-designated route and distance of all stages.
- 6.2. Only riders who complete all 7 stages within the cut-off times will be considered Terra Australis finishers.
- 6.3. The actual race distance may vary from the published or briefed distance.

## **7. Stage start procedures**

- 7.1. The start chute opens 30 minutes before the start of each stage.
- 7.2. The leading teams in each category will be called up to the front of the start chute. Teams are required to assemble in the start chute no later than 15 minutes before the start to receive the race briefing.
- 7.3. Riders must enter the start chute as a team with their bikes, and once entered must remain with their bikes.

## **8. Timing and Results**

- 8.1. Only team times will be advertised, but individual rider times will be recorded for the allocation of STP's.
- 8.2. The team time is determined as the time at which the second team member passes the stage finish line.
- 8.3. Timing will start with the start gun each morning.
- 8.4. The start line will remain open for 15 minutes after the start gun.
- 8.5. Any Team who cannot make the stage start time must report to the Race Director/Start Official within 15 minutes of the start gun to request approval for a late start.
- 8.6. No team is allowed to start late without approval. If no approval for a late start has been given, the rider will be considered a DNS (did not start), hence receive no stage result and not qualify as a race finisher.
- 8.7. The start time or finish cut-off times will not be adjusted for riders who are permitted a late start.
- 8.8. No time bonuses are awarded for stage victories.
- 8.9. Results for General classification and Category Classification are calculated on the Sum of the team time for the completion of each stage.

## **9. Finish and cut off times**

- 9.1. The finish line closes strictly at 18h00 daily, any exceptions to this will be advertised before the start of the race as well as during the race briefing the previous night.
- 9.2. Riders may cross the finish line on foot provided that they have their complete bicycle with them.
- 9.3. Teams that do not reach designated cut-off points in time will be prevented from continuing to ride and will be swept from the course and classified as DNF (did not finish) for that stage.
- 9.4. Cut-off points can be enforced at any time if the organisers deem the situation as unsafe.
- 9.5. If a team receives a DNF (did not finish) they will be awarded the time of the last placed team in their category plus 1 hour. This penalty will be applied to the stage and overall results. The team can continue to ride the race but will not be classified as an official finisher.
- 9.6. Any rider not able to complete a stage will be transported to the stage finish. If a rider cannot continue the race for whatever reason, all effort will be made to transport such riders and their bikes to the race finish at their own cost.

## **10. Abandoning a stage**

- 10.1. The organisers can abandon a stage for any reason.
- 10.2. If a stage is abandoned by the organisers the stage will be declared a non event and will not count toward the overall results.

## **11. Traffic regulations**

- 11.1. The Terra Australis does not always have exclusive use of any public roads during the race.
- 11.2. All regular traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the race.
- 11.3. Instructions of course marshals must be strictly adhered to at all times

## **12. Checkpoints**

- 12.1. On each stage, there will be checkpoints, where STP's will be enforced.
- 12.2. Checkpoints will record every rider number to pass to identify if any riders are left on course or missing. All riders must identify themselves at a checkpoint and all checkpoints will be clearly identified. Teams that deliberately avoid detection when passing through the checkpoints may be disqualified.
- 12.3. The exact location of the checkpoints will not be published.
- 12.4. The exact locations of Feed Stations will be published. Feed stations will also be classed as checkpoints.

### **13. Registration and rider briefings**

- 13.1. Race registration takes place the day before the race starts.
- 13.2. Riders must report to registration as a team and bring a form of photo ID with them.
- 13.3. All riders must have registered by 17h00 on the day before stage 1. Late registrations will only be accepted by prior arrangement.
- 13.4. There will be a pre race rider briefing held on the afternoon of registration day. It is mandatory for all riders to attend the pre race briefing. Non-attendance at the pre race briefing will disqualify a team from the event.
- 13.5. Additional rider briefings will take place after the awards ceremonies each night and these are not compulsory to attend. If required a rider briefing may be held at the start line if important information needs to be communicated to riders prior to starting the stage.

### **14. Team withdrawals and formation of new teams**

- 14.1. Teams or riders that cannot continue the race, for whatever reason, must immediately inform the race office. This can be done by:
  - 14.1.1. Informing one of the First Response Medical Teams
  - 14.1.2. Informing the Sag Wagon Driver
  - 14.1.3. Informing the crew leader at an Aid Station.
  - 14.1.4. Informing the timing official on location.
  - 14.1.5. Informing the Race Director.
  - 14.1.6. Calling the emergency number in the race booklet.
- 14.2. In the event of a search and rescue operation being initiated for a rider or team that has withdrawn, but has not informed the race office, the cost of the search and rescue will be borne by the rider or team.

### **15. Seconding and support**

- 15.1. Medical assistance will be supplied by the race organisation throughout the course. The neutral tech zones will be at the 2<sup>nd</sup> feed/aid stations on each stage. Basic spares, tools, a stand and pump will be supplied at the 1<sup>st</sup> feed station for use by riders.
- 15.2. No outside seconding or assistance is permitted under any circumstances. Outside assistance includes assisting with bike maintenance, water and nutrition support and physically assisting riders.
- 15.3. Competitors may receive assistance from their team partner or from a fellow competitor.
- 15.4. No mechanical towing devices between riders are allowed. A team member may push the other team member.
- 15.5. Riders may draft behind their own team partner or other riders taking part in the race.
- 15.6. No other form of drafting is permitted whatsoever including, but not limited to, private vehicles, motor cycles, trucks and official Terra Australis vehicles.
- 15.7. Team support vehicles not provided by the Terra Australis race organisers are not permitted to follow the race route.
- 15.8. A team whose supporters follow the route will receive a time penalty, and on a second offence will be disqualified.

### **16. Caring for the environment**

- 16.1. No littering or damage to the environment will be tolerated. Any offence will lead to time penalties or disqualification. This includes but is not limited to:
  - 16.1.1. Throwing away of water bottles, packaging, bike spares.
  - 16.1.2. Deviating from the designated course particularly on any single-track sections.
  - 16.1.3. The race organisers reserve the right to alter the course should weather conditions create possible environmental issues.

### **17. Protests**

- 17.1. Any protests must be submitted in writing, on the official protest forms provided the race organiser, to the Race Director after the protesting rider has crossed the finish line.
- 17.2. Race protests must be submitted within 15 minutes of the rider crossing the finish line.
- 17.3. Result protests must be submitted by 19h00 on the day of the stage concerned.

- 17.4. A cash deposit of \$100.00 must accompany any protest, before the protest will be considered.
- 17.5. If the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be forfeited and donated to charity.
- 18. Anti doping**
- 18.1. The Terra Australis organisers reserve the right to test all riders for doping. Doping tests will be conducted by an accredited testing agency.
- 18.2. Positive results will lead to disqualification from the Terra Australis event and a lifetime ban from all future events organised by the race organisation. All test results will be forwarded to the riders national cycling federation.
- 19. Disqualification and penalties**
- 19.1. Teams may be disqualified from a stage at the discretion of the Race Director for any one or more of the following reasons including, but not limited to:
- 19.1.1. Littering. This include Gel and Energy bar wrappers, bicycle parts
- 19.1.2. Disrespect or damage on the environment
- 19.1.3. Riding at any point on any stage without a helmet
- 19.1.4. Bad sportsmanship
- 19.1.5. Abuse of race officials
- 19.1.6. Traffic rule violations
- 19.1.7. Breaking of Terra Australis race rules as described above
- 19.2. Teams that are disqualified on any stage will receive the time of the last team of their category plus 2 hours. They will then be allowed to continue in the event and this penalty will be reflected in their overall results.
- 20. General Mountain Biking rules and etiquette**
- 20.1. Riders must complete the entire distance of the race, and the responsibility for following the official route lies with the rider.
- 20.2. Riders, who exit the route of the course for any reason, must return to the course at the exact same point from which they exited.
- 20.3. Any walking, running or riding by a rider, which is carried out without the intention of directly re-joining the course, or other activity in breach of the regulations, which takes place outside of the marked course area, can result in disqualification.
- 20.4. A rider cannot receive any technical assistance along the course from anybody, other than from his or her own Terra Australis team partner or another official Terra Australis rider or from the official Terra Australis tech support provider.
- 20.5. Riders must act in a polite manner at all times, and permit any faster rider to overtake without obstructing.
- 20.6. Riders must respect the environment and ride only on the official course. Riders must avoid polluting the area, and not leave any waste or litter.
- 20.7. No glass containers of any kind are permitted on or near the course.
- 20.8. Riders must not use offensive or abusive language during the race, act in an unsportsmanlike like manner, be disrespectful to the officials, or ignore the race regulations.
- 21. Discretion of the race Director**
- 21.1. Where any additional rule interpretation is required, or where specific provision for any incident has not been made in these rules, the decision of the Race Director will be absolute and final.
- 21.2. The Race Director may seek advice from any other Race Official or Terra Australis organisation member in ruling on any infringement of these rules or interpretation of these rules.