



# **THE MUNGA EQUIPE SERIES**

**The Munga Equipe Team Gravel Series Race Rules  
(Updated 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024)**

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## 2. Introduction and the DPA:

These rules serve as a guideline for both riders and the Race Director and race officials. For the riders, they should use these rules to develop a good understanding of the criteria through which fairness is applied. For the Race Director and race officials, these rules will inform and guide their thinking into making a fair decision when dealing with rule infringes and contraventions. The Race Director will use a **Dual Principle Approach (DPA)** in deciding what is a fair decision. The two principles in the DPA are the letter of the law and the spirit or motivation behind the contravention. The following describes what these two principles are about:

1. The letter of the law: This is the actual rules document that break down the various rules and constructs and consequent penalties. So what does the rule specifically say and what is its intention?
2. The spirit or motivation of the offence: This means what was motivating the individual when he broke a rule? Was it a complete accident, or was he intentionally trying to obtain an unfair advantage?

In using the DPA, the Race Director will look at both aspects. Obviously the first will be easy to determine as the rules document lays out the law so to speak. The second one is harder to determine but the Race Director, along with the race officials and any other person that the Race Director deems relevant in the specific case, will assess what motivated the rider when he broke a rule. Using both principles, the Race Director will then make a call whether the infraction has been unfair to other competitors or not, and whether the rider in question has gained an advantage. The ultimate objective is to make a fair decision. The rules are subservient to the principle of fairness. This means the parameters and rules need to be clearly defined, appreciated and understood by all riders. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure he is familiar with and understands all of the Rules and the implications thereof, as well as the DPA. If a rider is unclear about any of the Rules, the onus is on the rider to contact the Race organizer and seek clarity.

### **3. Context:**

- 3.1. These Rules are specific to and particular to the Race and are to be read together with the Terms and Conditions and the Indemnity, signed by the rider on registration.
- 3.2. The Rules are the complete set of Rules applicable to the Race.
- 3.3. Failure of a rider to comply with any of the Rules may result in a penalty, which may include, in the discretion of the Race organizer and race officials, a warning and/or disqualification.
- 3.4. It is the Race organizer's right to amend and update the Rules as and when deemed necessary. The version of the Rules in force at the start of the Race is the version applicable to the Race for its entire duration.
- 3.5. The interpretation of any Rule by the Race organizer and race officials acting jointly, will be final and binding on all Race participants.

### **4. Terms and definitions:**

For the purposes of the Rules, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

- 4.1. **"Bicycle"** means a vehicle with two wheels of equal diameter. The front wheel shall be steerable; the rear wheel shall be driven through a system comprising pedals and a chain. (UCI)
- 4.2. **"CSA"** means Cycling South Africa.

- 4.3. **“Cut-off Time”** 8 hours after the Race start. The Cut-off Time for the 2024 Race will be at 5pm on the 20th July 2024.
- 4.4. **“Race”** means the Munga Equipe Team Gravel Series bicycle race.
- 4.5. **“Rules”** means the rules in force at the start of the Race.
- 4.6. **“Team”** means that 5 riders makes up a team. Teams compete in two categories in the event. Four Riders in the team need to cross the finish line in order to complete the event
- 4.7. Unless it appears otherwise from the context, words importing any one gender shall include the other and words importing the singular shall include the plural and *vice versa*.
- 4.8. Where figures are referred to in numerals and in words, if there is a conflict between the two, the words shall prevail.
- 4.9. The headings of clauses are used for reference purposes only and are not in any way to be deemed to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation of these Rules.

## **5. Prize money:**

Prize money for the Munga Equipe Team Gravel Series would be published in the Information Brochure as per the Race Organisers.

## **6. Race Categories:**

Teams can be made up of a minimum of four riders and a maximum of five riders. There are no age categories for the Munga Equipe Team Gravel Series. The minimum age to ride the race is 18 years of age. The timing of the team will be when the fourth rider crosses the finish line. Categories are:

- 6.1. Category 1 – All Male Team (of any ages)
- 6.2. Category 2 – Mixed Team (at least 2 persons of the opposite sex in the 5 Person team). They can be mixed teams of males and females. At least 1 person of the opposite sex must cross the finish line with three other riders.

## **7. Riders and Teams:**

- 7.1. All riders that take part in the Race agree to be bound by the Rules and the Terms and Conditions of the Race. Riders who do not agree to the aforesaid may not participate in the Race.
- 7.2. Riders may only enter the race as part of a team of four to five riders.
- 7.3. In order for a team to be classified as finishing the Race. Four Riders in the team need to cross the finish line in order to complete the event within the cut-off period of 8 hours.
- 7.4. Only teams that finish the Race are eligible for Finisher Medals.

- 7.5. Teams may cross the finish line on foot provided that they have their complete bicycles with them, which includes both wheels.
- 7.6. Riders may carry clothing, bicycle equipment, sports products and nutrition ("**equipment**") with them, provided it is legal. The Race organizer reserves the right to confiscate equipment that they, in their sole discretion, deem to be illegal or inappropriate for a Race of this nature.
- 7.7. All bicycles are allowed in the race. E-Bikes are allowed but will not be considered for Prize Money.
- 7.8. Riders may use any motorized form of power to move them forward along the Race route, in other words e-bikes are allowed as well.
- 7.9. Every rider has a timing chip on their number board and will be timed at the half-way mark and the end of the race.
- 7.10. There are no sign-in or sign-out sheets for this race.
- 7.11. Towing of any form is not allowed.
- 7.12. Riders may give their bicycle frame to another rider, as long as four riders in the team finish the event to qualify for a finishers medal.
- 7.13. The Race cut off is 8 hours after the start of the race. The race cut-off is 17:00 at Alzu Petro Port.

7.14. The minimum age of a rider is eighteen years old on or before the date on which the Race begins.

## **8. Registration:**

8.1. Race registration and Number board collections will take place at venues at specific times and places as revealed in the Race Prep documents sent to riders.

8.2. The exact location will be publicly revealed at the discretion of the race organiser, but no later than one week before the start of the race.

8.3. Riders must report for Number Collection at the published time in possession of a photo ID and a valid CSA racing license or their national federation equivalent. If a valid CSA license is not present each rider needs to purchase a CSA day license.

8.4. One team member has to be present at Race Registration to collect the team's number boards.

8.5. All team members need to submit their signed Indemnity forms at the start chute on the morning of the race.

## **9. Rider identification and markings:**

9.1. Rider identification and marking will be at the discretion of the Race Director. If he decides riders need to wear such, then the following will apply:



- 9.2. All riders must display their race numbers on the front of their bicycles at all times.
- 9.3. A rider found without a number will be given a warning.
- 9.4. A rider is allowed two number warnings.
- 9.5. A third number warning will result in a disqualification of the rider.
- 9.6. Riders can use any sponsor logos on their clothing or bicycle as long as it does not cover their Race number.

## **10. Timing:**

- 10.1. Electronic Timing is done and time checks would be live with check points halfway and at the finish.

## **11. Race start:**

- 11.1. The Race start chute will open one hour before the start of the Race unless communicated otherwise.
- 11.2. There is no staggered or seeded start. All riders will start in the same chute and batch at the same time.
- 11.3. The start chute will close twenty minutes before the Race start.
- 11.4. Riders must enter the start chute with their own bicycles.

11.5. No rider is allowed to start late without approval of the Race organizer.

11.6. Any rider who cannot make the start must report to the Race organizer immediately.

## **12. Race route:**

12.1. All riders have to follow the designated Race route and may not deviate therefrom in any circumstances whatsoever.

12.2. If a rider inadvertently leaves the Race route, he has to return to the Race route at the same point at which he left it within the race cut off time.

12.3. No rider shall trespass at any time on land which is not open to the public.

12.4. Riders may backtrack if they choose provided they are considerate of other riders.

12.5. Any walking, running or riding which is carried out without the intention of directly re-joining the route, or any other activity in breach of the Rules, which takes place outside of the marked route, is not permitted.

- 12.6. The Race route will be made available to the riders in GPS format at a time decided on by the race director.
- 12.7. Parts of the Race Route will be marked by arrows and limited Marshals will be deployed on the route where the race director feels fit.
- 12.8. The Race route and distance may vary from the published distance or route and no rider shall have any claim against the Race organizer arising therefrom.
- 12.9. No short cuts are permitted.
- 12.10. Riders still in the race may never be in, on or attached, in any form or manner, to a motorized vehicle. No outside assistance is allowed.
- 12.11. The Race organizer has the right to change the route at any time if it is deemed necessary.
- 12.12. Parts of the Race will take place on public roads.
- 12.13. These roads will not be closed to public traffic and as such, normal traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the Race. This means riding on the left hand side of the road and obeying all the rules of the road.

12.14. The instructions of marshals along the route must be strictly adhered to at all times. Failure to do so may result in a warning or a disqualification

### **13. Bicycles:**

13.1. Riders may use any type of mountain bicycle, cyclocross bicycle, gravel bicycle, road bicycle, even e-bicycles provided it is in good working order and race ready prior to the start of the Race.

13.2. Riders may use a tandem bicycle.

13.3. For purposes of the Race, a bicycle constitutes the frame. Riders may replace any part of the bicycle other than the frame. This includes wheels, rims and brakes.

13.4. Riders may use any form of GPS or bicycle computer.

13.5. All bicycles must at all times be marked with official Race boards.

13.6. Bicycles are only allowed to be propelled by a chain-set and the rider's physical power to qualify for Prize Money.

13.7. Other form of assistance is permitted, including but not limited to a motor, a windsock or otherwise. E-bikes.

13.8. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure his bicycle is adequately marked with the appropriate boards. No unmarked bicycle will be allowed onto the start line.

13.9. Each rider is responsible for the maintenance and repair of his own bicycle for the duration of the Race but is allowed to make use of the Bike Stations and mechanics at the Mechanical area at the Half-way mark.

#### **14. Clothing:**

14.1. All riders must ride the entire leg with a helmet. Helmets may only be removed once the rider has dismounted his bicycle.

14.2. A helmet must comply with the international 'ANSI' standards.

14.3. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure his helmet is compliant with 'ANSI' standards.

14.4. A rider found during the Race outside of the stations or water-points on his bicycle without a helmet will be disqualified.

14.5. Helmets must be securely fastened with a chin strap at all times when a rider is mounted on their bicycle.

#### **15. Compulsory equipment:**

15.1. Every rider must have the capacity to carry at least 1,5 litres of water.

- 15.2. Every rider must carry a fully charged mobile phone at the start of the race.
- 15.3. Every rider must carry a working light on the front as well as the rear of his bicycle before Sunrise or after Sunset.
- 15.4. Every rider must carry a working GPS unit.

### **16. Start times and seeding:**

- 16.1. The start time for the Race will be confirmed at the Race briefing, but will likely be 9am.
- 16.2. There is no seeding and all competitors will start at the same time together. We do encourage the racing teams to start from the front.
- 16.3. Any rider that misses the Race start cannot start later without approval of the Race organizer.

### **17. Checkpoints:**

- 17.1. There are NO CHECK POINTS along the route. The half-way point will be timed and may serve as a timed checkpoint.

## **18. Nutrition and hydration:**

- 18.1. The half-way point will provide adequate food and drinks to the riders as per the Equipe provisions.
- 18.2. The Race organizer reserves the right to change the location and distance of the half-way mark.
- 18.3. Only liquids and race type snacks will be available at these points. No excessive use of water other than for drinking will be permitted at these water-points.
- 18.4. It is the rider's responsibility to ensure they carry enough food and water between these checkpoints and water-points.

## **19. Support (including food, water and mechanical):**

- 19.1. Riders may not receive any kind of pre-arranged assistance or support along the route, including at the half-way point. This includes water bottles and snacks. Riders can have their team mates assist on-route with water bottles and admin.
- 19.2. For purposes of these Rules, "**pre-arranged**" means that a rider has arranged to receive something along the route that no other competitor would have access to.
- 19.3. Riders will have access to bike mechanics and mechanical supplies at the half-way point

- 19.4. Riders may carry whatever mechanical spares they feel they need in order to carry out their own repairs on route
- 19.5. Riders may not receive emotional and psychological support or any form of encouragement from friends and family on-route. **\*Note: no family member or friend will have access to the actual Race Water-point.**
- 19.6. Riders may receive any form of assistance from any other rider in the Race and anywhere along the route.
- 19.7. Riders may exchange bicycles with other riders, as per rule 13.4.

## **20. Drafting:**

- 20.1. Drafting of a competitor is allowed throughout the race.
- 20.2. No rider will be allowed to draft behind any vehicle of any sort at any time during the Race.

## **21. Licensing:**

- 21.1. The Race is a CSA sanctioned event. As such, a CSA license or CSA day license is required.



## **22. Medical:**

- 22.1. The Race medical team reserves the right to withdraw any rider from the Race if, in their opinion, it is deemed necessary.
- 22.2. A rider who has withdrawn from the Race will have no claim whatsoever against the Race organizer, its affiliates or any of its sub-contractors arising therefrom.
- 22.3. It is the rider's responsibility to make sure he is in good health and adequately trained for the Race.
- 22.4. It is the riders responsibility to carry at all times their own 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit, and be knowledgeable in its effective use.
- 22.5. Safety is your responsibility. Medical support will be based primarily on route and will respond to trauma on route as soon as is possible.

## **23. Race withdrawal:**

- 23.1. If a rider elects to withdraw from the Race due to medical reasons and is unable to continue to the half-way point or Alzu Petro Port, the rider must notify either the Race organizer or someone from the medical team. The sweep vehicle will assist where possible.
- 23.2. If a rider wishes to withdraw from the Race for reasons other than medical, he can only make this decision on route. No support vehicles would be allowed on the route to evacuate any riders unless it is a serious medical emergency.

## **24. Protests and complaints:**

- 24.1. If a rider has any complaint or protest, he must submit the complaint or protest after the race to the Race Director, and provided he is not in breach of any of the Rules.
- 24.2. Riders have one hour to submit a complaint or protest after the Cut-off Time, and it has to be done in writing.
- 24.3. In all matters relating to the Rules, complaints and protests, or interpreting any of the above-mentioned aspects, the Race director's decision is final and binding.

## **25. Disqualification:**

- 25.1. A rider may at any time (during or after the Race) be disqualified for any of the following reasons:
  - 25.1.1. a rider climbing into a vehicle and at some point continuing to Race;
  - 25.1.2. a rider does not pass the half-way point checkpoint;
  - 25.1.3. a rider being younger than the minimum stipulated Race age;
  - 25.1.4. a rider failing to adequately display his bicycle number or their Race number;

- 25.1.5. a rider found off the Race route and behaving in a manner that the Race organizer deems to be contrary to the spirit of the Race;
- 25.1.6. a rider found taking a short cut;
- 25.1.7. a rider found taking down or defacing route markings;
- 25.1.8. a rider found to be ignoring or contravening the traffic regulations on public roads;
- 25.1.9. a rider found without a helmet outside and on route on their bicycle;
- 25.1.10. a rider found without one of the compulsory pieces of equipment;
- 25.1.11. a rider who starts the Race later than one hour after the official Race start and does not have approval to do so;
- 25.1.12. a rider receiving prearranged support anywhere along the route;
- 25.1.13. a rider found littering;
- 25.1.14. a rider behaving in a way that the Race organizer and/or race officials deem to be inappropriate, contrary to the spirit of the Race or otherwise in bad faith.

- 25.1.15. It is the Race Directors sole discretion to disqualify a rider. As such, after assessing the evidence and applying the DPA, he may decide not to disqualify the rider.

## **26. Environmental considerations**

In the spirit of mountain biking it is incumbent on each rider to respect the environment. As such, each rider must also adhere to the following rules:

- 26.1. No littering of any form will be tolerated, including but not limited to dropping food packaging, bottles and mountain bicycle spares;
- 26.2. Smoking is not allowed anywhere along the route;
- 26.3. No rider is allowed to wilfully damage any plant or bush.

## **27. Doping:**

- 27.1. The Race attempts to conform to the World Anti-Doping Agency Code and as such adopts a zero tolerance policy towards doping in all its forms.
- 27.2. For the WADA code and more information, please see the following WADA link: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/resources/the-code/2009-world-anti-doping-code#.VAAoj7ySz18>

- 27.3. The Race organizer reserves the right to test all participants as and when it deems appropriate and no rider shall object thereto.
- 27.4. Any Rider caught doping, will be banned from The Munga Races for life.