



2016 Rulebook

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Chapter 1: The Montana Enduro Series

The Montana Enduro Series (MES) is intended to challenge and test all of the skills of a mountain biker: endurance, conditioning, and technical skill. The ultimate goal of the MES is to foster and create a community of mountain bikers and competitors. At each event, the host community will have the opportunity to showcase the terrain and trails that they feel best defines mountain biking in their community.

Each event will present its own challenges and will require competitors to continually adapt to the local setting. The following rules define the enduro mountain bike discipline while still allowing space for the race host to add local and individual character to each event.

Each race will be organized by the MES and a Race Organizer. Race Organizers must adhere to the rules contained in this rulebook and understand that courses and decisions may be altered at the discretion of the MES. To the extent that the MES is the Race Organizer, the two terms may be used synonymously throughout these rules. However, a Race Organizer may not supplant the direction and decisions of the MES.

The MES has based these rules on the model rules promulgated by the North American Enduro Coalition and are consistent with other enduro series' that have adopted these rules.

Chapter 2: Entry of Events

General entry is limited to 100 riders. Additional racers may be permitted to register and race at the discretion of the Race Organizer. Special consideration may be given to events with more than 100 racers, such as the North American Enduro Cup (www.naenduro.com), but consistency and accuracy of timing must take priority over any other consideration.

In the event that a Race Organizer has made adequate assurances are made of maintaining the integrity of the timing system, the MES may, in its sole discretion, permit entry of additional racers beyond 100.

Reserved places for teams and riders will be at the discretion of the MES. Previous results in large enduro events will be taken into account when considering reserved places. In the event that reserved places are assigned, the general entry of 100 riders may be reduced to accommodate the reserved places.

2.1: Racing Licenses / Membership

All competitors must comply with the licensing regulations and entry requirements put in place by the Race Organizer or its designee at each event. Specific information regarding entry requirements will be posted on the MES website (www.montanaenduro.com) and/or on the MES' Facebook page (www.facebook.com/montanaenduroseries). It is the responsibility of the rider to check for and ensure compliance with the entry requirements of each race. All licenses and entry requirements will be made a part of the registration process. If none exist

Chapter 3: Categories

Suggested racer categories are as follows:

Pro/Expert Male
Pro/Expert Female
Sport Male
Sport Female
Junior Male (17 & under)
Junior Female (17 & under)
Masters Men (40+)
Masters Women (40+)

The MES may add or remove categories at its discretion. In the spirit of completion, any additional categories should be comprised of 5 or more riders. If fewer than 5 riders are in a category, the category should, at the sole discretion of the Race Organizer, be merged into the next, most-similar category available.

3.1: Category Descriptions

Racers can use the following category descriptions as a guide for determining the appropriate category for a racer. Racers should use this guide along with their best judgment when determining in which category they should compete.

Pro/Expert – Pro/Expert riders are comfortable with steep and loose terrain and technical rock gardens. They are able to ride most trail features without hesitation, but occasionally take an alternate line around large trail features. They are able to complete a 10+ mile trail rides.

Sport – Sport riders can ride technical terrain and are comfortable at cornering. A sport rider can ride most trails but will often take an alternate line or walk around jumps or drops on a trail. They are able to complete a 5 mile trail ride and may or may not have raced in the past.

Junior – Everyone under 18! It's not your birthday on any given day that matters, it's your age on December 31, 2016 that matters. If you're not 18 at the end of 2016, you can compete in Junior.

Masters – Ages 40 and up! It's not your birthday on any given day that matters, it's your age on December 31, 2016 that matters. If you're 40 at the end of 2016, you can compete in Masters.

3.2: Category Changes

A racer may change from one category to another category during a single calendar year at their discretion a maximum of one time. Any change of category beyond the one discretionary change may only occur with permission of the Race Organizer. The Race Organizer must take into account the previous place and times and places of the competitor requesting the change and make appropriate comparisons where possible. The request must be prospective. No retroactive changes to categories may occur. A competitor that changes categories more than once without permission will only earn points in the most competitive category they compete in during the year.

In general, a racer may only carry points towards an overall title in the most competitive category they competed in during the season, and a racer may earn points from one category for any single season. The following rules apply to the points earned when a racer changes categories during a season.

3.2.1: Self Seeding

Racers are the best judge of their own abilities. Racers should strive to be competitive in the category they choose to compete in. In the spirit of competition and fair play the Race Organizers strongly encourage riders to compete in the next category if that would have placed in the top 5 of the next level of category.

3.2.2: Competitive Racer Policy

If a racer has a cumulative race time that would place them in the top 5 of the next more-competitive category - i.e. the Sport category winner has a cumulative race time placing him 4th in the Pro/Expert category - then Race Organizer will automatically move the racer in the more competitive category. The more competitive category must have a minimum of 5 racers.

Juniors may get special permission to upgrade after a consultation with the Race Organizer.

When an automatic move occurs, the racer will be awarded the points they would have attained in the more competitive category for that race. If a racer elects to not voluntarily compete in the more competitive category at a subsequent race and again has a cumulative race time that would place them in

the top 5 of the next more-competitive category, the Race Organizer will automatically move the racer to the more competitive category again. Only the points from the most recent race will be retained; all other points earned from previous automatic moves will be forfeited as will all points earned competing in less-competitive categories.

3.2.3: Catting Up

Racers will not carry points earned in a less-competitive category to a more-competitive category with the exception of the points that are awarded in accordance with Article 3.2.2. Racers who change to a more competitive category will lose the points for the less-competitive category. With the waiver exception explained in Article 3.2.4, a racer that competes in more than one category during a season may only qualify for overall titles in the most competitive category competed in.

3.2.4: Catting Down

Racers will not carry points earned in a more competitive category to a less competitive category. At the sole discretion of the Race Organizer, a waiver may be granted to a racer who changes to a less competitive category to permit the racer to compete in the lower category and be eligible for placing in the overall competition.

3.2.5: Age Determinations

A racer's age is determined by looking at the racer's age as of December 31, 2016. For example, if a racer's birthday is November 7 and they are 17 years old at the start of 2016, they will be considered 18 for the entire 2016 season. As another example, if a racer's birthday is July 18 and they are 39 at the start of 2016, they are considered 40 years old for the entire 2016 season.

Chapter 4: Courses

The start and finish of each timed stage will be clearly marked on the course. The Race Organizer should identify any potential landowner issues and secure any necessary permissions and permits at least 30 days prior to the race. The Race Organizer will produce a map of the course and provide it to the MES. The map will be kept confidential until the course is publically announced as provided below in Article 4.5. The map will also be displayed at the registration table and at the race headquarters.

4.1: Structure

MES races must consist of no less than three timed stages. Timed stages are separated by transfer stages. Enduro racing is about the best use of the trails and terrain available. Rider experience and enjoyment should be the goal for any course selection.

4.2: Timed Stages

A timed stage will be designed to test the rider's technical and physical abilities. There is no minimum or maximum duration for an individual timed stage. All timed stages must follow a predominantly descending route and focus on testing the rider's technical skills. Limited climbing may be expected within timed stages in order to create the desired route.

4.3: Transfer Stages

The nature of each transfer stage is at the discretion of the Race Organizer. Mechanical uplift (chairlift, truck, etc.), rider power, or a combination of both is acceptable, but Race Organizers should strive to minimize the use of mechanical uplift where possible. Subject to the Race Organizer approval, time allotments may be used for the transfer stages. When time allotments are used, the Race Organizer must have a complete and thorough plan for timing and must explain that plan to the racers at the racer meeting. Time penalties may be applied for racers who do not complete the transfer stage in the allotted time.

4.4: Directions and Markings

It is each rider's individual responsibility to study the course map and understand the race route before participating in a race. The Race Organizer should explain the course at the racer meeting.

4.4.1: Course markings

The signs marking the start and finish of each timed stage should be in place 48 hours (or as soon as is practical based on access, permitting, regulations, weather, etc.) before the race start. Regardless of location or geographic variability, courses for all events will be set and marked consistently. As a general rule, the individuals marking the course setters should err on the side of over-marking the course. The Race Organizer should ensure that white paint is used for course marking if marking paint is to be used. A plan must be in place to remove all posted markings within 24 hours of the end of each event.

4.4.2: Tape

High-visibility tape may be used to identify the course. Caution tape should be reserved for potentially hazardous portions of the course. Caution tape will be installed on the outside of hazardous corners to inform racers of the consequences of going off trail in these locations. Caution tape should also be used to line both sides of challenging or hazardous sections of trail, such as notable rock gardens. Tape should also be used to prevent cutting any corners on the timed stages (for example, at a switchback).

Where two pieces of tape, on opposite sides of the course, are installed, the riders must pass between them. In these areas, missing, crossing or passing the course tape on the wrong side will be deemed as course cutting and dealt with in accordance with Article 5.6.

4.4.3: Signs

Black arrows printed on high-visibility, waterproof paper should be used to announce upcoming turns, descents, or climbs. Arrows should be oriented as appropriate: left or right for turns, down for descents or drops, and up for climbs. Particularly steep or severe features should be emphasized with two or more arrows. An “X” should be used to show trails that are not part of the course. Xs can be used in conjunction with arrows that show the correct route. Other markings can be used at the discretion of the race organizers (for example, caution signs or black diamonds), but markings should remain simple and easy to understand.

4.4.4: Gates

Gates are used at the start and finish of each timed stage to create a “timing funnel” through which racers must pass. The racers are timed at the mouth of these gates. Where practical, gates must be a minimum of 12 feet long, and should flare away from the trail and tighten towards the mouth. The gates should also rise in height or consist of a chicane towards the mouth. Gates are created with a combination of high-visibility tape.

Gates may also be used to clearly mark sections of the course that a rider must pass through. The location and nature of official course gates will be explained by the event organizer during the racer meeting. Missing a gate will be deemed as course cutting (Article 5.7).

4.5: Course Announcement

The course for each event will be kept confidential by the Race Organizer and the MES but must be released no later than 24 hours before the event. The course announcement will be made online at www.montanaenduro.com and/or at www.facebook.com/montanaenduroseries. Special consideration should be given to high-traffic areas, weather, other trail users, and all regulatory or statutory restrictions when determining the best time to announce a course.

4.6: Safety, First Aid, and Evacuation

Competitors will be informed at the racer meeting of emergency contact details that can be used in the event of an accident on course. Safety is extremely important and any rules relating to safety must be followed by all competitors.

AS WITH ALL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, MOUNTAIN BIKE RACING IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. COMPETITORS ARE EXPECTED TO RIDE WITHIN THEIR ABILITIES AT ALL TIMES AND MUST UNDERSTAND THAT BY COMPETING IN A MES EVENT, THE COMPETITORS

ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH MOUNTAIN BIKING, RACING, AND PARTICIPATING IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.

4.6.1: Man Down Rule

If a competitor comes across a downed racer, the competitor must ensure the downed racer is uninjured before continuing on. If immediate medical aid is needed, the competitor must call 911 (if a telephone is available) and wait with the downed rider for the next competitor to come by. When the next competitor comes by, one competitor must remain with the downed rider and the other must go and inform the nearest race official. At least one competitor must stay with the downed racer until the appropriate help has arrived. Any competitors who render assistance to a downed rider in accordance with this rule will be allowed to re-run that stage.

Chapter 5: Competition Requirements

5.1: Race Format

- Individual start on all timed stages
- Minimum of 3 timed stages per event
- A minimum of 12 minutes total competition time should be the fastest rider's time (accumulation of all timed stages) for courses without any mechanical uplift.

5.2: Pre-Race Training

At the discretion of the Race Organizer, the course will be made available for on-bike training before timed competition begins. Details of the course are to be published ahead of each event on each Race Organizer's website. The timing of the course announcement is provided above in Article 4.5. While the Race Organizer will make known any restrictions to pre-race training, competitors are responsible knowing any restrictions placed on pre-race training.

5.3: Racer Meeting

The Race Organizer must hold a racer meeting 30-60 minutes before the designated start time. At this meeting, the Race Organizer will provide a description of the course and a summary of the rules of competition.

5.4: Seeding

The use of seeding for races will be at the discretion of the Race Organizer. In the event that seeding is used, competitors will be seeded for the race in accordance with the Race Organizer's own system. This can include a prologue stage, series ranking, or other means.

5.5: Results

The results will be calculated by adding all timed stage times together for each rider. In the event of unforeseen or extreme circumstances, the Race Organizer can decide to withdraw a timed stage(s) from consideration.

In the case where timed stages have had to be cancelled, an event must have a minimum of two complete timed stages in order for the result to be deemed valid for the MES ranking. If there is a cancellation of a stage, it is within the discretion of the Race Organizer to cancel the entire event. However, if there are two or fewer completed stages and the entire event is not cancelled, the Race Organizer may still publish results. In the event of a tie, the highest placed rider in the final stage will be awarded the higher final placing.

5.5.1 Protest Period

Riders have 15 minutes following the posting of results at the race headquarters to file a protest with the Race Organizer before the results become official. All decisions of the Race Organizer are final.

5.6: Equipment Requirements

ALL RIDERS MUST WEAR A HELMET AT ALL TIMES DURING THE COMPETITION.

This mandate includes all transfer and timed stages. There are no exceptions to this rule. Any competitor observed or reported to be competing without a helmet must be automatically disqualified. There is no exception to this rule.

5.6.1: Safety Equipment

All riders must wear a helmet at all times during the competition. The Race Organizer strongly recommends that all riders wear a full-face helmet, gloves, and body armor at all times while competing. Riders are permitted to remove their helmets at the top of each transfer stage only when they have dismounted their bicycle. Their helmet must be correctly fitted before mounting their bicycle for the timed section. The correct fitting, condition and suitability of the rider's helmet is the sole responsibility of the rider.

Any protection rules put in place by the Race Organizer must be followed by all competitors. A rider's failure to adhere to a protection rule will result in disqualification. No exceptions will be given.

5.6.2: Other Rider Equipment

Each rider must be self-sufficient during the entire duration of the race. Personal responsibility and self-sufficiency are a large part of the spirit of enduro racing and riders should carry adequate equipment for racing and riding in mountainous environments. Each rider should remember that they are solely responsible for themselves.

It is strongly recommended that all competitors carry:

- Suitable backpack
- Waterproof jacket
- Emergency blanket
- Spare tubes/ puncture repair kit
- Multi tool
- Basic, well maintained first aid kit
- Map
- Food and fluids
- Eye protection (glasses or goggles)
- Emergency contact information

The use of electronic recording equipment or other devices is permitted. This permission may be revoked at the sole discretion of the Race Organizer. In any case, any electronic device used must not impair safe operation of a bicycle or pose a safety risk to a competitor's self, other competitors, spectators, or any race officials.

5.6.3: Bicycle Requirements

Only one frame, one front and rear suspension unit (fork/rear shock) and one pair of wheels can be used by a competitor during a race. Frame, suspension and wheels may be individually marked by the Race Organizer to ensure compliance with this rule.

Any rider needing to replace a wheel, frame or forks during the competition must present the broken item at the race office, where the Race Organizer or designated representative will assess the damage. Only upon approval of the Race Organizer may a rider replace a frame, suspension part or wheel. Following the repair the rider must return to the Race Organizer to have the replacement part(s) re-marked before rejoining the race.

A 2 minute penalty will be applied to every rider who replaces the equipment listed above. Any rider found to have replaced a named/marked part without consent from the Race Organizer member will be disqualified.

5.7: Rule Violations

There are numerous types of rule violations ranging from unintentional to intentional. Unintentional rule violations are generally cause for a warning or small reprimand. Intentional rule violations, such as cheating, remove the spirit of fair and fun competition from racing and are cause for immediate disqualification.

5.7.1: Course cutting

Taking short cuts on course in order to gain an advantage can both damage the environment and brings the sport and spirit of enduro mountain biking racing into disrepute. Therefore, any rider intentionally choosing a line that lies outside of the marked course will be immediately disqualified. In general, riders must follow the predominant trail or path that exists. While line choices do exist on a course, all riders should be aware that their actions on the course have lasting impacts on the environment and the ability of the Race Organizers to host future events.

The Race Organizer may choose, in exceptional circumstances, to apply a time penalty, in lieu of a disqualification, to a rider found to have cut the course without intention. However, any rider leaving the obvious line must be aware that they risk a disqualification.

5.7.2: Allotment Stage delay/missed start

However, where otherwise applied, an individual's time on a timed stage will start in accordance with the specified start time on the published start list even if the rider is not present. Riders arriving late to the start must follow the starter's orders and join the course when instructed to do so.

Failure to follow starter's orders will result in a suitable time penalty. Any riders arriving at the start of a timed stage later than 30 minutes after their specified start time will be disqualified from the race.

Unless otherwise organized, use of a SPORTident timing system at a race means that riders are not required to start their timed sections in any particular order, and may self-seed and self-space in accordance with the Race Organizer's instruction. Competitors must start the timed section within a reasonable amount of time and before the Race Organizers determine, in their discretion, to begin closing the course for the day.

5.7.3: Illegal outside assistance

Any competitor receiving outside assistance from a non-racer without prior agreement from the Race Organizer will be disqualified. This includes using team staff/outside help to carry equipment around the course, receiving assistance to perform repairs during the race, and disclosing or attempting to learn an event's course prior to the official announcement.

5.7.4: Rule Violation Recording

The Event Organizer is responsible for the application of the rules and has the final say in regards to the application of these rules. The Race Organizer can appoint a marshal to travel around the course at their own discretion to undisclosed points. These marshals must report all rule violations to the Event Organizer. Any rule violations must be registered with the Event Organizer within 15 minutes of the last competitor finishing the final stage.

Chapter 6: The MES Titles

6.1: Individual Titles

The overall first, second, and third place competitors for each category will be recorded and announced. Medals (or another prize) will be awarded to the winners at each round of the series. Depending on the number of competitors, a Race Organizer may, at their discretion, record and announce up to the top 5 finishers.

6.2: Team Competition

If the Race Organizer has elected to track and score team competition through a season, only teams registered with the Race Organizer will be eligible to compete for the Overall Team Championships. A

team registers with the Race Organizer by declaring the team affiliation when the racer is registering. Retroactive application of a team affiliation is not permitted. The Overall Team rankings will be calculated at the discretion of the Event Organizer using a predetermined formula post on the race website prior to competition.

6.3: Points Structure

Position	Points Awarded
1 st	200
2 nd	180
3 rd	160
4 th	150
5 th	140
6 th through 10 th	132 to 100 (8 point steps)
11 th through 20 th	100 to 55 (5 point steps)
21 st through 30 th	50 to 32 (2 point steps)
31 st through 50 th	30 to 10 (1 point steps)
51 st through 60 th	9
61 st through 70 th	7
71 st through 80 th	5
81 st through 90 th	3
91 st through 100 th	1

Chapter 7: Financial Obligations

The purpose of the MES is to encourage national and international mountain bike competition. A part of this requires the Race Organizers to be aware of the financial restrictions that racing may impose on riders. Waivers or reductions of entry fees may be given to racers or teams at the discretion of the Race Organizer.

Event Organizers who work with the Race Organizers are encouraged to award prizes and prize money for winners of each category. These awards are within the sole discretion of the Event Organizer.

Chapter 8: Anti-Doping Policy

The North American Enduro Coalition, the MES, and each Race Organizer do not permit doping of any kind, and will respect and assist any operating anti-doping controls at any event. Any competitor entering a MES event must follow any anti-doping procedure that may be asked of them by the Race Organizer.

With the interests of keeping enduro mountain biking clean from the start and to avoid the spirit and reputation of enduro mountain bike racing from being brought into disrepute, any cyclist, regardless of cycling discipline, who has previously been found guilty by any court or regulatory body of any use of or involvement with banned, performance enhancing drugs will not be entitled to compete or take part in any [insert your race or series] event.

Any cyclist prevented from competing or taking part in any MES event by virtue of the foregoing paragraph may appeal to the Race Organizer for exemption from that rule and in exceptional circumstances the Race Organizer may at its absolute discretion grant such an exemption.

However, in the interests of transparency within the sport of enduro mountain bike racing, the Race Organizer reserves the right to maintain a zero tolerance approach to drug taking in cycling and will communicate any appeal decision publicly.