

Registration

Registration Procedure

- To ensure that everyone is familiar with the content, all documentation/procedures to be discussed at the briefing will also be circulated to all participants via e-mail, and made available on the website prior to the event.
- Bring along any document to identify yourself.
- Riders must register and pick up race packs in person and may be joined by their support driver; however, the support driver may not collect on behalf of a rider or riders.
- In the case of two- and four- rider teams, one team member may register and collect race packs on behalf of other team members from the same team (bring indemnity of other team members).
- If a team has not registered, they will not be allowed to start.
- No late registrations will be allowed.
- Signed indemnity forms must be submitted during registration.
- You will not be allowed to register without a signed indemnity form. If collecting race packs on behalf of other team members, ensure that all indemnity forms are duly completed.
- Each rider as well as the support vehicle driver must sign on one indemnity document.
- Completion of the indemnity document must be done in advance. (Indemnity forms will be circulated via e-mail, be available on the website for download, as well as at the registration venue).
- Collect an envelope with all race numbers, and support vehicle stickers.
- Collect goodie bags.
- Riders making use of crates should collect their crates during registration.
- Race briefing is compulsory to all riders.
- Any further enquiries will be handled at the registration point.

Start/Finish

- Any riders who are not in the start zones 5 minutes before the start may be required to start at the back of the field.
- Riders must complete the full designated route and distance of all relevant stages.
- The finish line closes at 10h00 on Sunday, 14 April 2019.
- Riders who miss the cut off times will be swept off the route by a sweep vehicle.
- Category winners must be present at the awards ceremony, which will be held at 09h00 on Sunday, 14 April 2019.

Waterberg Traverse

Not for the faint hearted

Event Rules

General Rules

Mountain bike racing is by nature self-reliant and often held in remote areas. All competitors must participate with an understanding and acceptance of this ethos.

A race category will only be deemed official when more than five entries have been received for the specific category.

Basic Mountain Biking Rules and Etiquette

- Riders must complete the entire distance of the race, and the responsibility for following the official route lies with the rider.
- A rider is not permitted to take any short cuts, or take advantage of opponents in a similar way.
- Riders, who exit the course, must return to the course at the exact location they exited.
- Any walking, running or riding by a rider which takes place outside of the designated route can result in disqualification.
- Riders may not receive any technical assistance along the route, outside of official checkpoints, from anyone other than fellow riders or an official of Waterberg Traverse.
- Riders must be polite at all times, and allow faster riders to overtake without obstruction and when safe to do so.
- Riders must respect the countryside and ride on the official route only. No polluting or littering will be tolerated. The event travels through two conservancy areas within the greater UNESCO Waterberg Biosphere Reserve.
- No offensive or abusive language will be tolerated. Riders may not act in an unsporting manner, disrespect officials, or ignore the race regulations.

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Event Rules

Riders

- All riders must be at least 18 years or older on the day of the event.
- All riders must be healthy, and in a good fit state of training.
- The Waterberg Traverse is an extreme endurance event offering a challenge to all participants.
- The safety of all riders and crew under these conditions is a priority, therefore non-entered riders cycling along the route will not be allowed.

Protests

- Any rider protests must be submitted in writing together with a payment of R300, to an official at the Finish Zone timing point within 20 minutes of the rider crossing the finish line.
- Should your protest be found to be valid by the race committee, the R300 will be refunded.

Disqualification

- Riders may be disqualified at the discretion of the Commissaire or Race Director.
- It is the responsibility of each rider, driver and team captain to familiarise themselves with, and understand the rules of the event.
- Any rider or driver contravening the rules will result in their team being disqualified from the event.
- Any support vehicle providing any form of assistance (except in a medical emergency), including such actions as following or leading their riders to provide navigation or light will see their rider disqualified and removed from the route immediately.
- Any support vehicle traveling along restricted areas will see their riders disqualified and removed from the route immediately.

Event Officials

- Event officials will be present at the Start Zone, Checkpoint locations and Finish Zone.
- Event officials are responsible for the stage completion register.
- Event officials are responsible for reporting of any grievances or issues relating to the rules of the event.
- Race officials will liaise with emergency services to ensure that necessary assistance was carried out.
- The organisers reserve the right to change routes on short notice due to circumstances beyond their control, and if so, updates hereof will be given at the official race briefing.

Discretion of the Race Director/Commissaire

- 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 chief Commissaire will be final.



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Event Rules

GPS Routes and Data

- GPS route files and coordinates for various points will be circulated to all participants before the event. Distances measurements may typically vary between 3-5% between devices, as well as the method of measurement (GPS or rolling measurement).
- Elevation data may vary 10-15% between GPS devices.

Event Timing

- Individual rider/team times will be recorded using electronic timing services with instant result notification.
- Riders who start late will not be credited with a late start time.
- Any rider who cannot make the start deadline, must report to the race organizers.
- The finish cut-off time will not be adjusted for riders who are permitted a late start.
- Event timing will end at 10h00 on Sunday, 14 April 2019.

Race Number / Rider Identification

- No timing chips are required for the event.
- All bikes must have the rider's race number board attached to the front of the bike.
- The race number on the board must be visible from the front and free from obstructions like cables or other items.
- Riders on bikes without a race number board at the front will not be allowed into the Start Zone.
- The race number board must be fitted securely and stay there for the duration of the event.
- The race number board must not be modified in any way, including cutting, folding or adding/removing stickers.
- On the back of each number is an RFID tag for timing purposes – Please DO NOT REMOVE or damage the tag.
- It is each rider's responsibility to check that he/she has the correct number attached to the bike as the back of the race number displays personal information specific to the rider.

Helmets and Riding Attire

- Only recognised hard shell cycling helmets complying with recognised standards will be acceptable. The chief Commissaire will rule on the permitted use of any questionable helmets.
- Riders found riding without a helmet at any time during the event will be disqualified immediately.
- Riders should wear a helmet that's properly fastened whenever he/she is riding.
- Generally accepted cycling clothing, including a shirt, must be worn at all times during the race.
- Proper, fully enclosed cycling shoes must be worn at all times during the race.
- It is strongly recommended that protective eyewear be worn.
- Due to safety concerns, no cameras or action cameras are allowed to be worn on the helmet. These may be placed on other locations on the rider or bicycle, if so required.

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Event Rules

Bicycles

- Only human propelled bicycles in good working order will be allowed to start the race. Even though there are no real technical riding involved, some sections of the route comprises thick sand and loose stones. Cyclocross/gravel grinder type bicycles will be allowed, although not advised.
- Riders must start and finish the event on the same bicycle.
- Maintenance of the bicycles used in the race is the responsibility of each participant and the chief Commissaire reserves the right to insist that a participant repair or attend to a bicycle should the Commissaire be of the opinion that it is unsafe or dangerous.
- Riders may not change their bicycles or the frames of their bicycles during the race without the permission of the chief Commissaire. Change of a frame will only be allowed in the case of a warranty breakage.
- All other components (e.g. rims, spokes, tubes, tyres, wheels, gears, hangers, sprockets, cables, brakes, forks and shocks, etc.) may be replaced.
- In all cases of maintenance and repairs, riders are required to complete the full distance of the event/stage with their bicycles and within the time allowed.

Earphones

- No earphones allowed on stages 1 and 6.
- Earphones will be allowed but not recommended on stages 2 to 5; however, for your own safety you will only be allowed 1 x earphone in your left ear.

Towing and Drafting

- Riders are not allowed to attach any device like straps or ropes to their bikes in an effort to assist another rider.
- Riders are allowed to draft behind other riders.
- No other form of drafting is permitted (e.g. behind support- or official vehicles).

Lights

- All riders must have a red rear light fixed to either the bicycle or rider.
- This rear light must be visible to a vehicle traveling behind the rider.
- All riders must have a front light fixed to either the bicycle or rider.
- These lights must be switched on at sunset and stay on until sunrise.
- No part of the rider or bicycle should obscure the visibility of these lights when viewed from the front or behind the rider or bicycle.
- Because the event takes place on public roads, it is advised to run a red rear light for the duration of the event.
- No support vehicles may follow/lead riders in an attempt to provide additional lighting. Such actions see the immediate disqualification and removal of the rider(s) involved.

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Event Rules

Rules of the Road

- The route uses public roads of South Africa therefore South African Rules of the road apply.
- All riders must adhere to the rules of the road at all times.
- The event will take place on gravel roads, with two short stints on tarred roads in stage two and six respectively.
- The event does not have road closure so all riders have to adhere to the rules of the road.
- Marshals are there to warn traffic, but the responsibility lies with the rider to look out for traffic, ride on the left hand side of the road, stop at all stop signs and intersections and only proceed when it is totally safe.
- No exceptions, privileges or leniency to the rules of the road are granted to any rider or driver.
- Riders should keep to the left side of the road.

Neutral Zone

- Stage 1 will start with a neutral zone through ATKV Klein Kariba, and along the R101. This is to ensure that all riders can safely navigate the R101 tarred road before turning off onto district gravel roads. The neutral zone will end at the turn off from the R101 (there will be banners indicating the end of the neutral zone).
- The speed will be limited and riders are not permitted to pass the lead vehicle in the neutral zone.
- Be sure to keep a safe distance between riders, and be ready to take evasive action in case of any sudden braking.
- Try not to do anything unpredictable, and do not brake suddenly without reason.

Route Navigation

- The race route will not be marked. All riders will be provided with a rally-style navigation booklet indicating all turns and distances.
- The route will be made available in printed format, electronic format for phones, and in GPS format before the event.

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Event Rules

Support vehicles

Support Vehicles and Drivers

- To ensure the safety of all participants, strict rules apply to this aspect of the event.
- Each team is allowed one support vehicle only. A team can have more than one support driver, but only one driver will be officially entered for the event.
- Each rider/team will receive the GPS co-ordinates of the points along the route where support vehicles are allowed to wait for them.
- The support crew will receive a separate route file with the dedicated route they should take.
- Support vehicles are allowed to tow trailers.
- Teams can share a support vehicle and we would encourage this as it means less traffic on the route.
- All registered support vehicles must take the designated route and proceed to the 1st checkpoint and await their riders.
- No vehicles will be permitted to travel back against the direction of the route.
- The race organisers will not allow vehicles to follow/lead riders or tolerate any unlawful access to private land. Where a perpetrator can be linked to a rider or team, the rider(s) will be disqualified.
- Always park out of the way of riders and other traffic.
- Once the team rider has departed on a stage, the support vehicle should leave the check point and travel without stopping to the following checkpoint.
- Support vehicles are not permitted to stop anywhere between checkpoints along the route, unless special permission has been granted.
- Support vehicles are not permitted to render any assistance to any riders on a stage (unless deemed an emergency situation).
- Support vehicles are not permitted to drive behind, next to or in front of their team rider(s) in an effort to offer assistance of any form (eg: additional lighting).
- Always be aware of riders coming from behind on descends. Should you happen to be behind a rider on a descend you need to stay a safe distance behind the rider until the road flattens out. Make sure it is safe before you overtake the rider.
- Support vehicles which are purposefully breaking the above rules will result in the disqualification of their riders.
- Public vehicles, traced to a specific rider/team, which purposefully show no respect or regard for the rules of the event will result in the disqualification of those riders/teams.
- All team litter and refuse is to be removed by the support vehicle responsible for that team.
- No flashing or strobe lights allowed on support vehicles.
- No support vehicles will be allowed to travel over Bakker's pass in stage 4 of the long route.

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Event Rules

Support Vehicle Identification

- The race registration pack will contain two stickers with the team number printed on both.
- These stickers need to be displayed on the support vehicle as follows:
- One needs to be placed in the top left corner of the front windscreen (passenger side) and the other in the top left corner of the rear window. Ensure that the vehicle license disk is not obscured by the race number, as these will be scanned at various security points along the route. If the support vehicle is shared by more than one team, all the team number stickers must be displayed.

Stopping Along the Route

- Support vehicles are only allowed to stop at the Start, Checkpoints and at the Finish Zone.
- Stopping at water points or anywhere else along the route is strictly prohibited.
- No support vehicle is allowed to turn around and drive back along the route to look for or assist a rider. Riders can only receive assistance from support crews at the checkpoints.

Emergencies

- Should the support driver encounter a rider requiring medical attention, it is deemed an emergency and drivers are allowed to stop to provide assistance. Support drivers should phone one of the emergency numbers provided in the race briefing documents, or printed on the rider's number board. If the rider is in serious trouble do not leave the rider until medical personnel arrive.

Rules of the Road

- The route uses public roads of South Africa therefore South African Rules of the road apply.
- All drivers must adhere to the rules of the road at all times.
- The event will take place on gravel roads, with two short stints on tared roads.
- Marshals are there to warn traffic, but the responsibility lies with the drivers to look out for traffic, drive on the left hand side of the road, stop at all stop signs and intersections and only proceed when it is totally safe.
- No exceptions, privileges or leniency to the rules of the road are granted to any rider or driver.
- All drivers of support vehicles are to drive at the event speed limits with regards to safety and to minimise dust, flying stones etc.

Support vehicle speed limits

- On sections where support vehicles travel on the same route as the riders, a maximum speed limit of 60km/hr will apply, irrespective of whether there is a rider in sight or not.
- Maximum speed when overtaking riders is 40km/hr.
- On sections of the support vehicle route that does not overlap with the rider's route the relevant national speed limit will apply.
- Support drivers who exceed the speed limit, drive on restricted (riders only) routes, or drive recklessly risk disqualification of their riders.



Medical Support

First Aid and Medic Services

- A professional team of qualified paramedics will be providing the first aid, search and rescue and paramedic services during the event.
- Their base will be at the finish venue but will also have support vehicles on route.
- Basic medical services are for free, but recurring injuries or treatment of pre-existing chronic conditions may be charged for. Please remember to carry the details of your medical insurance with you, in case of hospitalisation.
- They can be consulted if you have any medical problems.
- There will be support vehicles on the route to attend to any mishaps or accidents/injuries which may occur.
- You will have emergency contact numbers for this service pre-printed on your race number.
- All riders/teams withdrawing from the event must inform the nearest checkpoint and/or marshal of such withdrawal. If a search and rescue event is initiated due to a rider/team not informing the relevant race officials, all costs incurred shall be transferred to the rider in question.

Medical Information and Rider Safety

- The registration process requires that personal medical information be submitted. This information section must be completed in full in order to validate your registration.
- All medical information will be treated confidentially.
- All medical information is for use by the nominated Waterberg Traverse medical personnel only.
- Participants should only start any stage of this race if they are in good physical and medical condition.
- All riders should be in possession of valid medical insurance.
- Riders without medical insurance will be responsible for their own medical cost. (Please see the indemnity document).
- Consult with your medical aid provider and ascertain whether your specific policy offers financial cover for an emergency in this type of event.
- All support vehicles should have an emergency (travel) medical kit in order to take care of minor injuries.
- We encourage all participants to undergo a medical examination at least 4 weeks before the event to make sure your health and fitness levels permits you to participate.
- In the event of a rider requiring medical assistance of any form, the event medical personnel reserve the right to remove the rider from the event should his/her condition be deemed unsuitable to continue cycling the event. The race doctor/medics' decision in this regard will be deemed final.

Refreshment Stations and Nutrition

- It is the responsibility of the individual riders to take enough fluids and nutrition with them for each stage.
- Water points will supply energy drink, water and coke. There will also be ample food available. Please refer to the route section for the exact distances between the water points.

Littering & environmental Concerns

Littering

- A significant amount of the route traverses ecologically sensitive areas. It is a privilege and an honour to be allowed to use these areas for recreational purposes. Please ensure your actions (littering/damage to the environment/etc.) does not infringe upon this, and jeopardize the use of the area for this, and other events in the future.
- Absolutely no littering or damage to the environment in any form will be tolerated. Any rider caught in these offenses is subject to immediate disqualification, a life-long ban from Waterberg Traverse events, and prosecution.
- Please keep your litter with you until you reach a dustbin or your support vehicle.
- It is the responsibility of the support crew to ensure that all team litter is collected and the area is clean before they depart for the next check point.
- Litter related to sports nutrition and feeding stations will be tolerated within the direct area of the feed station until the last rider has passed.

Fires

- The event will take place at the beginning of the fire season. The risk of run-away fires as experienced during the 2017 event is significantly reduced, but precautions should still be taken.
- No open fires are allowed anywhere along the route, except where braai facilities are provided. This time of the year the grass is dry, and even a small spark presents a major fire hazard.
- Be mindful of vehicles being parked in tall dried grasses where a hot exhaust under the vehicle could ignite the grass and start a fire.
- Please do not throw cigarette buds out of vehicles. Only dispose of them where appropriate.
- If you do come across any wild/open fires during the event, please contact the Event Emergency Services and the Modimolle Fire Protection Association:
Mariëtte Nicholson 083 542 3218
Willem Crause 060 518 1387

Waterberg Traverse

Not for the faint hearted

Event Rules

Event Cancellation & Refund Policy

Race Cancellation

- Whilst the Waterberg Traverse organisers and chief Commissaire will attempt to do everything in their power to prevent race cancellation, they reserve the right to do so. In this event, competitors indemnify Waterberg Traverse against any liability and claims whatsoever incurred. No refunds.

Refund Policy

- Withdrawal from the event done before 1 February 2019 will qualify for a refund of 50% of entry fee.
- If a team/rider withdraws after 1 February 2019, no entry fees will be refunded.

Rider Changes

- Rider changes will be allowed from 1 February 2019, at a cost of R100 per change.
- Any rider changes done after 1 March 2019 may influence the ability of the organisers' to change race apparel sizes.