

# THE 2024 FIREWEED INFORMATION AND RULES

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# Event Information

## Finalizing the Registration Process

### Bib Pickup, Signing of Release and Pre-Event Meeting

Riders and teams may register for the Fireweed events online until the **750 entry limit is reached**, or on or before midnight **JUNE 30th, 2024**, whichever comes first. Entry is \$100 per person, discounted rates for each relay member as listed, until midnight MAY 17th. Entry is \$120 per person from MAY 18th until midnight June 30th, 2024. There will be no refunds, unless the entire event is canceled.

No new registration at BIB pickup or at Sheep Mountain Lodge. Of your entry, \$50 is tax deductible to US citizens because The Fireweed is a §501(c)(3), EIN 27-1713242

No new registration at the safety meeting, or at Sheep Mountain Lodge on Friday or Saturday.

## Pre-Event Meeting - time(s)/day(s)

**THE PRE RACE SAFETY MEETING IS MANDATORY.** Riders absent from the meeting will not be allowed to start. The meeting is for BIB pickup, signing and turning in the race waiver, getting questions answered.

There will be three Pre-Race Mandatory Safety Meetings:

- You must attend one (1) Pre-Race Mandatory Safety Meeting.
- Location: BP Energy Center, 1014 Energy Ct, Anchorage, AK 99508
- Monday July 8th 11:30AM - 2:00PM
- Monday July 8th 5:00PM - 8:00 PM
- Wednesday July 10th 5:00PM - 8:00PM
  
- **THE PRE-RACE SAFETY MEETING IS MANDATORY!**

All riders **and support crew members** must sign and turn in the Release of Liability forms prior to the event. **ALL of the riders AND the relay team's support crew** must be at the Pre-Event Meeting to get the vehicle numbers and vehicle information card. Rider(s) and crew members are responsible for making sure they have signed a waiver prior to the event.

If for any reason the rider or their crew cannot attend this meeting, they need to make prior arrangements by contacting Sarah Radonich, [director@thefireweed.org](mailto:director@thefireweed.org)

## Start Times are APPROXIMATE until July 1, 2024 \*\*

TIME	EVENT	WAVE E	BIB NUMBERS
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 13</b>			
6:00:00 AM	200 EARLY START*	1	
6:30:00 AM	200 EARLY START*	2	
7:00:00 AM	200 RIDE	3	
7:15:00 AM	200 RIDE	4	
7:30:00 AM	200 2 PERSON RELAY	5	
7:45:00 AM	200 4 PERSON RELAY	6	
8:00:00 AM	200 open RELAY	7	

\* Early starts are for racers who would like additional time to complete the event: please check-in with timer. No podium awards (1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> place) or new course records will be awarded to early starters.

\*\*The waves and numbering will be published at a later date depending on registration

## Event Awards

First, second, and third place awards will be given by division (Solo, 2,4,open relays) if there are at least five participants or relay teams in the age group. In the event there are less than five participants or relay teams in the age group, only first place will be awarded.

## The Fireweed Event Courses

For safety reasons, from Sheep Mount Lodge to Mile 120.2 (approximately 6.7 miles into the race at the Heck Monument pull out) of the Glenn Highway, **no Support Vehicles are allowed to assist any riders and no relay exchanges may take place. In this area of the course, riders must be self-sufficient and be able to fix basic mechanical problems.**

## Great Alaska Double Century

The 200-mile course starts at Sheep Mountain Lodge (Glenn Highway Milepost 113.5), heads east to Glennallen (Milepost 187), then turns south (right) onto the Richardson Highway and stays on the Richardson all the way to Valdez. Once you enter the town of Valdez proper you will follow the course markings to Airport Road. From this turn riders will proceed to the end of the road, turn around and follow all course markings crossing the Richardson Highway and returning to the Goldfields Softball Complex. The race concludes at the entrance to the ballfields.

## Aid Stations

TBD

## Course Closure Times

The 200-mile course will close Saturday at 12:00 p.m. (midnight). At 11:00 p.m. a race official will begin a sweep of the course to pick up riders unable to finish by the time the course close. Any 200-mile rider who has not passed the Tiekel River Lodge (Richardson Hwy. Milepost V56) by 9:00 p.m. must stop at the Tiekel River Lodge; the course sweeper will pick up riders who are stopped there.

# Event Rules

## General Rules

### Safety First

**The Fireweed motto is: "SAFETY FIRST, FUN SECOND, AND COMPETITION THIRD."**

When an emergency poses a risk to human life or safety, all reasonable efforts must be made to prevent the injury. If preventing injury makes it necessary to violate an event rule, the race director will have discretion to relax the rule. If an injury occurs, Riders should make all reasonable efforts to help the injured rider(s) before leaving the accident.

### Penalties for Disobeying Traffic Laws or these Rules

All riders and support drivers must obey these Rules and all traffic laws. State Troopers will ticket riders or drivers who disobey any traffic laws. In addition to any such sanction, race officials will impose time penalties or disqualifications for violations of traffic laws or of these rules by riders or their support vehicles or persons.

Except as otherwise specified in these Rules, the following penalties will be imposed for offenses:

Infraction	Penalty
1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Disqualification. Rider/team required to remove themselves from the course immediately
Defecation or Urination on Private Property	\$500 Fine Failure to pay the fine will result in your entire team being banned from The Fireweed for life

## Protests

If a rider believes that a race official or the race director has made a decision that violated the rules and is unfair to the rider, then the rider may appeal the decision to the race jury by filing a protest. Protests must be submitted immediately after the event to the race director and will be ruled on by the race jury. Three unbiased and uninvolved race officials will serve as the members of the race jury. The race jury's decision is final.

## General Rules that Apply to Riders

### Traffic Safety Requirements

The following State traffic laws and event rules apply throughout the event and must be followed by all riders:

- Ride as far to the right as possible.
- Use the shoulder of the highway when it is in good condition.
- Move to the right as far as practicable when a driver behind you gives an audible signal.
- Ride abreast, only while passing and only when it will not impede traffic.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Do not hand anything to, take anything from, or make any other contact with a moving support vehicle.
- Do not advance along the course on foot unless you keep your bicycle with you.
- Never advance along the course in a motor vehicle unless an emergency arises. When a rider is driven in a vehicle to receive emergency assistance, the rider may return by motor vehicle to the point where the rider initially entered the vehicle, and may resume riding from there.
- Do not ask for or accept any type of push-off from another person or vehicle.
- Do not discard wrappers or other objects except water bottles while riding; riders may toss water bottles to the roadside at aid stations, or when someone from a support vehicle is available to pick them up.
- Always wear a properly attached ANSI-approved helmet.
- If abandoning the event, report the abandonment as soon as practicable, by calling the finish line (907)416-1058 or by notifying any race official on the course. RIDERS WHO ABANDON ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION.
- Take all toilet breaks well off the highway, out of public view, and away from any driveway or private property.
- Do not wear a headgear for receiving sound, ear buds or similar devices. (13 AAC04.260(b).)

### LIGHTS, Reflective Vests and Rear View Mirrors

**Riders are required to have a front light and a red rear light for visibility. Rear lights must be switched on while riders are on course.** We recommend that riders wear reflective vests and use rear view mirrors, but neither is required.

## **Pace Lines, Drafting and Aero Bars**

### **Restrictions on Drafting and Riding in Pace Lines**

**Solo Riders:** Riders of the Solo Fireweed event may ride in a pace line and draft with other riders ONLY when it is safe to do so.

**Team Riders:** Riders entered in a “Relay-Team” division of any Fireweed event may ride in a pace line and draft with other riders from their own team when it is safe to do so, but shall not ride in any other pace lines. Only one member of the Relay-Team shall cross the finish line.

### **Rules for Riders in Pace Lines**

Pace lines should stay to the right of the rumble strip when safe and practical.

Pace-line riders must rotate in a clockwise direction, moving forward on the left and back on the right.

If a pace-line rider needs to drop back on the highway side of the pace line, the rider must first inform the other pace-line members, make sure that no vehicles are approaching from ahead or behind, and stay as far away from the centerline of the road as possible while dropping back.

**Penalties for any individual rider’s violation of a pace-line rule will be imposed against all riders in the pace line, and all riders in the same pace-line will be disqualified in the event of a second violation.**

### **Other Pacing Prohibited**

Except as specifically allowed under these rules, no rider may pace behind a motorized vehicle traveling at the same speed as the rider.

**Aero Bars:** Riders may have aero bars in any of the Fireweed events. However, it is recommended for safety purposes that a rider not use aero bars while riding in a pack or pace line.

## **General Rules for All Support Vehicles, Drivers and Support Staff**

### **Requirements for Support Vehicles, Drivers and Support Staff**

A “support vehicle” is any motorized vehicle with two or more wheels that is used during the Fireweed to transport people and/or equipment necessary for use by a competing rider.

All support vehicles must be properly registered for use in Alaska and carry at least the minimum insurance required by law in the state of registration. Insurance for support vehicles is required as per State statutes

All drivers of support vehicles must possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the type of vehicle being operated. Motorcycle drivers must have State of Alaska motorcycle endorsements. Motorcycle passengers must wear proper motorcycle helmets, not bicycle helmets, while on the motorcycle.

All support drivers and support staff must sign Release of Liability forms.

**The team numbers must be displayed on the back left side of the support vehicle visible to other drivers and officials.**

## **Use of Support Vehicles – always keep as far right as possible.**

For safety reasons, until Mile 120.2 (approximately 6.7 miles into the race at the Heck Monument pull out) of the Glenn Highway, no Support Vehicles are allowed to assist any riders and no relay exchanges may take place. In this area of the course, riders must be self-sufficient and have the ability to fix basic mechanical problems. Furthermore, in the last five miles of the 200-mile events, no relay exchange may take place.

Unless otherwise specifically allowed by these rules, no support vehicle may be used as a pace vehicle.

A support vehicle may assist a rider by leapfrogging along the course, subject to the following requirements:

Use caution at all times, especially when parking and moving back into the roadway.

**DO NOT PARK OR CONGREGATE ON THE SHOULDER. STOP EITHER IN DESIGNATED PULLOUTS OR 30 FEET OFF THE SHOULDER. SUPPORT VEHICLES ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARK OR STOP ON THE ROAD SHOULDER PER DOT. A SUPPORT VEHICLE SHOULD STOP IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY DO NOT IMPACT TRAFFIC OR RIDERS.**

Do not hand anything to, take anything from, or make any other contact with riders while the support vehicle is moving.

In addition to obeying these rules, drivers of support vehicles must obey all applicable traffic laws.

## **Special Rules**

### **General Rules Continue To Apply**

These special rules supplement the general rules set out above. Riders, support vehicles, and crew members covered by these special rules also must obey the general rules; if a conflict between a general rule and special rule arises in a particular situation, the specific rule will apply.

### **Riders**

#### **Special Rules for Relay-Team Riders**

There is no minimum or maximum riding distance for individual riders on relay teams. Any number of relay riders from the same team may cycle together at any time and for any distance but **MUST** stay together in a single group or pace line. Teams may not have active riders spread out along different sections of roadway under any circumstances.

Drafting and pace lines are permitted among members of the same team unless Alaska State Troopers or race officials expressly prohibit it in specific areas for safety reasons.

Once a relay team starts its ride a new rider may not substitute for one of the team's original riders, even if the original rider is injured and unable to ride. Only one member of the team needs to finish, however, so a single relay-team rider may complete the race for the team, even if the rest of its riders have dropped out.

**In a Relay exchange, the incoming Relay rider must overlap wheels with the outgoing Relay rider, but no tag or physical contact between riders is required. Relay riders may make a rolling exchange but all exchanges must take place BEFORE riders pass their support vehicle. Incoming riders may not ride beyond their support vehicles unless it is unsafe to stop before passing the support vehicle. If an incoming rider passes the support vehicle, he or she must dismount and walk his or her bike back to the support vehicle.**

Relay riders walking their bikes to or from support vehicles must step completely off the road and shoulder for passing race riders.



Outgoing Relay riders should prepare for a rolling exchange by walking their bikes up the road (i.e., back from the support vehicle) far enough to enable the incoming Relay Rider to stop at or before the support vehicle after the exchange.

**Relay riders may not ride their bikes across the road.** EXCHANGES MUST BE MADE ON THE CORRECT SIDE OF THE ROAD. EXCHANGES MADE WITH A VEHICLE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD IS AN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION. This is necessary to ensure the safety of riders, support vehicles, and general road traffic. There will be no appeal to this decision.

In addition to complying with these relay rules, Relay riders must obey the general rules for riders and the specific rules for riders in their distance category. If a conflict with another rule arises in a particular situation, the most specific rule covering the situation shall apply.

### **Special Rules for 200-Mile Riders**

Any 200-mile rider who has not passed the Tielke River Lodge by 9:00 p.m. Saturday must stop riding at Tielke River Lodge. The course Sweeper will pick up riders stopped at the Lodge.

### **Support Vehicles**

A “support vehicle” is any motorized vehicle with two or more wheels that is used during the Fireweed to transport people and/or equipment necessary for use by a rider.

### **Restrictions on Support Vehicles**

Use of the following types of vehicles in the 200-mile event is restricted in the manner described below:

- **RVs, motor homes, Hummers, Sprinter Vans or fifteen-passenger vans**, regardless of width, shall not be used as support vehicles for solo riders or to help relay-team riders make rider exchanges. (The size of the available pullouts throughout the race course are not large enough to safely accommodate vehicles of this size without forcing riders and others onto the highway, therefore it is a safety concern which regulates this decision.)
- A motor vehicle with a trailer may not be used as a support vehicle.
- A motorcycle may be used as a support vehicle only by a rider or team that also has a four-wheeled support vehicle.

### **Number of Support Vehicles Allowed**

We encourage, but do not require solo and two-rider teams to use a single support vehicle, and four-person teams to use two support vehicles.

### **Support Crews**

“Support crew” includes any support-vehicle driver and any other person who provides any kind of active and ongoing assistance to a rider.

### **Special Rules for Support Crews**

No minimum or maximum has been set for the number of support-crew members that riders and relay teams may have in the 200-mile Fireweed race.

Riders and relay-teams may add crew members at any time during the race provided that each new crew member was at the safety briefing and signs the Release of Liability and immediately notifies a race official.

Each support crew must designate one member as its crew captain; the crew captain will speak for the crew and riders in reporting problems, suggestions, or other information to race officials.



A crew member may offer assistance to any rider or crew at any time.

Support crews must pick up their riders' discarded water bottles and, if a rider violates the rule against discarding other objects while riding, are also responsible for cleaning up the rider's litter.

Stay on the alert for drunk drivers and traffic approaching from the rear at night, especially at stops. Crews supporting solo riders or relays (otherwise there may only be one support crew person) should trade off driving duties as often as possible and should always have two wide-awake crew members available at night. Report any unsafe conduct you observe by other riders or crew members to the rider's or crew member's crew chief and to a race official.

If a crew member begins to feel too sleepy to drive safely, another available crew member must immediately take over. If no one feels awake enough to drive safely, the crew and rider must stop until a crew member is adequately rested.

### **Human Powered Vehicles (HPVs)**

HPVs competing in Fireweed will follow the rules of the Fireweed, modified as suggested by the IHPVA for cross country events.

### **eBicycles, eBikes, or other Motorized Cycles**

Are not allowed to be used by any rider at any point in time. There are no exceptions to this rule, not even for a medical reason.

