2027
Edition

Technical Regulations

GRAVEL

AUSCYCLING

These Technical Regulations have been developed to ensure the safety of all participants and to encourage fair competition. AusCycling Regulations marked with an (A) may be modified by the event organiser in conjunction with the PCP.

Where any ambiguity or lack of a clear ruling exists the UCI regulations will take precedence.

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SECTION 1

General

The gravel discipline is a form of cycling that combines elements of both road and mountain-bike disciplines and consists mostly of distance riding over unpaved roads.

1.00 Categories

1.00.01 The categories recognised in the 'AusCycling Technical Regulations – General – Annexure 5' must be recognised at National and State/Territory Championships. Categories may be run together.

1.00.02 Non-Championship events may be conducted with different age/ability categories.

1.01 Format

1.01.01 Gravel events are competitive mass-participation events with a mass-start (or in waves with intervals between the start groups) fully timed for all participants and split results per category, age group and gender or ability category.

1.01.02 Gravel events may be one-day cycling events or multi-day cycling events. Multi-day events shall be timed in accordance with road race stage race regulations.

1.02 Distances & Gearing

1.02.01 A race will consist of a single race up to 50-200 km with a target race winning time for the Elite and Masters categories of between 2.5 and 4.5 hours.

1.02.02 Two different types of course may be used:

i) a course consisting of multiple laps on one or more different circuits; each circuit being of minimum of 10 kilometres;

ii) a point-to-point race either with the same start and finish venue, or with different start and finish venues.

1.02.03 For junior categories the following maximum distances/times may apply:

Junior 19	Men: 100km Women: 90km ~~70~~km	4~~2.5~~hrs
Under 17	90~~50~~km	4~~2~~hrs
Under 15	35km	1.5hrs
Under 13	20km	1 hour
Under 11	6km	30 minutes
Under 9	6km	30 minutes

1.02.04 For junior categories at State/Territory and National level events the following maximum rollout distances shall apply for:

1. Junior U17 7.0 metres
2. Junior U15 ~~6.10~~ 7.0 metres
3. Junior U13 5.5 metres
4. Junior U11 and below 5.5 metres

1.02.05 If using a Mountain Bike, the gearing distances shall not apply.

1.02.06 To restrict the rollout distance mentioned above, blocking off may be permitted by the adjustment of the derailleur or other means.

1.03 Course

1.03.01 Gravel races shall take place on any type of unsurfaced roads and can include gravel, forest fire-roads, farm roads and tracks and cobbles.

1.03.02 Tarmac surfaced roads should not total more than 40% (fourty percent) of the race distance. Cobbles are not considered as tarmac.

1.03.03 The course should avoid grass and meadows and should always take place on existing paths and roads. Running sections should be avoided as much as possible and only occur due to bad weather conditions. The entire course should be rideable in normal weather conditions;

1.03.04 Most of the course should have a width of 3 metres minimum. Singletrack sections should be kept to a minimum and only be included in the course where required to link other sections and only where an alternative route for essential event vehicles (for example medical services) is available.

1.03.05 The following obstacles used in off-road events such as mountain bike or cyclo-cross, are not allowed in gravel courses: planks (obstacles), drops, rock gardens, technical single-track sections, artificial sand sections.

1.03.06 The course must be signposted to a very high standard. The direction arrows should not leave any doubt about the direction to follow.

1.03.07 Course layouts where the race route crosses itself are not permitted, unless the time interval between the different passages of riders is sufficient to guarantee that no riders from different start waves will arrive simultaneously at the intersection.

1.03.08 The use of the same road or path for different sections of the course in opposite directions is permitted under the following conditions:

i) The road or track must have a minimum usable width of 5 metres with a safe and physical separation of the 2 sections (cones, barriers, tape, etc.)

ii) Neither of the 2 sections can be a descent,

iii) The course design must ensure a sufficient time gap between race flows, so that riders travelling in opposite directions cannot meet on the same section under normal race conditions.

SECTION 2

Equipment

2.00 Bikes

2.00.01 During gravel races, any type of gravel, road, mountain bike and cyclo-cross bike frame shall be permitted.

2.00.02 Handlebars can be of any shape but must be of a one-piece construction with no bar-ends or clip-on extensions allowed (triathlon handlebars and any other handlebar extension system are forbidden).

2.01 Rider Numbers

2.01.01 Riders must display a frame number and helmet or body number plates. If an electronic identification device is provided for race timing, riders must follow instructions on its attachment. Riders are responsible for ensuring the number remains readable and the timing device is undamaged during the race. Body numbers must be regulation size. The dimensions of the numbers shall be 16cm wide by 18cm high with figures 10cm high (if advertising is authorised this is to be included in a rectangle of 6cm on the lower part of the race number).

2.02 Other Equipment

2.02.01 Riders are expected to be self-sufficient whilst racing. It is recommended riders carry:

- Adequate water for hydration
- Basic first aid kit
- Spare tube and tools to repair
- Adequate food
- A map (actual or electronic)

SECTION 3

Race Procedure

3.00 Sign On

3.00.01 Riders are required to sign on at the start marshal area. Failure to sign on will result in the rider being disqualified.

3.01 Rider Briefing

3.01.01 Riders are required to attend a briefing at the start marshal area no more than 15 minutes before the published start of the race.

3.02 Start

3.02.01 The start may be flying or standing. Depending on the number of racers the start may be broken into waves based on categories. Each start wave will have a distinct start time. Riders who start before their category's scheduled start time will be disqualified. Any rider starting later than the due time or due wave: his/her start time will be the gun time of the start wave he/she should have started with.

3.03 Neutral Support / Feed Area

3.03.01 A neutral support / Feed Area is to be provided at minimum every 25km. Riders may be permitted to drop bottles for this area in designated tubs at the start marshal area. At a minimum a water supply will be provided at these areas.

3.04 Checkpoints

3.04.01 Organisers will provide marshal points at minimum every 25km.

3.05 Injured Riders

3.05.01 A rider who comes across an injured rider must stop and render assistance. The assisting rider should stay with the injured rider until assistance arrives. They should inform the next rider to pass to advise the next race official to send assistance.

3.06 Assistance

3.06.01 Riders may receive technical assistance anywhere on the course.

3.06.02 A bike change during the race is forbidden. Every rider must finish with the frame they used at the start.

3.06.03 Collusion or any assistance (pacing, feeding, mechanical assistance, etc.) between riders within or between races is forbidden.

3.06.04 Feeding during gravel races may occur where:

i) Official feed zones are provided and signposted.

ii) Teams' and riders' assistants hand out food and drinks to riders. Feeding from teams' and riders' assistants is allowed anywhere except on downhill sections and within 10 kilometres from the finish.

3.07 Cut-Off Times

3.07.01 The race organiser will publish cut-off times for checkpoints in the rider information. Riders who fail to reach a checkpoint by the cut-off time will not be permitted to continue.

3.08 Sag Wagon

3.08.01 A sag wagon is to be provided for riders who are unable to complete or have exceeded the cut-off time.

3.09 Finish

3.09.01 The finish will be at least 4 metres wide. Riders are expected to hold their line at the finish.