



**Art. 1.– Definitive.**

SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE is an MTB orienteering and endurance challenge where bikers who arrive too late or drop out of a stage can line up for the following stage giving up their right to earn points for the overall standings or other classifications.

In case of a second drop-out or late arrival, they must abandon the race.

The event will take place from 2 to 10 August 2014 in five stages, ruled by the following terms and conditions.

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**Art. 2.– Rules.**

To enter the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE, bikers must state they are physically fit to take part in a race like this one.

Participants must be 18 years old or over. Participants younger than 18 will only be admitted if they are part of a team whose leader is one of their parents or their legal guardian.

All participants must read, understand and obey the official rules and regulations below.

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**Art. 3.– Description of the event.**

The event is a five-stage bunched raid. No external assistance (mechanical or personal) will be allowed during the stages at points other than the official ones.

Stages are raid races with cumulative individual time classifications for a general individual classification.

The organizers will give all participants the itinerary including all the stages. In addition, they will give participants a general map, the stages' profiles and altitudes, start and finish areas, location of feeding points, etc.

Participants must pass through the checkpoints. Riders who fail to do so will be penalized by having time added to their finish time.

Neutral and linking areas, if they exist, must be negotiated by bike and following the route established by the organizers.

The challenge takes place in an open road with traffic, even when it might seem a faraway, traffic-free course. You must, then, minimize risks and ride carefully at all times, obeying the highway code rules and being extremely cautious in built-in areas. Participants who fail to comply with these rules can be immediately expelled from the event.



**Art. 4.– Liability.**

The organizers, sponsors, volunteers and staff of the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE shall not be held liable for any injuries or damages caused during the event, or for cancellations, delays or route changes due to weather or field conditions.

Before the challenge starts, participants are required to state in writing that they shall be held solely responsible for any injury, loss or theft suffered by them or the members of their teams. In addition, they must have accident insurance to enter the event.

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**Art. 5.– Start control.**

All riders must ride under the start line arch.

Riders who abandon a stage and want to line up for the following must do so in the rear part of the start zone.

A start sound will mark the beginning of the race at the time set by the organizers.

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**Art. 6.– Feeding stations.**

The organizers shall provide water (2L) to all riders at the start point and along the course. The feeding stations and their locations will be announced in the daily briefing.

All riders must bring 10 bottles with their race number in indelible marker. The riders who litter the area for the first time will get a warning from the organizers. However, every time they litter again, they will get an hour added to their GC time.

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**Art. 7.– Finish and stage results.**

*Stage results*

The position riders arrive and cross the finish line in indicates their classification standing. Riders who fail to pass through a control station shall be penalized by having time added to their finish time.

*Last rider control and drop-outs*

Last rider times will be decided taking each stage's characteristics into account and will be announced in advance. Only the organizers can change these times when they consider it necessary to do so.

Riders who finish after the time scheduled for the last rider must stay in the control station until the organizers pick them up.



**Art. 8.– Dropping out.**

When a rider decides to drop out of the challenge, they must contact presently one of the following people to inform them of their decision:

- A marshal.
- The staff at a feeding station.
- The organizers' emergency team at the phone number provided with the race number.

If a rider drops out during the race, he/she must get to one of the control stations on the route so that he/she can be picked up by a car if necessary.

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**Art. 9.– Team classification.**

Only the officially registered teams with three members will be included in the team classification.

To be included in the classification, all the members of the team must finish all the stages.

The team classification for each stage takes the sum of the times clocked by the three team members. The winner of the classification is the team with the shortest time. When two or more teams get the same time, the winner is the team with the lowest number adding up the positions of its three riders. If after considering the position numbers the teams are still level, the winner is the team with the rider having the best stage classification.

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**Art. 10.– General classification and race procedures.**

*General classification by time*

Participants must have entered the classification in all the stages. Classification is calculated adding the times of the riders in all the stages. When two riders have the same added times, the winner is the rider with the lower sum of stage standings.

If after considering the position numbers they are still level, the winner is decided by the rider with the best classification in the final stage.

*General team classification*

The team classification is calculated adding the times scored by the teams in all the stages. The winner is the team with the lowest time of all. When two teams have the same added times the winner is the team with the lower sum of stage standings.

If after considering the position numbers they are still level, the winner is the rider with the best classification in the final stage.

*Special classifications by category*

There are special classifications, considering individual standings by time, for the categories Elite/ U23, Master, Senior and Women.

*ADVENTURE classification*

The Adventure classification is for riders who participate individually, that is, who are not part of a team, and do not get assistance from a mechanic or a physiotherapist.



***Race procedures***

Following each stage, the organizers will give trophies and leader's jerseys to the stage winners in the men's and women's categories. The winners must wear the leader's jerseys.

Only the leaders in the men's and women's categories are authorized to wear the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE official jersey.

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**Art. 11.– Technical instructions.**

Participants can exchange material such as wheels or bikes during the event.

However, they cannot get material or technical assistance from people outside the event during a stage. Riders who get assistance from outside will be penalized with 60 minutes added to their finish time.

Riders must pass through the start control and under the start line arch.

Participants cannot ride on asphalt roads or sections that do not appear in the itinerary provided by the organizers.

Unsporting behavior used to win time over competitors is prohibited.

Feeding is authorized only in feeding stations.

***Only officially authorized vehicles can follow the riders.***

For safety reasons and to honor the challenging character of the event, no vehicles supporting an individual participant can follow the riders on the road during the event, nor can they drive ahead of the sweeping cars.

Participants can be assisted by mechanics, masseurs or physiotherapists after finishing a stage and before they begin the following stage, but not during a stage. Riders who get assistance from people outside the event will be penalized with 60 minutes added to their finish time.

Assistants must be accredited by the organizers and can offer their services in official hotels, campsites and designated areas.

The logos of the organizers on race numbers or other material provided by them cannot be hidden or modified by the riders. Participants can, however, wear outfits from their personal sponsors or show their logos, but they cannot hide the jerseys or logos provided by the organizers.



#### **Art. 12.– Gear.**

The organizers can ban graphics or legends that are rude, use offensive language or are incompatible with their own graphics or legends. The winners in each category must wear the leader's jersey in the following stage. The leader's jersey will be PINK.

The organizers will give all participants:

- A plate, two race numbers, the online regulations and the GPS coordinates of all the stages.
- A SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE bag (about 120L) bearing their race number. The bag will be used to store the sleeping bag, mat, clothes and personal belongings during the event.

Participants must leave their bags in the truck every morning before a stage (times and places to be announced). The bags will be carried to the following campsite, where they can be picked up by the riders after they finish the stage.

Only one bag will be carried per participant. No extra bags will be admitted unless they are purchased on registration as an extra.

Extra bags can be purchased in the race office before the beginning of the race.

On arrival in Bishkek, participants must put their belongings in the bag provided by the organizers of the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE.

Participants' bike boxes or bags, baggage, etc. will be stored in a checkroom in Bishkek. The organizers of the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE shall not be held liable for any loss or damage to participants' belongings left in the checkroom.

A protective cycling helmet must be worn at all times during the event.

The plate must be always visible on the bike front.

Race numbers must be worn on the jersey and the hydrating pack.

Participants must carry a thermal blanket.

Participants must have a 3L bottle of water on the start line.

Using a GPS is mandatory.



**Art. 13.– Accommodation.**

For the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE there will be two types of accommodation: Camp tents and cabins sleeping four. Single tents will be available. Surcharge applies.

**Hotels in Bishkek.**

Arrival date and time at the hotel in Bishkek is August 2nd at 11am. Participants checking in before this date and time will have to pay an extra charge.

The race numbers, bags, etc. will be given out on August 2nd from 3 to 7pm.

The opening event will take place on the same day at 8pm.

Check-out is on August 10th by 10am.

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**Art. 14.– Catering.**

Two daily meals at set times will be served during the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE. No meals will be served at any other times of day.

**Meals:**

Breakfast, afternoon tea and dinner.

There will be three feeding stations in every stage, or four in longer stages.

The SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE organizers will supply beverages, energy bars and fruit at feeding stations.

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**Art. 15.– Type of bicycles and enclosed parking lot.**

Traditional mountain bikes in good condition are required to take part in the event. 26", 27" or 29" wheels can be used. Given the characteristics of the area where the event unfolds, participants should carry all the necessary equipment for regular bike maintenance and emergency bike repair kits. Since the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE is a multi-stage event, the bikes should be checked and lubricated before each stage.

The organizers will offer enclosed bike parking lots to leave the bicycles following each stage. Bikes should be secured with a lock.

The enclosed parking lot will be opened every day at 7am. To get their bikes, each participant must show their race number, which must be the same as the number on their bike. After they leave their bikes in the parking lot, participants will not have access to them until the following day. All the bikes must be collected at least 30 minutes before start time.



**Art. 16.– Transfers.**

Transfers from Bishkek to the initial start area and from the final finish area to Bishkek are included in the entry fee. The organizers shall not be held liable for any loss or damage to the bicycles or personal belongings on said transfers.

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**Art. 17.– Accident and travel insurance.**

Participants should be physically fit and well-trained to take part in the event. All participants must be covered by accident and travel insurance.

They will be asked to show their accident insurance policy when they sign the registration form. TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I have read, understand and accept the terms and conditions of the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE 2014.

The organizers reserve the right to cancel the entire event or some of the stages, or to alter the route on short notice as a consequence of force majeure, that is, adverse weather conditions, security issues, construction or other contingencies, or natural disasters. If such were the case, the entry fees paid by participants shall not be refunded.

Participants must understand the risks of a race along roads open to all kinds of vehicles and accept that no liability whatsoever shall attach to the organizers in respect of incidents, accidents, death, loss or damage during the race.

The organizers reserve the right to refuse admission to riders who have received punishment for doping offenses.

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**Art. 18.– Right to use images.**

The organizers have the right to take, record and use images of the event. By registering, participants authorize the organizers to use their names, images and position in the sole context of the event. This rule applies even to pros whose images are used by other sponsors in different contexts.

All the pictures taken or videos recorded in the race by participants can be used for personal, non-commercial, purposes only, except in those cases specially authorized by the organizers.

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**Art. 19.– Claims.**

All claims must be presented in writing within an hour from the end of the relevant stage. They must be accompanied by an €50 or equivalent fee to be refunded by the organizers only if said claim is well-founded.

If the claim is not accepted, the fee shall not be refunded and shall be given to charity.



**ANNEX 1.– Control stations.**

Riders must have everything they need with them during the challenge.

Participants should carry spare parts such as gear shifters, brake shoes, chain, etc. There will be mechanical assistance during the stages, and a mechanic will provide emergency bike repairs afterwards.

Bikes must be cleaned before having them checked by the mechanic.

All bikes must be in good working order and suitable for the SILK ROUTE BIKE CHALLENGE.

No mechanical assistance will be available at feeding or control stations.

There will be a limited stock of spare parts and accessories for sale. Riders can only buy parts and accessories matching their bikes and they must use them during the race.