

RULES & REGULATIONS — Sahyadri Classic Ed 08

Guiding Principles

These principles underpin every rule below and guide the Race Committee on any situation not explicitly covered:

- Safety of everyone involved
- A clean, healthy race with a level playing field
- Maintaining the highest standards of race conduct
- Protecting the race's integrity and reputation

Definitions

- **Participant** — solo or team entrant.
 - **Race Format** — solo vs. team, further defined by number of ghats/climbing sections, age, and gender category.
 - **Equipment** — bicycles and gear (Section 6) requiring pre-race inspection.
 - **Electronic Equipment** — lights, chargers, batteries, phones, power banks, and cables requiring pre-race inspection.
 - **SP (Starting Point)** — the control location at the start of each section, with a timing solution.
 - **RHQ (Race Headquarters)** — the phone contact provided to participants for essential communication during the race.
 - **RD (Race Director)** — final authority on all race decisions and penalties.
 - **Race Officials** — RD, officials, marshals, Race Committee, and volunteers at RHQ and checkpoints.
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Section 1 — Code of Conduct (*applies to all formats, categories, distances*)

1.1 General

- All participants must read, understand, and follow all rules and event instructions at all times.
- The Race Committee may override, modify, or create rules — even mid-race — to respond to unfolding circumstances.
- Safety comes first: participants are expected to assist others in an emergency, and may be credited for time lost while assisting.
- **Registration is open to cyclists 18 and older** on race day. Riders aged 14–17 may compete only in the **1 Ghat "U-18" category**, with written parental/guardian permission and a guardian present throughout the race.

1.2 Conduct

- Behave civilly at all times throughout the event.
- No malicious conduct toward any other person.
- No intentionally impeding or misdirecting another participant.
- Treat all race officials and volunteers with respect.
- Violations result in immediate disqualification and possible suspension from future Sahyadri Classic events.

1.3 Littering

- No littering anywhere on course, including start/finish venues and hydration points.
- All waste goes in proper bins at designated collection points — never in public parking areas or streets near the finish.
- Vehicles and bikes may only be cleaned at hotels, with waste disposed of per hotel guidance.
- Participants are responsible for compliance through to their departure from race venues.
- Breach may result in a time penalty.

1.4 Substance Abuse

- Alcohol, drugs, narcotics, opioids, or any intoxicant is strictly prohibited from race start through finish.
- Officials will act on suspicion alone if warranted. Disqualification plus a report to local authorities may follow.

1.5 Support, Vendors & Resources

- Sahyadri Classic shares information on technical support, accommodation, and en-route restaurants, and provides volunteer support — but is not responsible for the quality of third-party services.
- Treat all vendors, volunteers, and resources respectfully; resolve disagreements amicably. All costs for third-party services are the racer's own.
- Maintain respectful conduct toward the local community and culture throughout — before, during, and after the race.
- No misuse, littering, or property damage at accommodation/restaurants used by participants — any damage must be made good by the participant; the organizer bears no liability.
- All accommodation and other personal expenses are the racer's responsibility.

1.6 Communication Protocol

- Before pre-race formalities: official communication is via email — **sahyadriclassic@gmail.com** — for anything that needs to be on record.
- From pre-race day through post-race: **+91 7057484681** for calls, texts, or WhatsApp on urgent matters.

- RHQ's mobile number (provided separately) is for essential race-day communication: SP reporting, route diversions, medical issues, withdrawal, etc.
- All communication, including in person, must remain respectful — appeals, protests, and complaints follow the process in Section 3.7.
- Social media is not an acceptable channel for race inquiries or disputes. The Race Committee has discretion over what counts as disrespectful use of official social platforms.

1.7 Media, Publicity & PR

- Photos/video shot on or before race day are the organizers' property, usable for promotion across print and digital platforms.
- Participants must not damage the race's reputation through their own media conduct (social, print, or otherwise); doing so may result in disqualification or a future ban.

Section 2 — Equipment & Safety (*applies to all formats, categories, distances*)

2.1 Pre-Race Formalities

- Mandatory pre-race requirements (documents, signatures, equipment/electronics inspection — see Section 6) must be cleared before racing.
- Each racer gets an assigned inspection time slot. Missing this means no clearance to race and **no refund**.
- Only equipment that passes inspection may be used, and it must continue to meet requirements for the entire race.
- Any equipment change after inspection must be reported to officials, who will try to arrange a re-inspection within the race schedule's constraints.

2.2 Bicycles

- Human-powered propulsion only. Disc wheels/wheel covers allowed. No motors or e-bikes.
- No aero bars.
- MTB/Gravel category riders must use MTB or gravel bikes; other categories may use road, MTB, or gravel bikes.
- Bikes must be in race-safe condition (brakes, no visible damage) at all times — if judged unfit before or during the race, the racer may not use it until resolved to the RD's satisfaction.

2.3 Helmets

- ISO-certified helmet, properly fastened, at all times while riding. No helmet, no start.
- Riding without a fastened helmet, even briefly: first offense — time penalty; second offense — immediate disqualification.

2.4 Lights & Reflective Gear

- Lights on (reflective gear recommended, not mandatory) before 7:00 AM and after 6:00 PM, and any time visibility drops.

- Minimum: steady white front light visible from 500 ft (≥ 150 lumens), steady/flashing red rear light visible from 300 ft.
- Lights checked at bib collection; organizers may refuse entry if lights aren't presented.
- Recommended (not required): 600+ lumen front light with a backup, rear light visible to 500 ft.
- Riding without functioning lights during low-light hours draws a penalty without warning, and the rider is stopped until compliant.

2.5 Support

- Racers must be self-sufficient for mechanical issues; officials may help but guarantee nothing. Racers may assist each other, but no time credit is given except in medical emergencies or at the RD's discretion.
- Mechanical support is available only at the Hub — getting there is the racer's own responsibility.
- Outside mechanical assistance (e.g., a bike shop) is allowed, but the racer must rejoin the race at the exact point they left, with no competitive advantage from time lost, and must get RD approval to re-enter before the official cutoff.
- If a breakdown leaves the bike immobile, the RD may allow rejoining after repair — entirely at the RD's discretion. Using transport to repair or rejoin results in disqualification if detected.
- Personal and support vehicles may travel through neutral zones to reach the next starting point, provided they are not present in or obstructing an active competitive segment.
- No hand-offs of resources/water/food/equipment in competitive segments from personal vehicles (race volunteers excepted). No pre-planned support, pushing, or drafting.
- Officials may hold personal/support vehicles once riders are flagged off; vehicles found in active competitive segments risk the rider being penalized or disqualified.
- Riders may access their support vehicle before or after (not during) their competitive segment, but may not receive physical support from it.

2.6 Safety & Medical Support

- The format neutralizes flats and descents and scores climbs, specifically to improve safety — there's no advantage to pushing hard on descents, and cutoffs are generous so riders finish before sunset.
- Participants are fully responsible for their own safety and wellbeing — including when to rest, whether to withdraw, or whether to skip a section.
- Give hand signals for turns/stops; only stop after pulling fully off the road to the left.
- Officials may stop a rider judged to be riding unsafely and only allow them to continue once satisfied; repeated unsafe riding leads to immediate disqualification. Officials' judgment is final.
- In a medical emergency, seek local help immediately and inform officials as soon as possible.

Section 3 — Compliance (*applies to all formats, categories, distances*)

3.1 Traffic Laws & Local Law

- Obey all traffic laws at all times: correct side of the road, stopping at signals/signs, hand signals for turns, keeping left, not obstructing other road users, using the shoulder where possible.
- Officials may issue penalties directly for traffic violations; repeated violations lead to disqualification.
- All applicable government regulations must be followed.

3.2 General Compliance

- All rules apply at all times, without exception. Participants bear the burden of avoiding any cause for doubt about their compliance.

3.3 Race Officials & Race Committee

- Officials (road marshals, control point officials, RD, race management) monitor compliance and enforce rules, mobile or stationed along the route.
- The Race Committee (RD, officials, segment leads, plus advisors as needed) has authority to override, modify, or create rules at any point. Their decisions are final.

3.4 Warnings & Penalties

- Minor violations may draw a warning or a first-offense penalty at officials' discretion.
- Spot decisions are relayed to RHQ, with best efforts to inform affected racers — officials aren't liable for communication delays.
- Repeat offenses draw penalties regardless of prior warning.
- Officials may disqualify and ban a racer immediately for serious misconduct.
- **Standard penalty: 5 minutes per violation**, more for serious offenses. **More than three penalties results in disqualification.**

3.5 Drafting

- Drafting a motorized vehicle: immediate disqualification.
- Drafting a non-participating cyclist/HPV: considered cheating, immediate disqualification.
- Drafting fellow racers (same or across categories) is allowed with mutual consent — and must stop if either rider objects, or if road/traffic conditions make it unsafe.

3.6 Cheating

- Any deliberate advantage-taking is cheating and draws immediate disqualification.
- No pushing, pulling, towing, or motorized assistance of any kind — violation means disqualification and a future ban.

- No moving through competitive or neutral zones without your bike; no sitting in a moving vehicle within these zones before finishing.
- Any solo racer using a motor vehicle to advance is disqualified. If a racer must enter a vehicle for withdrawal or medical/mechanical assistance, they must notify an official before the vehicle moves (text/WhatsApp if call isn't possible, with proof available on request).
- Cheating draws immediate disqualification and a ban from future races.

3.7 Appeals, Protests & Complaints

- Verbal clarification or protest during the race (via text/WhatsApp) must be private and respectful; public displays of disrespect may escalate the penalty.
- Formal protests must be submitted in writing to the RD with a **₹5,000 complaint fee**, within **2 hours of the category's final cutoff**. The Race Committee rules after investigation, as time permits.
- Racers are encouraged to focus on their own race rather than officiating others'.
- Reporting suspected rule violations (with or without evidence) is encouraged, with racer/team number and location — witnessed violations not reported may implicate the witness.
- Evidence (video/photo) is welcome but not required for officials to act, though its absence may limit what can be resolved mid-race.
- Public allegations against the race or officials before/after a formal protest, deemed harmful to race reputation, may result in disqualification or a future ban.

Section 4 — Race Criteria *(applies to all formats, categories, distances)*

4.1 Cutoff Timings & Order of Ghats We will update this section soon!

4.2 Route & Tracking

- The full published route must be ridden by bicycle (solo or team), except descents. Walking is allowed only while pushing your own bike — no one else may handle it to assist forward motion on the competitive route.
- Competitive segments must be completed **in the specified order** for your category — cutoffs are planned around this order.
- No shortcuts or detours except as instructed by officials. If a racer leaves the route for any reason, they must rejoin at the exact point of departure, notifying officials both on leaving and rejoining — within overall cutoff and timing-strip windows.
- If forced off-route by construction, an accident diversion, or police direction, contact RHQ immediately with exact location details (coordinates/pin), both on diverting and rejoining.
- Racers must report accidents, closed roads, or detours to RHQ or officials.
- Racers completing the full distance within their category's cutoffs are **finishers** and receive medals accordingly. Others are marked **DNQ**, with medals awarded at officials' discretion.

- Provisional podium results are announced at the ceremony and on social media. Full provisional results are emailed within 2 days (barring inquiries); final results follow on the website and social media, with e-certificates emailed after.
 - The race is **mass start**, decided by **time trial**.
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Section 5 — Self-Supported Format

- Racers are fully self-sufficient for the duration of ghat climbing — **no support vehicles in competitive ghat segments**. Violation is immediate disqualification.
 - Vehicles may be used while **descending** to reach the next starting point.
 - Riders may help each other across categories, genders, or ages. External support in competitive segments is prohibited except in a medical emergency (notify RHQ immediately).
 - Support from a non-participant cyclist is not allowed — all participants are identifiable by bib.
 - Racers must be self-sufficient for hydration, food, nutrition, and mechanical needs, and equipped for the conditions.
 - Carry enough food and water for the full race.
 - En-route vendors/shops/restaurants may be used for food and hydration only — pay in full and interact respectfully; complaints of non-payment or nuisance draw a penalty.
 - Carry cash in case of network unavailability.
 - Friends/family may not assist in competitive segments; with prior notice to officials, they may cheer at a manned control point only — no exchange of support, food, drink, or supplies in competitive sections. Violation draws a penalty or disqualification.
 - Technical/mechanical assistance en route is allowed under Section 4.2 if the racer leaves the route to access it.
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Section 6 — Mandatory Pre-Race Requirements

Failure to meet these in the required window means **no clearance to race and no refund**.

6.1 Bike Inspection

- Bicycle with brakes in proper working order.
- Helmet.
- Timing-chip bib (RFID) mounted on the handlebar, front-facing and clearly visible.
- Second bib (no RFID) pinned to the back of the jersey/vest, clearly visible from behind.

6.2 Lighting Equipment

- Front light: ≥150 lumens or visible from 200m (700–1000 lumens recommended), mounted on the bike.

- Rear red light: ≥150 lumens or visible from 500m (200–600 lumens recommended), mounted on the bike.

6.3 Documents *(bring your own copies — the inspection venue can't print)*

- Photo ID: Aadhaar / Driving License / Passport (passport mandatory for non-Indian racers).
- Signed Waiver/Indemnity/Discharge Form (plus parent's signature if applicable).
- Medical Fitness Certificate, mandatory for racers under 18.

Categories & Distances

Category	Route	Competitive Distance	Total Travelling Distance
1 Ghat	Kelghar	16 km	16 km
2 Ghats	Ambenali – Kelghar	46 km	62 km
2 Ghats	Kelghar - Tapola	40 km	64 km
4 Ghats	Kelghar – Ambenali – Kelghar – Ambenali	92 km	168 km
4 Ghats	Kelghar – Ambenali – Kelghar - Tapola	86 km	156 km
