

2008 Race Rules

General Rules are followed by rules for the 50, 100, 200, and 400 solo events and, finally, the 200 and 400 relay events.
Updated 5/18/2008.

Number Pickup, UMCA Release of Liability Signing,
and Vehicle Inspection will take place at

Kincaid Park Chalet - BIB pickup and sign waiver
9401 West Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska
Thursday ONLY, July 10 from Noon to 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Questions regarding
Number Pickup, Annette Cartier at (907) 272-1933 or cartierkservices@gci.net.
Pace Vehicle Inspection, call Jim Mendenhall at (907) 272-0160.

2008 START TIMES

Noon Friday - 400 Solo - Wave #1
3:15 PM Friday - All 400 relays - Wave #2

6:00 AM Saturday - Early Slow Starts, check with timer - Wave #11
6:30 AM Saturday - Early Slow Starts, check with timer - Wave #12
7:00 AM Saturday - All 200 Relays - Wave #3
7:15 AM Saturday - 200 Road Race & tandems - Wave #4
7:30 AM Saturday - 200 solo, nondrafting - Wave #5
10:00 AM Saturday - 100 Road Race & tandems- Alaska STATE CHAMPIONSHIP - Wave #6
10:30 AM Saturday - 100 Solo, nondrafting - Wave #7
10:45 AM Saturday - 50 Road Race & tandems - Wave #8
11:00 AM Saturday - 50 solo - Wave #9
11:15 AM Saturday - 50 Fat Tire Non-drafter, Non-Competitive - Wave #10

Safety Supersedes Competition

Safety must be the single most important concern of everyone connected with the Fireweed. The Fireweed motto is: "Safety first, Fun second, and Success third." In an emergency condition where human life is in jeopardy, all concern should be directed to the injured. If a rule is violated in an emergency situation, the Race Director will make necessary allowances.

Awards

Awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place men and women finishers in each of the Fireweed events, provided there are at least five contestants in the event. If an event has less than five contestants, the race directors will use their discretion as to how many awards will be given for the event.

Certificates will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Men's and Women's age group finishers for the following age groups:
under 12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89.

Great Alaska Half-Century

- Number Pickup and UMCA Release of Liability Signing will take place at Kincaid Park Chalet, 9401 West Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska, on Thursday, July 10, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Questions regarding Number Pickup, call Annette Cartier at (907) 272-1933 or E-mail her at cartierkservices@gci.net.
- In exchange for turning in the UMCA Release of Liability and attending the Pre-Race Meeting, a Rider will receive his/her race number. In order for the Fireweed to be sanctioned by the Ultra Marathon Cycling Association (UMCA), every participant must sign the UMCA Release of Liability. DQ
- Racer and at least one member of the Racer's Support Crew must attend at one of the Pre-Race Meetings. Attendance is mandatory. Support Crew (vehicle driver) is anyone assisting a Racer. In the last few years, vehicle drivers have posed a threat to the safety of the riders. The Pre-Race meetings will be held at the Kincaid Park Chalet on Thursday, July 10, at 12:30 PM (noon) and at 7:00 PM. This meeting should not last longer than thirty minutes. DQ
- The Fireweed 50 has three Divisions - Road Race, Solo (including recumbent bicycles), and Fat Tire Bikes. Race starts for these divisions shall be as follows:

10:45 AM Saturday - 50 Road Race & Tandems, no aero - Wave #8

11:00 AM Saturday - 50 solo, aero bars allowed - Wave #9

11:15 AM Saturday - 50 Fat Tire Division, non-drafter - no aero bars allowed, Non-Competitive - Wave #10

- Riders and their support vehicles must obey all traffic laws. In addition to a time penalty (TP) or disqualification (DQ), you will be ticketed by the State Troopers for disobeying a traffic law.
The State traffic laws are rules that are in effect at all times:
- Riders should ride as far to the right as possible. TP or DQ
- When a shoulder of the highway is maintained in good condition, an operator of a bicycle shall use the shoulder. TP or DQ
- Riders shall give way to the right as far as practicable to a motor vehicle proceeding in the same direction when the driver of the motor vehicle gives an audible signal. TP or DQ
- Racers shall not ride more than two (2) abreast. Riders riding two abreast may not impede traffic. TP or DQ
- A Rider must wear an ANSI approved helmet at all times. The helmet must be properly fastened and not just sitting atop the head. DQ
- Reflective vests are recommended, but are not required. The Fireweed 50 mile course will close Saturday at 9:00 PM. SAG SUPPORT: At 9 PM Saturday, a Race Official van will sweep the course picking up Riders unable to finish by 9:00 PM.
- For Riders choosing the Road Race (riding in a pace line), unless it is unsafe to do so, the Riders must observe the following pace line procedure: all pace lines will proceed in a clockwise direction with riders moving to the front of the pace line advancing on the left and then moving right to fall to the back of the pace line. When safe and practical, the pace line should stay to the right of the rumble strip. If a Rider decides to drop back on the highway side of the pace line, before dropping back on the left, the Rider must first determine with the help of his pace line members that no vehicles are approaching from the rear of the pace line. There must be communication between the pace line members before anyone may drop back on the highway side of the pace line. In the last five years, the Department of Public Safety have observed and received reports from truckers and other motorists that some Riders swung out unsafely into the highway portion of the road. We do not want to lose the permit for the Fireweed. A TP will be assessed to all Riders in the pace line for the first infraction of this rule, and all Riders in the pace line will be DQ'd for the second infraction.
- The Fireweed, as any bike race of this sort, has the potential for many dangerous traffic situations. Drivers and Riders must exercise caution at all times. A Pace Vehicle* is not allowed. A Support Vehicle* may assist a Rider leapfrogging along the course, but the parking of vehicles or the congregating of spectators on the shoulder will not be allowed by the State Troopers. Vehicle parking and the congregating of spectators should be at least thirty feet off the highway or in the pullouts along the highway. Use caution at all times, particularly when parking and moving back into the roadway. Contact between Riders and a vehicle in motion is not allowed. A Rider may not be passed things to or from a vehicle. TP or DQ
- Riders in the Road Race and the Fat Tire Divisions shall not use aero-handlebars. Riders in the Solo Division may use aero-handlebars.
- If a Rider abandons, he/she is responsible for notifying a Race Official, which may be accomplished by telling a Race Official on the Course or at Sheep Mountain Lodge or by calling (907)332-3395. Riders who abandon are responsible to find their own transportation back to the start.
- The 50 mile has only one Aid Station that is located at the paved pullout on the north side of the highway at Mile 135.9 (Sheep Mountain Lodge is at Mile 113.5.). It is also the turnaround. At the turnaround, all riders must obey the direction of the Race Officials. Riders must slow or stop and wait for a safe and clear opportunity to cross the road. The Officials will tell you when it is safe for you to cross the road. Failure to obey the Race Officials will result in immediate disqualification. This may result in a slight disadvantage or advantage to some racers, but safety is the primary consideration. The Aid Station will have the following: water, sports drinks, (depending on the weather - coffee, tea, and hot chocolate), fresh fruit, dried fruit snacks, energy bars, pretzels, and other grab-and go sport-foods. A crew of volunteers, including a Bike Mechanic, will be available to assist you with anything you may need and to get you rolling again.
- There will be portable toilet(s) at the Aid Station. Riders shall conduct all "private" matters out-of-sight and off the paved highway. Riders shall not use private driveways along the highway for this purpose. In the last few years, we have had complaints from property owners that Riders urinated and defecated in their driveways. TP
- A Rider may toss water bottle to the roadside provided a person in a Support Vehicle or at an Aid Station is available to pick up the water bottle. At no time shall Riders discard wrappers on the highway. TP or DQ
- Penalty for violation of the rules is either a Time Penalty (TP) or Disqualification (DQ). Time penalties for traffic law violations and/or rule violations will be added to the racer's overall time at the finish line. 1st offense - 15 minutes; 2nd offense - 30 minutes; 3rd offense - Disqualification. TP's or DQ's shall be administered at the time of the occurrence. Notwithstanding the above, a Rider will be disqualified on the second violation involving the drafting rule.

* Fireweed 50 rule for Support Vehicle

1. A Support Vehicle is defined as a motorized vehicle with two or more wheels which is used to transport people and/or equipment necessary for use by a competitor.
2. All Support Vehicles must be properly registered in Alaska and carry at least the minimum insurance required by law by the state of registration.
3. All Support Vehicle operators must possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle being operated.
4. If motorcycles or motor-driven cycles are used as Support Vehicles, appropriate legal helmets must be worn at all times by the driver and any passengers, regardless of state or local regulations. Bicycle helmets are not legal when riding a motorcycle. Motorcycle operators must have motorcycle endorsements (i.e., special licenses), as required by the State of Alaska.
5. Pace Vehicles are not allowed in the 50-mile events. A Pace Vehicle is defined as any vehicle that is driving in front of the Rider or shadowing the Rider by following directly behind the cyclist, at the speed of the Rider.
6. At least one member of the Racer's Support Crew (vehicle driver) must attend one of the Pre-Race Meetings