

Old Mutual go2berg rules and disclaimer

There are rules and then there are rules – we have UCI/Cycling South Africa for racing rules for those racing and we have go2berg rules for those just riding. Both are designed to give you a few boundaries, so you don't all ride in different directions.

“If you obey all the rules, you miss all the fun”. - Katharine Hepburn

- go2berg is an official CSA/UCI ride where their rules apply along with certain go2berg specific rules.
- For those who are serious racers, these rules also provide the parameters in which riders must race to avoid penalties and punch ups.
- For the non-racing types, they will give you an indication of what is like to race without having to.
- Mountain bike events are conducted in the spirit of self-contained, self-reliant back-country cycling.
- Riders participate in the go2berg with an understanding and acceptance of this ethos. We have had a wonderful history of attracting riders who want the best for each other – let's keep it that way!
- Official racing categories will be announced on our website and based on numbers in the category.

Just a few main rules or mandatories before you read all the rules.

- GPS event – go2berg is a GPS event which means it is compulsory to have a GPS unit capable of following tracks
- Gravel / Cyclo-Cross bikes will not be allowed, under UCI regulations, to participate.
- E-bikes are permitted to ride for fun
- All team riders must stick together at all times as partners if you are racing as a team. If not, you are welcome to split and go solo – you will not be able to compete in the solo or the team categories if you split during the event.
- Go2berg is not a tour in the sense that we can get you from village to village in other transport. The only way to get to the finish is to ride your bike unless you make your own plan.
- See our section on must haves – tubeless tyres, bike specific spares if rare, and a sense of humour.

Doping rule

Anyone caught doping after 1 Jan 2016 will face a lifetime ban from go2berg with no exceptions – riders who were banned before this date will be able to ride but not race. They will **no longer able to race the event**. They will not be allowed to podium or ride up front among the racers.

Unwritten rules of single track – “Ride of Way”

The go2berg has some awesome sections of single track along the way. The “ride of way” principal applies to single track and any challenging sections.

Ride of way – this is a very simple concept that should apply to all fair mountain bikers all over the planet: if you are walking on a section because it is too technical or you are too tired you must give way to those riding. If you are behind someone pushing simply ask for the ride of way.

Give way – if there is a faster rider behind you try to find a safe place to let that rider pass you. If you are behind a slower rider try to ask them nicely to let you pass but don't make them panic and fall. We are all here for a good time. Keep it nice and chilled and nobody will get hurt. Not even egos.

Rider disclaimer and rules agreed to at the point of entry.

RULES AND DISCLAIMER

You enter this event agreeing to our refund policy and our rules.

Refund policy

- 90% refund until 31 May 2024
- 75% refund until 30 July 2024
- No refund from 1 August 2024

I understand with the with the refund policy in mind that is in my best interest to take out personal event insurance if I must withdraw due to illness or injury or should I be unable to ride because of Covid 19 or other restrictions.

I understand that the entry is fully transferable and that should I want to sell the entry to an interested buyer I will be able to do so at any stage before the event. ·

I understand all implications of cancellation due to Covid-19.

Disclaimer to be agreed by all riders

The following rules are to ensure that we have a world-class event for all entrants, whether racing or riding.

Cancellation due to Force Majeure and/or Severe Weather.

If go2berg is forced to cancel a stage (or stages) due to Covid-19 or any other pandemic, severe weather conditions or fires that puts riders' safety at risk, the riders will not have any claim against the organisers or any of their sponsors of whatsoever nature in these circumstances.

go2berg reserves the right to change the route for inter alia, safety and security reasons without notice.

If go2berg is cancelled in total as a last resort due to events beyond our control (force majeure) – relating to, inter alia, pandemics, Covid-19, political turmoil, natural disasters, strikes, protest action or any other major disturbance beyond our control, riders will have no claim whatsoever including but not limited to a refund against the organisers or any of their sponsors.

This will include entry fees and or flights and other expenses. go2berg will do everything in our power to reroute and to run the event in a safe and secure manner should any event of force majeure arise.

go2berg event rules ·

- You have read and fully understand the go2berg refund policy. You agree to the go2berg refund policy. You understand that after the stipulated “no more refunds” date there will be no refunds for whatever reason much like all the hotels and tourist companies all the world.

- This refund policy is put in place due to irreversible costs incurred by the event and is not designed to take advantage of any rider unable to ride. We cannot run the event successfully if we do not have this refund policy in place. ·
- We highly recommend all competitors take out personal event insurance to cover themselves in case of being unable to compete due to illness or injury.
- Medical insurance is compulsory, and riders will need to show evidence of this before they ride.
- go2berg is a gruelling but uplifting mountain bike stage ride over 600km's and requires mountain biking skill and proper fitness to enjoy the experience. ·
- It is not a tour. You will need to be fit enough and skilled enough to complete the journey. ·
- The nature of this event requires an element of character which means you may have to carry my own bag to my tent where help is not provided.
- **You will carry your own chain lube** and own basic spares, be reasonably proficient mechanically to change tyres, plug tubeless holes, fix broken chains, unpack and pack my bike out and into my box or bike bag. ·
- You need to run tubeless tyres and slime for my own enjoyment as there are thorns on the route. ·This is Africa!!
- If you breakdown or quit between water points, you will not expect a lift. You need will make your way to the next Water Point where you will wait for a lift. You will make donation to the farmer who lifts you to the finish. ·
- No private masseurs or mechanics will allowed into the event. These should be booked with the official massage team and official mechanics.
- If you're are planning on bringing a camper van or sleeping in my own suitable vehicle, then I will buy a Camper Van package prior to the event. Camper vans will be allocated a designated parking area at the overnight stops, you will need to be totally self-sufficient electricity will be provided in most stops but the government cannot guarantee electricity. ·
- The event has a fully equipped emergency medical support team, however you will need to bring your own basic medicines. The go2berg medical team will not supply basic pharmaceutical items like headache tablets or other basics. ·
- You will need suitable medical insurance to cover all emergencies for the duration of the event. You will always carry your credit card and travel insurance/medical aid documents with for emergency hospital procedures. ·
- Farmers are opening their lands to us and that they are doing this as a privilege not a right. · Any rider insulting a farmer or any of our village crew, our marshals or anyone really will be disqualified, and will be asked to leave the event immediately. ·
- If you drop a gel packet or any other litter intentionally, you will face immediate disqualification from the event. ·
- We have reasonable daily cut-off times and should you not make the very reasonable cutoffs more than twice you will agree to withdraw from the event and return at another time when you are fitter. ·
- go2berg is a GPS navigation event, which means you will need a GPS device capable of tracking routes, and that there will be no traditional marking. ·
- The ride is very physically demanding, and you are responsible for my own safety and wellbeing in terms of health and ability.

Racing rules (CSA and UCI rules)

As you know we are more of tough enjoyable ride than a race but for some we are proper race.

- **E-Bikes**
 - E-Bikes will be allowed with written permission from the organisers, if riders motivate why they need to ride an E bike

- . These E-bike riders must be mountain bikers
- . They will not be timed and will not be considered official finishers
- . They will not be allowed to start higher than C batch or finish higher than C batch (position 300) to ensure they do not interfere with racing
- . E-Bikers who ride in a racing group who are racing for podiums will be disqualified.
- . They will not be sanctioned by CSA (Cycling South Africa)
- . E-Bike riders will be required to sign a separate indemnity form.
- . Supporters are not permitted on our route and therefore E-Bikers are required to carry their own spare batteries.
- . E-Bike riders need to be self-sufficient for the duration of the event and manage the charging of their E-Bike batteries.
- **No Gravel / Cyclo Cross bikes will not be allowed, under UCI regulations, to participate.**
- Official racing categories will be announced on our website and based on numbers per category.
- **Minimum Age** Minimum age of participation 19 years on 3 June 2023.
- Riders must be in good health and well trained and must be competent mountain bikers with experience.
- **Medical** · During the race, go2berg Medical Officer reserves the right to withdraw a rider who is not deemed physically capable of continuing.
- **Bicycles**
 - . Only mountain bikes in good working order will be allowed to start the race. ·
 - . No more than one bike per rider is allowed for those racing for prize money.
 - . These riders must start and finish the event on the same bike. ·
 - . Bikes must be marked with official go2berg number board,
 - . And all riders must wear the name board somewhere prominent. It is each rider's responsibility to ensure that their bike is appropriately marked.
 - . Riders whose bikes are not marked will not be allowed to start the race. Bikes must be race-ready at the start of each stage, and during the race.

Race ready will mean the following:

- . The bike is correctly marked
- . The front number board is securely fitted and visible from the front.
- . The bike is in safe working order.
- . Maintenance of bicycles during the race is the responsibility of each rider. ·
- . Other basic bike repair services will be provided at stage finishes. ·
- . In all cases of maintenance and repair, riders racing in categories are required to complete the full distance of the stage with their bikes and within the time allowed.
- **Helmets and Clothing**
 - . A rider not wearing a helmet at any stage of the race will be disqualified.
 - . All helmets must comply with international 'ANSI' standards.
 - . Appropriate riding attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.
 - . Eye protection is strongly recommended.
 - . It is recommended that fully enclosed footwear be worn.
- **Separation Time Penalties**
 - . Riders must ride with his/her team partner at all times in team category.
 - . Riders who are separated by more than 2 minutes from their team partner at any point in the stage will receive a Separation Time Penalty (STP) of 1 hour.
 - . Team rider separation will be measured at the Start, Finish and Check Points, but can also be enforced at any point in the stage.
 - . More than 1 STP per day can be enforced.

- . 3 STP's will result in the disqualification of the team naturally they can continue as chilled happy riders but the racing side will be over. STP's will be applied to both stage results and to overall results.
- **Rider Identification**
 - . Both riders in a team must display their entire race numbers at all times.
 - . Bike numbers must be firmly fixed on the front of the bike and must not be obscured by cables or any other item. .
 - . Race numbers must not be modified or mutilated in any way, including cutting, adding stickers, removing existing stickers or trimming. .
 - . Race leaders and Stage Winners are obliged to wear the leader jerseys/boards.
 - . A rider's sponsor badge/logo fixed on any leader jersey must not cover or obscure the existing Go2berg branding and sponsors logos.
- **Obligatory Equipment**
 - . These items must be considered the bare minimum, and it is strongly recommended that riders ensure that they are fully prepared to deal with emergencies they may encounter.
 - . The following items must, however, be carried by the team during the race:
 - . First Aid Kit – consisting of a minimum of: Foil survival blanket, First Aid Dressings x 3 (Sizes 2, 3 and 4 recommended), Adhesive first aid plasters x 5. Sun-block with a minimum SPF factor of 15.
 - . Any riders on specific personal medications are responsible for supplying and carrying such medication.
 - . At least 3 litres liquid capacity per rider.
 - . Multi-tool or bike repair tools.
 - . Mobile telephone (South Africa uses Dual Band GSM 900/1800 - this is the same as in Europe).
 - . All riders must carry proof of medical insurance and a credit card at all times
 - . Each rider must ride with GPS navigation device. The go2berg route is not marked.
- **Start**
 - . Starting times will be confirmed at race briefing.
 - . Differential start zones will be allocated according to overall ranking in the race.
 - . The top 3 teams in each category will have the option to start from the first row, if present at the start line on time.
 - . The seeded starting zones will close strictly 15 minutes before the stage start. Any riders and/or teams who are not in their start zones 15 minutes before the start will be required to start in the last start zone.
- **Route and Stages**
 - . Riders must complete the full designated route and distance of all stages.
 - . Only riders who complete all 6 and stages and the prologue, will be considered go2berg finishers.
- **Individual and Team Times**
 - . All teams / rider times will be advertised.
 - . The team time is determined by the time at which the second team member passes the stage finish line.
 - . Timing will start with the start signal each morning.
 - . The start line will remain open for 15 minutes after the start gun.
 - . Riders who start later will not appear in the stage results and will not qualify as a race finisher.
 - . Any rider who cannot make the start deadline must report to the Chief Commissaire before the start to request approval for a late start.
 - . The finish cut-off time will not be adjusted for riders who are permitted a late start.
- **Finish**
 - . The finish line closes at 17h00 daily, except for the last stage which closes at 15h00.

- . Riders not making the cut-offs at the last water point of each day and the finish will receive one warning for first time and will then need to leave the event after second time
- . Stage winners and overall category leaders must be present at the daily Awards Ceremony at 2pm, including the final Ceremony.
- **Traffic Regulations**
 - . Go2berg will not have exclusive use of any public roads during the race.
 - . All regular traffic regulations must be observed at all times during the race. (In South Africa we drive/ride on the LEFT HAND SIDE of the road!).
- **Checkpoints**
 - . In each stage, there will be mandatory checkpoints, where STP's will be enforced. · Teams, which do not pass the checkpoints, will be disqualified.
 - . **Riders cannot under any circumstances choose to do their own route** – this is extremely dangerous and will result in immediate disqualification from go2berg and a ban from all sanctioned CSA events.
 - . If riders do go off our route, they will no longer be covered by our event medical support team, and will be deemed to be riding on their own.
- **Registration and Briefing** - Friday 13 September
 - . Race Registration will be open from 8am to 1pm – rider briefing will commence at 2pm.
 - . A complete Race Briefing will take place at clearly stated time each evening.
- **Nutrition and Hydration** Go2berg will pass through very dry and very hot areas of South Africa:
 - . Riders retain the ultimate responsibility to carry enough water and nutrition with them.
 - . Go2berg Race Organisation will provide water and fruit at Feed Stations on the route.
- **Seconding and Support**
 - . Competitors may receive assistance from a fellow competitor. (see 16.4 below).
 - . Outside seconding, assistance or feeding is permitted in designated areas only.
 - . Outside assistance includes assisting with bike maintenance, water and nutrition support and physically assisting riders. (This implies that team members may receive physical assistance from their team partner like towing up a hill.)
 - . Bike repairs may be performed on the route but without obstructing other riders.
 - . Neutral feeding, watering and medical assistance will be supplied by the Race Organisation at the feed stations.
 - . Riders are not allowed to draft behind other riders who are not participating in go2berg and especially E bikes, but may draft their own team partner or other riders taking part in go2berg.
 - . No other form of drafting is permitted whatsoever including, but not limited to, private vehicles, motor cycles and trucks.
 - . Specific escort or seconding vehicles not provided by go2berg Race Organisers are not permitted to follow the race route.
 - . However, supporters may drive their own vehicles along public roads to reach vantage points to vocally support riders.
 - . Some sections of the course will be closed to all non-event traffic – including some public roads. Their closure must be respected by all.
- **Withdrawals and the Formation of New Teams**
 - . Teams that cannot continue the race, for whatever reason, must immediately inform the Race Office.
 - . This can be done at the Race Start, the Finish, at Checkpoints.
 - . In the event of a search and rescue operation being initiated for a rider or team which has withdrawn, but has not informed the Race Office, the cost of the search and rescue operation will be transferred to the rider or team.
 - . Rider, whose team mate must withdraw, can ride in special solo section for non-racing purposes.

- **Ethical and Environmental**
 - Littering or unnecessary damage to the environment will be NOT tolerated and could lead to instant disqualification
- **Protests**
 - Any protests must be submitted in writing, to the Chief Commissaire after the rider has crossed the finish line, within the allocated time period.
 - Race Protests must be submitted within 15 minutes of the rider crossing the finish line.
- **Doping**
 - Go2berg reserves the right to take doping tests on all riders
 - Positive results will lead to disqualification from go2berg, and those results will be forwarded to the national cycling federations ·
 - From 1 Jan 2016 riders caught for doping and convicted will face a lifetime ban from go2berg with no exceptions
 - Riders who were banned before this 1 Jan 2016 will be able to ride. He or she will **no longer able to race the event**. He or she will not be allowed to podium or ride up front among the racers
- **Disqualification and Penalties.** Teams may be disqualified at the discretion of Chief Commissaire / Race Office for any one or more of the following reasons including, but not limited to:
 - Riding at any point on any stage without a helmet Excessive littering. Disrespect or damage to the environment.
 - Bad sportsmanship. Abuse of Race Officials.
 - Traffic Rule violations. ·
 - Breaking of go2berg Race Rules as described above.
 - Rule infringements and Penalties are provided in the Table at 24 below, but are not limited to that Table (see 23 below).
 - Time penalties will be applied to Stage results, as well as to Overall Race results or General Classification.
- **Basic Mountain Bike Racing Rules and Etiquette**
 - Riders must complete the entire distance of the race, and the responsibility for following the official route lies with the rider.
 - Riders, who exit the route of the course for any reason, must return to the course at the exact same point from which they exited.
 - A rider is not permitted to take any shortcuts or to omit a circuit, or take other advantage of a similar nature against opponents. ·
 - Any walking, running or riding by a rider, which is carried out without the intention of directly re-joining the course, or other activity in breach of the regulations, which takes place outside of the marked course area, can result in disqualification.
 - A rider racing for category positions, cannot receive any technical assistance along the course from anybody, other than from their own go2berg team partner or another official go2berg rider.
 - Riders must act in a polite manner at all times, and permit any faster rider to overtake without obstructing.
 - Riders must respect the countryside and ride only on the official route.
 - Riders must avoid polluting the area, and not leave any waste or litter.
 - No glass containers of any kind are permitted on or near the course.
 - Riders must not use offensive or abusive language during the race, act in an unsporting manner, be disrespectful to the officials, or ignore the race regulations.
- **Discretion of the Chief Commissaire**
 - Where any additional rule interpretation is required, or where specific provision for any incident has not been made in these rules, the decision of the Chief Commissaire will be final.