Cape to Cape MTB 2026 – Race Rules

The following race rules may be updated and amended at the discretion of the Race Director or AusCycling Commissaire up to the start of the race.

- Failure to comply with any of the rules may result in a fine or penalty, which could include a rider's disqualification in certain circumstances.
- The interpretation of any rule by the Race Director will be final and binding on all race participants.

RACE CLASSIFICATIONS

SOLO

- Open (male and female): Elite category eligible for prize money (see Awards)
    - Riders must nominate to be entered into the Open category. Those entered in Open categories will not be eligible for Age Category Awards.

- Junior: 15–18 years male and female*
- Seniors: 19–34 years male and female
- Masters: 35–44 years male and female
- Grand Masters: 45–54 years male and female
- Great Grand Masters: 55–64 years male and female
- Mega Masters: 65+ male and female

*Must be minimum 15 years on 15 October 2026.

Category is based on age of entrant on 31 December 2026, as per AusCycling rules.

PAIRS

The combined age of the Pair riders determines the race category.

Pairs will be automatically placed in your category based on your gender and calculated combined age as of 31 December 2026, as per AusCycling rules.

The Cape to Cape features the following categories for each gender category (i.e. Men, Women and Mixed Pairs):

- Seniors: Total Age 30–89 years
- Masters: Total Age 90+years

RULES FOR ALL CATEGORIES

- Minimum age is 15 years at 15 October 2026. Please note that participants under the age of 18 are welcome to register and compete in the Cape to Cape MTB, but are required to have a parent guardian sign their event waiver. The waiver is a compulsory part of registration and needs to be approved with parent/guardian signature.
- A minimum number of 5 Pairs/teams will be required to enter each category to make it competitive. If this number is not reached all teams currently within the category will be rolled into the lower age category.
- Pedal assist or E-bikes are not permitted in 2026 Cape to Cape Solo or Pairs Category. They must enter and participate in the eMTB Category only.

PAIRS SPECIFIC RULES

- Teams of two must wear identical rider jerseys each day
- In the spirit of the category, pairs must remain within 2 minutes of each other at all times throughout the four days of the event

MEDICAL

The organiser's strongly recommend that you ensure you have Ambulance transfer Coverage specifically for Western Australia as they are independent of other International, National and State bodies. Check with your health cover provider and travel insurer.

- It is the riders' responsibility to ensure that they are in good health and well prepared. Any underlying medical conditions or concerns must be included in your registration and updated if circumstances change.
- Race management reserve the right to remove a rider from continuing the race on receipt of medical advice from an official race doctor or any other medical personnel doctor recognised by the race organisers. The decision of the race organisers in this matter will be final.

BIKES

- Only mountain bikes in good working order and race ready at the start of each stage will be allowed to start that stage. "Race ready" means the following:
  - Race front number board is securely fitted and visible from the front;
  - The frame marking is displayed as per instructions received at registration;
  - The bike is in safe working order, as determined in the discretion of the Race Director or AusCycling Commissaires;
  - Handlebar ends and handlebar extensions shall be plugged and must not have sharp or jagged edges.
- The use of tribars and/or bladed wheels are not allowed.
- Bicycles may be propelled only through a chainset and by the rider's leg action, without any form of assistance (electrical or otherwise) Ebikers refer to specific race rules for the Ebike category.
- Tandem bikes are not allowed.
- Each rider is responsible for the maintenance of his/her own bike for the duration of the race. Limited mechanical support is available at the race village.
- In all cases of maintenance and repair, riders are required to complete the full distance of the stage and must complete the stage within the maximum time. Time spent on maintenance and repair will not entitle a rider to any dispensation extension of the maximum stage time.

HELMETS AND CLOTHING

- Helmets – all riders must wear an Australian Standard approved helmet that is on good condition and well maintained.
- Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.

RIDER IDENTIFICATION

- At registration each rider will receive a wrist band, number Plate, a timing chip and a Jersey bib number. All items MUST be worn while racing.
- Riders must display their race numbers at all times.
- Bike numbers must remain firmly fixed on the front of the bike and may not be obscured by cables or any other items.
- Race numbers may not be modified or mutilated in any way, including cutting, adding stickers, removing existing stickers or trimming.

STAGE STARTS

- The start chute opens 45 minutes before the start of each stage, unless communicated otherwise.
- Differential start zones will be allocated according to overall ranking in the race, and the organisers 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.
- Pairs Riders must enter the start zone as a team with their bikes, and once entered must remain in the start zone with their bikes.

ROUTES AND STAGES

- Riders must complete the full designated route and distance of their respective races and prologue, if applicable.
- Only riders who complete each of the 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.
- 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.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

- The race organisers 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.

- Headphones / earphones – are not allowed to be worn on course at any time. For safety reasons it is important that riders are fully aware of other competitors and instructions from course marshals.

RACE TIMING

- No rider may carry more than 1 transponder at any time, and no rider may pass his/her transponder on to anyone else at any time throughout the event.
- Any rider who does not make the start time must report to the Race Director within 5 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 result.
- The maximum stage time will not be adjusted for any rider who is permitted a late start and/or who started in a start zone with a later start time than his/her own.
- Stage 1 will see riders timed from rolling over the START mat to rolling over the FINISH mat.
- Stage 2 – 4 will see riders timed from the GUN Start of their wave (e.g. 8.00am, 8.05am etc.) to rolling over the finish mat. If a rider starts in an incorrect wave, they will receive a time penalty.
- The Pairs time is the time at which the second team member passes the stage finish line.

ABANDONING THE RACE

- The race organisers may abandon any stage at any time, in their sole discretion, for safety concerns or any other reason which they consider appropriate.
- Any rider who withdraws from the race before any official abandonment or who does not reach the designated cut-off point for abandoning the event will be classified as a DNF (did not finish).

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- Road Rules Apply – if at any time riders are on, or cross, a bitumen or gravel road it is important to remember that normal road rules apply unless directed

otherwise by an event staff member, traffic controller or member of the Police Force. Failure to do so may result in a penalty or disqualification

- The race will not always have exclusive use of any public or private roads throughout the event.
- All regular traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the race. (In Australia we drive/ride on the LEFT HAND SIDE of the road!)
- Instructions of marshals must be strictly adhered to.

CHECKPOINTS

- There will be checkpoints during each race.
- The stage checkpoints, cut-off times and penalties are worked out around an average speed of 10-11km/hr and aim to have all riders finish within 5 hours.

REGISTRATION AND BRIEFINGS

- Race registration takes place at the venue, time and location indicated on the race website.
- Riders must report to registration and bring a form of ID including a photograph on it, such as a passport or driver's licence.
- A compulsory pre-race briefing will take place at the time and place indicated on the race website event schedule.

RIDER SUPPORT

- Hydration and Nutrition – there will be at least one Water Point on each stage however all riders should carry sufficient fluids and nutrition with them. It is highly recommended to carry two sources of hydration in the probable occurrence that one is dropped or damaged.
- No outside assistance is permitted under any circumstances including physical assistance by any person other than a fellow competitor or any accredited check point staff.
- Drafting is allowed between riders only.
- 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 organisers are not permitted to follow the race route. However, supporters may drive their own vehicles

along public roads to reach pre- designated viewing points to vocally support riders. A Spectator Guide will be released closer to the event.

- Some sections of the course may be closed to all non-event traffic – including some public roads. Their closure must be respected by all.
- No rider and/or team supporter may access any restricted and/or prohibited area in the race village.
- Supporter behaviour is the responsibility of the entrant and may result in penalties or exclusion.

MEDICAL AND MECHANICAL ASSISTANCE

- Medical assistance will be available by the race organisers at the event base.
- Riders who have a known pre-existing medical condition, such as asthma, are required to carry their own medication for the duration of the event. All competitors are encouraged to carry a basic first aid kit with them.
- Mechanical assistance will be available at the event village and riders will be required to pay for spare parts.

WITHDRAWALS

- If at any time a competitor needs to withdraw from the event whilst on course, please ensure that you communicate this with an event official at one of the check points along the route. Checkpoints will be located approximately every 5km.
- Riders that choose not to start on any day must inform the race office prior.
- Should any rider or team fail to inform the race office of his/her/its 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/s.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ETHICAL

- Riders must respect the environment at all times, absolutely no littering or damage to the environment will be tolerated. This will result in time penalties and may result in disqualification and removal from the race.
- Littering of any kind may result in exclusion. If you drop something stop safely and pick it up. This element alone continually jeopardises our event permits.

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 2 hours of the rider crossing the finish line.
- Result protests must be submitted within 2 hours of posting of preliminary results for the relevant stage.

WRONG TURNS

- The course is clearly marked with branded arrows (red on white backing) and lime markings on the ground. If you have not seen a course marker or a marshal in more than 2km's you need to carefully turn back as you have missed a marker.
- No time credit will be awarded for riders who miss a course marker. In the instance (where proven) that course markers have been tampered with and as a result several riders have taken a wrong turn course the race director will make the appropriate adjustments based on Garmin timings and course reports.

RIDER ETIQUETTE

Riders who are reported to:

- Disobey dismounts and road rules
- Be rude or disrespectful to other riders or marshals
- Who behave in a way that puts any rider or marshal in danger
- Will be given a first warning of a 10-minute time penalty. A second report will result in disqualification. These riders are to be reported to HQ by race number and will be dealt with by the race director.
- The Organisers support the honest and supportive culture of mountain biking and hold the safety of our riders a priority. If you stop to assist a rider with a mechanical or injury, please both report to HQ and a time credit will be awarded at the discretion of the race director.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- To be eligible for Solo prize money, riders must elect to be entered into the Open category. Those entered in Open categories will not be eligible for Age Category Awards.
- Awards will be presented at the finish of each stage.
- Riders who have registered but not completed ALL 4 stages are eligible for stage podium only, not GC podium (eg. If a rider has a mechanical on a stage, they are still eligible for stage podium on the next stage completed, however not eligible for GC)
- Riders who have registered and completed ALL 4 stages are eligible for stage and GC podium.
- The top three overall place getters in Solo (Men and Women) and Pairs (Men, Women and Mixed) will not be eligible for Age Category Awards.