Article 1: Organization

The “Association Grand Raid” (a non profit making association as per the 1901 law) organizes the “Grand Raid de la Réunion” (also known as « la Diagonale des fous” – the madmen’s walk), the Trail de Bourbon and the Mascareignes.

Article 2 – General presentation of the race.

- The Diagonale des Fous – the Grand Raid - is an Ultra trail about 165km long, with a total uphill climb of 9900 m, crossing Reunion Island diagonally from south to north. On its way, it skirts the Piton de la Fournaise, and goes across the three cirques of Cilaos, Mafate and Salazie, mostly following regular long distance footpaths. This hike – or mountain race - is meant for people in an excellent physical condition and specifically trained for long and strenuous efforts. It needs to have finished between 01/01/2011 and 31/07/2013, a pedestrian race, in one step, giving 85 points, according this : 1km =1 point and 100m up = 1 point. **Starting point is at Saint Pierre (Ravine Blanche) and the time is 11PM on Thursday October 17th.** Competitors are fairly autonomous and must complete the race within 65 (sixty five hours), including stops, and provided they have been checked before closing time at each of the control points (closing time is indicated in the Road Book and on the web site). Closing times have been calculated in order to allow competitors to complete the race within the maximum allowed time while eventually stopping to eat or rest…). Past closing time, competitors must surrender their bibs. Their bibs will be invalidated. They will be regarded as having given up and will no longer be entitled to any of the services provided by the organisation who will not be held responsible for their safety.

- The Trail de Bourbon is the same type of competition (Ultra Trail) over a distance of about 93 km with a total uphill climb of about 5200m. **Starting point will be at Cilaos at 4 AM on Saturday October 19th.** Competitors are fairly autonomous and must complete the race within 35 (thirty five hours), including stops, and provided they have been checked before closing time at each of the control points (closing time is indicated in the Road Book and on the web site). Closing times have been calculated in order to allow competitors to complete the race within the maximum allowed time while eventually stopping to eat or rest…). Past closing time, competitors must surrender their bibs. Their bibs will be invalidated. They will be regarded as having given up and will no longer be entitled to any of the services provided by the organisation who will not be held responsible for their safety.

- The Mascareignes is a Trail over a distance of about 67 km with a total uphill climb of about 4000m. **Starting point will be at Hellbourg at 4 AM on Friday October 18th.** Competitors are fairly autonomous and must complete the race within 19 hours (nineteen hours), including stops, and provided they have been checked before closing time at each of the control points (closing time is indicated in the Road Book and on the web site). Closing times have been calculated in order to allow competitors to complete the race within the maximum allowed time while eventually stopping to eat or rest…). Past closing time, competitors must surrender their bibs. Their bibs will be invalidated. They will be regarded as having given up and will no longer be entitled to any of the services provided by the organisation who will not be held responsible for their safety.

Article 3 – General rules

The Grand Raid, the Trail de Bourbon and the Mascareignes are organised according to the following set of rules. Entering the race binds each competitor to them and the Organisation will not be held responsible for any incident or accident happening due to any violation of those rules.

Article 4 - Conditions of entry

In the case of too many local applicants, a draw will be held to trim them down to the allowed number. This only applies to the Grand Raid.
The medical certificate (provided by the Organisation) confirming the entrant is physically fit for long efforts at a high altitude will be completed and returned to the organisation by the date mentioned on the entry form or on our website. The Organisation has the right to refuse entry to any competitor who has been disqualified in a previous edition of the race. No bib number will be given unless we have received the medical certificate. The Grand Raid, the Trail de Bourbon and the Mascareignes are opened to any person (male and female) who is 18 years of age on the day of the race. Pending agreement by the Organisation, dogs are allowed under the responsibility of their masters (and upon presentation of a vaccination certificate against rabies). Their number is limited to ten (on the first come first served basis). Both master and dog will start last and dogs must be kept on the leash. Additional entry fees for dogs are annexed to the entry form.

Article 5 – Age groups and results

Each competitor (Grand Raid, Trail de Bourbon and Mascareignes) belongs to one of the six following age groups.

- Under 21 (Men and women) : 18 to 21 year old.
- Senior men and women (SH-SF) : 18 to 39 year old.
- Veteran 1 men and women (V1H-V1F) : from 40 to 49 year old
- Veteran 2 men and women (V2H-V2F) : from 50 to 59 year old
- Veteran 3 men and women (V3H-V3F) : from 60 to 69 year old
- Veteran 4 men and women (V4H-V4F) : 70 and over.

On top of results in each of the above age groups, there will be other results:
A : Individual, non sponsored, scratch men and women (12 possible rankings)
B : Teams (a minimum of 3 competitors per team), men or women (no mixed teams, if mixed with men team ranking) . The team ranking will be worked out by adding the rankings of its three best members. Each team member will also be ranked individually (in his age group and scratch). Team members cannot be ranked in the sponsored group.
C : Sponsored individual competitors, men or women, (except for the Mascareignes) will also be included in the age groups and scratch results.

The final time (in hours and minutes) of each competitor will be the one given by the official race stop watch. If two or more competitors cross the finish line together, preference will be given to seniority, but only one prize will be awarded.

Article 6 – Equipment provided by the organisation.

Bib, tee-shirt and tank top (only for the Grand Raid).

Article 7 – Race partners’ commercial logos

Individual or team members, non sponsored, can only wear the official tee-shirt or tank top provided by the Organisation. Wearing those is compulsory from the start to the first check point (Basse Vallée) and from the last check point (Colorado) to the finish. Elsewhere competitors can wear any tee shirt or tank top provided it does not carry any commercial logo conflicting with those of the official partners. Sponsored competitors must also wear the official race tee shirt and tank top as stipulated above. Elsewhere, they can wear their sponsor’s tee shirts or tank tops provided the commercial logo does not exceed 300 cm² on the front and back and 12 cm² on one face of the cap. Their sponsor must be agreed by the organisation and cannot be a commercial rival to any of the race sponsors (Any competitor who fails to comply with this point will not be allowed to take part in the race) No other form of publicity is allowed and the Organisation is free to alter the rule in case written requests are made. Failing to comply with these rules will imply penalties (see article 20).

The Association allows the official partners of The Grand Raid to contact individual participants (up to February 2012). Participants’ addresses will be provided by the Association only if the request is duly motivated. Partners will not communicate the postal, E. mail addresses or phone numbers of competitors and shall only use them with reference to the race. Failing to do so will be of their own responsibility and the Association will not be held responsible.
Article 8 – Checking in at the start

When checking in at the start, competitors must have their bibs affixed on the front at belt level so as to let free the Grand Raid sponsors’ logos. Each rucksack will be checked to make sure that the compulsory equipment (see art. 18) is enclosed.

Article 9 – Check points

All along the way there are compulsory checkpoints. Moreover bags can be inspected at any time in order to check their contents.

Official results will be based on the final check according to the time recorded by the official timekeepers. Any competitor who has lost time while bringing help to an injured one is entitled to a time credit (same as the time lost plus a bonus). He must report his good deed at the next check point.

Article 10- Giving up

Any competitor who gives up must inform the person in charge of the next check point and surrender his/her bib. Otherwise, the Organization will not be held responsible for whatever might happen to that person, who might be refused the right to enter any future edition of the race.

Article 11 – Road book

Every competitor will be given a Road Book. It includes practical information such as closing times for each check point, rest places and possibilities for personal assistance. This Road Book can be downloaded from our website.

Article 12 – Medical assistance

A medical team will be present on the race, under the responsibility of the Organization. It will provide medical help at such checkpoints as indicated in the Road Book. In case a competitor is deemed unfit to go on, the medical team will inform the race director and the final decision will rest with the Organization.

Article 13 – Insurance

The Organization has taken out an insurance for the duration of the race that covers any competitor and a third party for any damage suffered for which the Organization is held responsible. It is however recommended to take in an individual insurance. The Association will not be held responsible for any problem happening after a competitor has given up, been disqualified or refused to comply with a medical order or any decision taken by the race director.

Article 14 – Resting during the race

Competitors can take advantage of the various rest places provided by the Organization. These are mentioned in the Road Book.

Article 15 – Food and drinks

The idea of the race is self sufficiency. However, most refreshment points are provided with water and marathon type food. A few check points provide hot meals (as indicated in the Road Book).
Article 16 – Personal assistance

Personal assistance is allowed at refreshment points (see Road Book) which excludes any help such as bag, water carriers, or pace setters in between such points (see article 18). Vehicles bringing assistance are only allowed at such refreshment points as indicated in the Road book. Owners of bags with spare clothing handed over to the Organization will collect them at the latest 48 hours after the race finish time. Uncollected bags will be destroyed.

Article 17 – Equipment

- Compulsory: the bib must be affixed to the. Competitors must have: a rucksack or any kind of bag allowing the inclusion of: a headlamp or an ordinary torch with spare bulbs and batteries – a survival blanket – a water bottle (min. one litre) – a whistle – two elastic bands (strapping), 1 for the Mascareignes – some food- a waterproof garment. A warm bodywear made of synthetic material (no cotton).
- Recommended: one warm jumper – one lighter - one knife – a piece of string (in case repairs are needed!) – sun cream – Vaseline – spare clothing – the Road Book…
- Walking sticks of any material (wood, metal) are strictly prohibited.

Article 18 – Penalties

Three hour penalties
- failing to comply with article 17.
- failing to have the bib properly affixed (on the front, at belt level and not on the back).
- failing to report at one check point or missing one anti cheat check.

Article 19 – Disqualification

- absence of more than one anti cheat marking.
- failing to report to more than one check point.
- missing rucksack or appropriate bag.
- missing bib.
- checking in after closing time at the start or any check point.
- use of any form of transport during the race.
- if more than one compulsory articles is found missing during the race.
- refusing to help a competitor having problems.
- degrading the natural environment (a competitor or a third party providing assistance).
- insulting or threatening any member of the Organization, race marshal, agent of the National Park. Any oral or written defamatory statement expressed during or after the race can lead to prosecution and/or allow the Organization to refuse entry in the next editions of the race.
- refusing to submit to a medical control at any time during the race.
- being in a physical or psychological state such that the doctor has deemed the competitor unable to go on with the race.
- behaving in a dangerous way towards another competitor or being in possession of a forbidden piece of equipment despite a warning by a member of the organisation.
- failing to abide by article 7.

Article 20 – Anti doping control

Any competitor can be submitted to an anti doping control during or after the race. Refusing to submit implies an immediate disqualification. Any positive control will imply immediate disqualification and the competitor will be barred from participating in further editions.

Article 21 - Claims

The Race Director will accept any written claim lodged in writing within thirty minutes of the publication of the provisional results.
Article 22 – Race jury

It is made up of: - the President and one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association Grand Raid – the Race director – the board of race marshals – check point stewards – any person whose presence will be deemed useful. A representative from the National Park authority will be consulted whenever a case concerning environmental problems is raised. Once the competitor concerned by a dispute or disqualification having occurred during the race has been heard, the jury will let the verdict be known within an appropriate time. Once all receivable claims are settled, the jury will proclaim the official results.

Article 23 – Television, photos and videos rights

Competitors surrender to the organization the right to use all kinds of pictures taken during the race. Professionals must get approval by the Organization. No picture, film, television shots can be sold to any commercial partner or television channel without the agreement of the Association Grand Raid.

Article 24 – Safety

To ensure the safety of competitors, there are about twenty check points with medical and paramedical assistance, together with members of the Red Cross, PGHM (mountain police), Samu (emergency rescue teams), signalmen..

Article 25 – Entry fees

Entry fees are to be found in the entry form and on the website. The fees include all items and services as per articles 6, 12, 13, 14 &16. In case of cancellation, no fees will be refunded for whatever reason in the last 15 days previous to the race. Before that date, fees will be refunded minus 20€ for cancellation charges upon a written and dated request sent together with a stamped envelop with name and address.

Article 26- Results and prizes

The list of prizes is included in the Road Book. Every “finisher” of the Grand Raid the Trail de Bourbon and the Mascareignes is awarded a tee shirt, a medal and a diploma (with ranking and time of the competitor, to be downloaded).

Article 27 – Altering the route

The Organisation reserves the right to alter the route at any time and without previous warning.

Article 28 – Entries closing date

The closing date is mentioned on the entry form and on the web site. It can be extended if the allowed number of entries is not reached. Every year, the board of directors of the Association decide on the maximum number of entries and mention it on the entry form and on the web site.

Article 29 – cancellation of the race

In case the races (diagonal des Fous, Trail de Bourbon and Mascareignes) are cancelled:
  • if the cancellation is caused by the Organisation, money will be refunded to competitors taking into account sums already engaged for the race by the organizers.
  • If the cancellation is due to outside forces (weather conditions, volcanic eruption, administrative decision..) no money shall be refunded.