



2015 Rulebook

web : montanaenduro.com
facebook : [/montanaenduroseries](https://www.facebook.com/montanaenduroseries)
twitter : [@montanaenduro](https://twitter.com/montanaenduro)
email : contact@montanaenduro.com

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Chapter 1: The Montana Enduro Series

The Montana Enduro Series (MES) is the premier mountain bike racing series in Montana and the surrounding states. It is intended to challenge and test all of the skills of a mountain biker: endurance, conditioning, and technical skill. The ultimate goal of each of the MES races will be to foster and create a community of competitors from the Rocky Mountain area and beyond. Each host community will have the opportunity to showcase the terrain and trails that they feel best defines mountain biking in their community.

Each race 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 each race host on the MES calendar to add local and individual character to each event.

Each race will be organized by the Montana Bicycle Guild Board (MBG) or a race organizer. To ensure a consistent standard across all MES races, a race organizer must adhere to the rules contained in this rulebook and understand that courses and decisions may be altered at the discretion of the MBG. To the extent that the MBG is the race organizer, the two terms may be used synonymously throughout these rules. However, a race organizer may not supplant the MBG.

Chapter 2: Entry of Events

Entry is limited to 100 riders. Reserved places for teams and riders will be at the discretion of the MBG. Previous results in large enduro events will be taken into account when considering reserved places. Special consideration may be given to events with more than 100 racers, but consistency and accuracy of timing must take priority over any other consideration. In the event that adequate assurances are made of maintaining the integrity of the timing system, the MBG may, in its sole discretion, permit such an occurrence.

2.1: Racing Licenses / Membership

All competitors must comply with the licensing regulations and entry requirements put in place by the MBG or its designee at each MES event. Specific information regarding entry requirements will be posted on the Montana Enduro website (www.montanaenduro.com) and/or on the MES's 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.

2.2: USA Cycling Membership

All competitors must have a valid USA Cycling (USAC) license for all MES races organized under USAC's rules. Annual licenses are required to compete in Category 1, per USAC rules. Single-day licenses are accepted for competition in the other categories. The appropriate license for the competitor's category will be made available when the competitor registers for each event.

Chapter 3: Categories

Racer categories follow USAC guidance for all MES races organized under USAC's rules. MES categories are as follows:

- Men Category 1 (USAC annual license required)
- Women Category 1 (USAC annual license required)
- Men Category 2
- Women Category 2
- Men Category 3
- Women Category 3
- Junior Men (racers under 18 years old)
- Junior Women (racers under 18 years old)

Chapter 4: Courses

The start and finish of each timed stage will be clearly marked on the course map supplied by the organizer. 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 MBG will produce a map of the course and provide it to the race organizer. The map will be kept confidential until the course is announced (as provided below). The map will also be displayed at the registration table and in the race headquarters.

4.1: Structure

MES races must consist of no less than two and no more than five 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 a 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 timed stage is at the discretion of the organizer. Mechanical uplift (chairlift, truck, etc.), rider power, or a combination of both is acceptable. Subject to MBG approval, time allotments may be used for the transfer stages. A complete and thorough plan for timing must accompany any transfer stage where time allotments are used.

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.

4.4.1: Course markings

The signs marking the start and finish of each timed stage will be in place 24 hours before the race start. Regardless of location or geographic variability, courses for all MES races will be set and marked consistently. It is important for the MES to preserve its reputation for well-marked courses. As a general rule, the course setters should err on the side of over-marking the course.

4.4.2: Tape

High-visibility surveyors flagging 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 of these rules.

4.4.3: Signs

Black arrows printed on yellow waterproof paper are 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. Black Xs are used to show trails that are not part of the course. Xs should be used in conjunction with arrows that show the correct route.

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. 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 caution tape and high-visibility surveyors flagging.

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 MBG and the race organizers until sundown three evenings before the event (i.e. Wednesday evening before a Saturday event, or Thursday evening before a Sunday event). The course announcement will be made online at www.montanaenduro.com and www.facebook.com/montanaenduroseries and at the race headquarters by physical display of the course map.

4.6: Safety, First Aid, and Evacuation

Competitors will be informed at the pre-race 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 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 MES races, the competitors assume all risks associated with mountain biking, racing, and participating in outdoor activities.

Competitors will be informed at the pre-race meeting of emergency contact details that can be used in the event of an accident on course. In all instances, dialing 911 from a telephone should be used for emergencies.

Chapter 5: Competition Requirements

5.1: Race Format

- Individual start on all timed stages
- Minimum of 2 timed stages per event
- Minimum of 15 minutes total competition time for the fastest rider in the
- General Classification (accumulation of all timed stages)
- Individual start times for each timed stage must be provided by the organizer.

5.2: Pre-Race Training

The course must be made available for on-bike training before timed competition begins. Details of the course are to be published ahead of each Montana Enduro Series event on each organizer’s website to permit competitors to pre-run the course. The timing of the course announcement is provided above in Article 4.4. While the race organizer or the MES 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, designated MBG staff, and USAC official will hold a racer meeting 15 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. The USAC official will announce all USAC requirements and rules.

5.4: Seeding

The use of seeding for races will be at the discretion of the MBG. 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. In the event of a tie, the highest placed rider in the final stage will be awarded the higher final placing.

5.6: Equipment Requirements

5.6.1: Safety Equipment

All riders must wear a helmet at all times during competition. The MBG 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 rider observed competing without a helmet will be immediately disqualified.

Any protection rules put in place by the race organizer (and/or USAC at USAC-affiliated events) must be followed by all competitors. 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 supplied by organizer

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 MBG 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 a member of the MBG will assess the damage. Only upon approval of an MBG member may a rider replace a frame, suspension part or wheel. Following the repair the rider must return to the Race Director 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 an MBG member will be disqualified.

5.7: Rule Violations

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 choosing a line that lies outside of the marked course will be immediately disqualified.

The race organizer may choose, in exceptional circumstances, to apply a time penalty, not 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.

5.7.6: Allotment Stage delay/missed start

Unless otherwise organized, use of the 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. 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.

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.

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 or perform repairs during the race and includes 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 can report rule violations to the organizer. Any rule violations must be registered with the event organizer within 15 minutes of the last competitor finishing the final stage.

Chapter 6: Montana Enduro Series Points and Titles

6.1: Individual Titles

A rider's point total from his or her top four finishes in a single category will count towards the overall series title. The MES overall titles will be awarded to the racers with the highest four-race total of points after the final round. 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 MES. The overall winners will be awarded with custom jerseys.

6.2: Team Competition

Only teams registered with the MBG will be eligible to compete for the MES Team Champion. A team registers with the MBG by declaring the team affiliation when the racer is registering. Retroactive application of a team affiliation is not permitted. The overall MES Team placement will be calculated by adding the best three riders from each team's results, regardless of category, at each round of the MES.

At least one representative of the team must be present at each of the events. In the event that there is no team with a representative at each race, then the team with the best nine finishes throughout the season, regardless of category, will be crowned the MES Team Champion.

6.3: Points Structure

MES Ranking Points will be awarded in relation to other EMBA Membership holders.

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)

Chapter 7: Financial Obligations

The maximum event entry fee: \$65. The purpose of the Montana Enduro Series 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 MBG.

Event organizers who work with the MBG and the MES are encouraged to award prizes and prize money for winners of each category. Any awards are within the sole discretion of the event organizer.

Chapter 8: Anti-Doping Policy

The Montana Enduro Series organizers and MBG will respect and assist any National Cycling Federation operating anti-doping controls at all Montana Enduro Series events. Any competitor entering an Montana Enduro Series event must follow any anti-doping procedure that may be asked of them by the MBG.

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 Montana Enduro Series event.

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

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