

Carpathian MTB Epic 2017 - Race Rules

About the Event

Carpathian MTB Epic (hereinafter referred to as "the Race" or "the Event") is a multi-stage mountain-bike race organized in the Carpathian mountains in Romania, open to Elite (UCI) as well as aspiring and hobby riders.

The Event is scheduled between the 21st and 24th of September 2017. For the whole duration of the event, the Race Village is located at the Cheile Gradistei Fundata Resort & SPA in Moeciu, county of Brasov (GPS 45.453381, 25.300852).

Applicability of the Rules

The rules described hereinafter are intended to be definitive and final. Unless the rules specifically incorporate rules or regulations of any governing body of cycling (e.g. the UCI anti-doping regulations), such rules and regulations will not be applicable to the race.

The rules can be updated and amended at any time. The version of the rules that are applied on the 1st day of the Event will remain valid for the entirety of the Event. Failure to comply with any of the rules will result in an official warning or penalty, which could include a rider's disqualification in certain circumstances.

The interpretation of any rule by the Race Director and/or Event Board of Directors will be final and binding on all Race participants.

Riders

Participants must be at least 19 years old on the first day of racing (21st of September, 2017). The allocation of a participant to a specific age group is determined by subtracting his/her birth year from the year of the race (2017). For example, if a rider is born in 1985, his/her age will be considered to be 32 for the purpose of the Race.

Race options

There are 2 Race options available at entry: the full 4-day EPIC experience, or the 1-day Challenge.

The 4-day EPIC includes a Prologue and 3 daily stages. The Prologue (Thursday, 21/9) is an XCO-type qualifying race whose results will be used to determine the competitors order at the Start line for stage #1. All riders not attending the Prologue will be set at the back of the starting chute. Each of the 3 stages is run on a distinct cycling route: Stage #1 on Friday (22/9) – 58 km, with 2150 m of climbing; Stage #2 on Saturday (23/9) – 54 km, with 1850 m of climbing; Stage #3 on Sunday (24/9) – 45 km, with 1700 m of climbing.

The 1-day Challenge will take place on Sunday (24/9), on the same course as Stage #3, part of the 4-day EPIC Event.

The Prologue held on the 21th of September is an optional qualifying race. The results are only used to determine the competitors order at the Start line for stage #1 and do not count towards the overall time and overall ranking. No prizes are awarded in relation to the Prologue.

All stages may suffer alterations prior to the start of the Event, in order to insure a superior experience. Final routes will be communicated through the official channels (website, Facebook page) approximately 2 weeks prior to the start of the Event.

Race categories

The following race categories will be available. The Elite category is open for UCI registered riders and riders who have reached a high level of training, similar to that of professional riders.

4-day EPIC

- Elite | Men | 19+ years
- Elite | Women | 19+ years
- Hobby | Men | 19-39 years
- Hobby | Men | 40-49 years
- Hobby | Men | 50+ years
- Hobby | Women | 19-39 years
- Hobby | Women | 40+ years

1-day Challenge

- Men | 19-39 years
- Men | 40-49 years
- Men | 50+ years
- Women | 19-39 years
- Women | 40+ years

If a race category does not have a minimum of 2 registered riders, the race category will be joined with the inferior one. If the minimum number of 2 riders is not achieved after joining all race categories for the same sex, the race will be considered to be non-competitive and no prizes will be offered.

Medical

It is every rider's responsibility to ensure that he/she is in good health, has acquired sufficient riding experience and has reached the necessary fitness level to participate. We strongly advise all participants to have a full medical checkup one month or less prior to arriving at the Race.

The Race Director has the right to remove a rider from continuing the race on the basis of inadequate medical condition, indicated by an official Race doctor or any other medical official recognized by the organizers. The decision is considered to be final.

Insurance

Participants to Carpathian MTB Epic should pose a medical insurance covering accidents incurred in relation to competitive events. Participants are strongly advised to make sure that their medical or travel insurance covers the situation of MTB (or other extreme sports) competitive events. Participants should not assume in any way that the registration to the event includes, explicitly or implicitly, a health insurance covering the risk of accidents during the competition. In addition, it is highly recommendable that participants should own bike insurance. Organizers will assume the responsibility for a participant's bike solely as long as it is parked in the Bike Park.

Bikes

It is every rider's responsibility to ensure that his/her mountain bike is in good working order and race-ready at the start of each stage. "Race-ready" means the following:

- Race number is securely fitted and visible from the front;
- The bike is in safe working order, with all parts functioning normally as determined at the discretion of the organizer;
- The bicycle should have handlebars that allow it to be ridden and maneuvered in any circumstances and in complete safety. 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;
- Bicycles may be propelled only through a chain set and by the rider's leg action, without any form of assistance (electrical or otherwise);
- The use of tires fitted with metal spikes or screws is not permitted;
- Tandem bikes are not allowed.

Each rider is responsible for the maintenance of his/her own bike for the duration of the Race. Riders may carry tools and spare parts provided that these do not involve any danger to the rider himself or the other competitors.

Bike changes are not permitted and the rider must cross the finish line with the same handlebar number plate that he had at the start.

In all cases of maintenance and repair, in order to be considered finishers, riders are required to complete the full distance of the stage and must complete the stage within the maximum stage time. Time spent on maintenance and repair will thus not entitle a rider to any extension of the maximum stage time.

Helmets, clothing and equipment

Each rider must wear a helmet at all times while riding during the race. All helmets must comply with international 'ANSI' standards. Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.

The use of earphones and radios during the race is not allowed.

The Race organizers may at any time prohibit any other item of equipment (other than essential cycling equipment) at their discretion and riders shall at all times comply with any such prohibition.

For each of the stages except the Prologue, all riders must carry a personal GPS device and have the tracks loaded on it. Riders not carrying the device will not be allowed to start in the race. Sharing the tracks is not allowed given the status of some of the roads being traversed (protected areas, private domains, etc.). Final tracks will be sent by email in the week of the event. If you did not receive the tracks one day before the start of the event, please contact us or submit your request at the Race Office, in the Race Village.

All riders must carry a raincoat at all times and the safety blanket provided by the organizer. You can replace a used safety blanket at the Race Office. Please make sure to come prepared with all the necessary clothing for low temperatures and bad weather.

Tracking

All riders registered for the 4-day EPIC race will be given special GPS tracking devices, fitted with SOS buttons. The tracking device can be carried in the back pocket of your outer clothes.

Carrying the device during all stages of the event is mandatory. Riders not carrying the device will not be allowed to start in the race. The devices will allow the organizing team to track riders live and respond to emergencies in the shortest time possible.

All participants registered for the 1-day Challenge race will receive a special tracking code that needs to be used with the Tractalis tracking app, available for download on iOS and Android devices. Please download the app at least one day prior to the event. At App Stores, search for "Tractalis" to download the app. Further details will be offered at race registration.

Rider identification

Bike numbers must remain firmly fixed on the front of the bike and may not be obscured by cables or any other item.

No rider may carry more than 1 bike/race number (including timing chip) at any time, and no rider may pass his/her bike/race number on to anyone else at any time throughout the Event. If a rider breaches this rule, he/she will automatically be disqualified from the Race and removed from the General Classification results and any subsequent Stage Classification results.

Race numbers may not be modified or mutilated in any way, including cutting, adding stickers, removing existing stickers or trimming.

No official Carpathian MTB Epic sponsor logos may be removed from Race numbers and/or be obscured in any way.

Podium finishers and overall category leaders must be present at the finish line awards ceremony (if applicable) and the evening awards ceremony as advertised in the Event program, including the final ceremony.

The Prologue

Each rider will receive a pre-allocated start time for the Prologue race. It is the rider's responsibility to know his/her start time. Start times will be publically available on the official Event website, at least one day before the race starts.

Riders must report at the entrance to the start chute at least 15 minutes before the allocated start time.

If a rider misses their start time, he will be allowed to start at the discretion of the Race Director if the race format allows it, without affecting the experience of the other riders.

The organizers may make provision for a course practice. No riders are allowed on the course outside the official practice times (if applicable) or on race day before their allocated start time.

Stage starts

The start chute opens 45 minutes before the start of each stage, unless communicated otherwise.

Separate start zones will be allocated according to overall ranking in the race. All riders will start at the start line time or "Gun Time".

In certain circumstances, organizers may allocate different (i.e. “staggered”) start times for each starting zone. Should staggered start times be allocated, any reference to start times in these rules will be to the start time applicable to the particular rider’s start zone.

The seeded starting zones will close strictly 10 minutes before their start time. Riders arriving late must start at the back of the queue.

Riders must enter the start zone with their bikes, and once entered must remain in the start zone with their bikes.

Route and stages

Riders must complete the entire designated route and distance of all the three stages.

Only riders who complete each of the three stages within the maximum stage time will qualify as official race finishers.

The actual race distance or route may vary from the published or briefed distance.

A rider must at all times follow the official route, obey the directions of the course marshals, and may not take any shortcuts or take any other advantage of a similar nature against competitors. The responsibility for following the official route lies with each rider.

Riders who exit the route for any reason must return to the course at the same point from which they exited.

The organizers will obtain passage rights for all riders to access the designated routes for all stages solely during the days of the Race and only for the purpose of the Race. There is no explicit or implicit right secured by the organizers from local authorities or landowners for any rider to access any of the designated routes for the stages. No rider shall trespass at any time of the year on land which is not open to the public for mountain biking and which forms part of the race route of Carpathian MTB Epic.

The Race takes place over a combination of private and public land. It is the duty of all participants to adhere to the rules of the Romanian civil code regarding road use (ex. driving on the right-hand side of the road) so as to ensure the safety of all participants and road users. Failure to do so may result in the participant being disqualified.

The Race organizers may abandon any stage at any time, in their sole discretion, for safety concerns or any other reason that they consider appropriate.

Race timing & results

Did not finish

Any rider who withdraws from a stage or who does not reach the designated cut-off point for abandoning the stage will be classified as 'Did Not Finish' or DNF. DNF riders will not be eligible for prize money or other prizes for the respective stage and the overall ranking and no longer appear in the General Classification results.

However, a rider classified as DNF in one stage may continue competing at subsequent stages. He/she will appear in the daily Stage Classification results of such subsequent stage(s) and will be eligible for prize money or prizes awarded for such stage(s).

Did not start

In case a participant does not start one or more stages, he/she will be considered a DNS and will not receive a stage result, and will be removed from the General Classification and will therefore not be eligible for prize money or prizes related to the overall ranking.

However, a rider classified as DNS in one stage may continue competing in subsequent stages. He/she will appear in the daily Stage Classification results of such subsequent stage(s) and will be eligible for prize money or prizes awarded for such stage(s).

Start time

Timing will start with the start line time every morning.

The start line will remain open for 15 minutes after the start time.

Any rider who does not make the start time must report to the Race Director within 15 minutes of the start time to seek approval for a late start.

No rider 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), and will not receive a stage result.

The maximum stage time will not be adjusted for any rider who is permitted a late start and/or, in case of staggered start times, who started in a start zone with a later start time than his/her own.

Maximum stage times

The maximum stage times are determined according to the length of each stage and the terrain to be covered. Maximum stage times will be included in the Race registration pack, but may be varied by the Race organizers at their discretion. Any variations will be communicated to riders at the stage briefing on the night before the relevant stage or/and prior to the start.

In case a rider finishes a stage in a time greater than the maximum stage time set for the respective stage, he/she will be marked as DNF (did not finish).

Riders may cross the finish line on foot provided that they have their bikes with them.

The race organizers may designate intermediate cut-off points that must be reached within specific times on each stage. Any rider which fail, or will in the sole opinion of the Race organizers and Race Marshals be unable, to reach intermediate cut-off points will be prevented from continuing to ride, be swept from the course and be classified as DNF (did not finish) for that stage.

The Race organizers may at any time impose additional cut-off points due to safety reasons. The provisions of the rule referring to "Maximum stage times" will apply to riders who have not yet reached the designated cut-off point within the allocated time or, in the sole opinion of the Race organizers and Race Marshals, will not reasonably be able to do so. 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 rider and his/her bike to the race finish at no additional cost for the rider.

Any rider who does not complete a stage within the maximum stage time for the first time will be classified as a DNF rider.

Stage DNF riders will be entitled to continue the race (i.e. they may start the following stage), but will not be shown in the General Classification results.

Checkpoints

There will be checkpoints on each stage, which will be shown on the stage race map.

Race Marshals will be located in some of these checkpoints. Riders that are not detected when passing these checkpoints may be disqualified. The location of these checkpoints will not be made explicit, and hidden checkpoints are not excluded.

Registration and Briefing

Race registration takes place only in the Race Village, at a time and location indicated on the Race website.

Riders must report to registration and carry with them a form of ID including a photograph on it, such as ID card, passport or drivers license. Riders registering for the Elite category must have with them their UCI license and show it upon registration.

A pre-race briefing will take place at the time and place indicated on the Race website and is compulsory for all riders.

Nutrition and Hydration

Carpathian MTB Epic passes through mountainous regions of Romania and weather conditions are variable. Riders retain the ultimate responsibility to carry enough water and nutrition with them.

The Race organizers will provide water at official Nutrition & Hydration Points on the route, which is intended for drinking purposes only. No excessive use of water for any other purpose will be permitted at these official Nutrition & Hydration Points.

Rider support

No outside assistance is permitted under any circumstances including physical assistance by any person other than a fellow competitor or accredited checkpoint staff at official Nutrition & Hydration Points on the route.

Drafting is allowed between riders and fellow competitors.

No other form of drafting is permitted whatsoever, including but not limited to drafting behind private vehicles, motor cycles, trucks and official race vehicles.

Specific escort vehicles not provided by the race organizers are not permitted to follow the Race route. However, supporters may drive their own vehicles along public roads to reach designated viewing points to vocally support riders.

Some sections of the course may be closed to all non-event traffic – including some public roads. Such closure must be respected by everyone not related to the Event.

No rider supporter may access any restricted and/or prohibited area in the Race Village.

Medical and Technical assistance

Medical assistance will be made available by the Race organizers at specific checkpoints along the route, which will be marked on each daily stage map.

A tool kit will be available at all Nutrition & Hydration Points along the route for 'self-made running repairs'.

Technical assistance will be available in the Race Village each day. A general check of the bike and lubrication will be available for free. Thorough bike maintenance work and spare parts will be available as a paid extra service.

Withdrawals

Riders who cannot continue the race for whatever reason must immediately inform the Race Office. This can be done at the race start, the finish, checkpoints or by calling the Carpathian MTB Epic emergency mobile numbers (numbers printed on each bike/Race number).

Should any rider fail to inform the Race Office of his/her withdrawal, and should a search and rescue operation be initiated for such rider, the cost of the search and rescue will be for the account of that rider.

Environmental and Ethical

Riders must respect the environment at all times, and no littering or damage to the environment will be tolerated. In particular, but without limiting the generality of this rule, the following actions are specifically prohibited:

- Throwing away of water bottles, packaging or bike spares;
- Deviating from the route; and/or
- Smoking at any point on the route is not permitted.

Protests

All protests must be submitted in writing, on the official protest sheets provided in the Race Office, to the Race Director after the rider has crossed the finish line, within the allocated time period set out below.

Race protests must be submitted within 1 hour of the rider crossing the finish line.

Result protests must be submitted within 1 hour of posting of preliminary results for the relevant stage.

Conduct

All riders are expected to display good sportsmanship at all times, and must not use offensive or abusive language during the Race, act in an unsporting manner, be disrespectful to the officials or ignore the Race regulations.

Discretion of the Race Marshals and Race Organizers

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 panel consisting of Race Marshals and Race organizers will be final.