

The Explorer

OFFICIAL RACE BRIEFING & EVENT INFORMATION

Please note all information included within this briefing sheet.

This is the events "official" briefing. On race morning there will be a briefing update at **7.00 am** at the Marina Car Park for those participating in the event both teams and individuals.

Welcome to the 2017 Explorer Cycle Challenge. We hope that you enjoy this 135.5 kilometer adventure into the heart of "Eastland". The events traffic management plan is being managed by professional Traffic Solutions and is supported by Police and event marshals/volunteers.

‘ALL ROADS ARE OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC AT ALL TIMES’

The Explorer race is being held on Open State highway and rural country roads. **All roads are open to “all” traffic at all times.** Some of the course conditions once onto the gravel road hilly section (Tauwhareparae Road) are potentially very dangerous, due to tight corners general poor road conditions, potential of sharing the road with vehicles e.g. logging trucks other heavy machinery.

- Therefore in keeping all safe unless making a passing move athletes need to be riding single file.
- Athletes and supporters need to take extreme care at all times whilst participating in this event.
- **It is paramount that all participants ride to and adhere to all NZ Rode Code Rules.** (**PLEASE NOTE:** <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/cyclist-code/>)
- **In addition to the NZ Road Code Rules** you must obey all/any directions that at any time may be given to you during the event either via the events Traffic Management team and/or the Events marshals whom will all be wearing high visibility vests.
- There will be an overall lead vehicle and Tail end vehicle

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Due to the distance of this event organizers can only provide assistance at the Aid Station locations (e.g. assisting in re filling drink bottles). It is the organizers expectation that all participants will provide their own support crews via family/friends.

Explorer 135.5km

Individuals Start - 7.30 am Saturday 14th April 2017 outside Marina car park

Teams Start - 7.36 am Saturday 14th April 2017 outside Marina car park

This is a draft legal race for both Individuals and teams, however be careful not to cross the center line.

General: Stage one to Tolaga Bay and into the bottom of the Tauwhareparae Hill are Road Bike legs (all sealed). From this Tauwhareparae change over point on to the Waiohika Finish line either a Mountain Bike or Cross bike is a must, due to heavy gravel roads.

Prize Giving: Is at Waiohika Estate starting at **4.00 pm** you must be in attendance to be eligible for all spot prizes. All competitor friends and families are most welcome.

It is each competitor's responsibility to know the course route detailed maps also showing course profiles are on the web site www.explorer.co.nz

Note: That ALL roads are open to ALL traffic, it is very important that competitors keep vigilant through out the entire event, cycle safely, and abide with all New Zealand Road rules, do not cross the center line. Should you have any questions re the road rules or the event course then please ask the Race Director Terry Sheldrake prior to the commencement of the event. Non compliance with the event's rules could lead to disqualification. Please show this briefing sheet to your support crews whom will play an important part within this cycle challenge. We have erected event signage to warn you of known potential dangerous corners and descents however we can not cover all possible scenarios...please keep vigilant at all times.

CUT OFF TIME:

The official race cut off time for all competitors in the event is **3.00 pm**.

This rule will be monitored by the event Race Director along with the tail end Charlie (Professional Traffic Solutions). The driver of this tail end vehicle will advise any competitor still on the road at 3.00 pm that this race is officially over.

This ruling being final due to H&S reasons there can be absolutely NO exceptions.

There will be a lead vehicle with a flashing light, along with a tail end Charlie for the duration of the Explorer event.

St John staff will also be in attendance, should any competitor be advised to withdraw from the event by St John then you must do so.

All competitors must abide with all Traffic New Zealand Road rules and any event marshal directives

Outside assistance is allowed providing the following points are strictly adhered to:

- (a) Items may only be passed to an athlete by another individual standing on the side of the road (i.e. not from a moving vehicle) to do so if witnessed and proven will result in disqualification.
- (b) To assist with a cycle mechanical repair, (a second cycle may be used in the event of a mechanical break down to the cycle that a competitor has started the race on). However no competitor may swap bikes from time to time through out the race (i.e. major hills).

- (c) Participants may have back up wheels or have assistance to fix a bike or puncture
- (d) No disc wheels allowed
- (e) No "E" (Electric Bikes allowed)
- (f) No "Tri" Bars
- (g) Do not drop litter on the course
- (h) Only one support vehicle per team or individual. Please respect this rule as the event course in places is incredibly tight and steep with a preference for 4x4 vehicles.

Please discuss these important rules with your support crew.

The event has erected signage to indicate some of the more serious descents/corners.

Please note that it is impossible to address every such issue.

Therefore competitor due diligence will be required throughout this total event.

Aid Stations/Change over Stations:

Water will be available at all change over stations.

The Aid Stations are also the location areas for team members to pass on their team Timing chips

Aid Station One - Outside the Tolaga Bay Motor camp important to note that at approximately 14km further on from Tolaga Bay, all athletes will need to swap from their Road bike to either a Mountain or Cross bike. This change over point is at the bottom of the Tauwhareparae Hill (Doonholm Station) which is the starting point of all Gravel roads.

Aid Station Two - Corner of Tauwhareparae Road and Hokoroa Road

Aid Station Three – To Finish after descending the Waimata (steep hill) you will be directed to turn right off the Waimata Road and proceed to the finish line which is situated approximately 400 meters inside the Waiohika Estate.

Race Numbers:

Race numbers are to be worn on the back of all competitors.

For safety reasons please make sure that they can be identified and are not covered up during the event.

Team participants are to transfer their timing chip transponder to their next team rider at each Aid station location.

Timing: The event is using a Transponder timing chip system.

Unreturned timing chips will incur a \$25.00 non-returned fee.

Withdraw from race:

Should any competitor (individual or team) withdraw from the race then it is imperative that you let a race official at the finish line know of your withdrawal. As a safety measure we need to be sure that we have not lost any competitor.

Alternatively you can call the **Race Director on 021 64 5503** to record your withdrawal.

Individuals:

Only your overall time will be taken, note that the official cut off is 3.00 pm.

Teams: Remember to interchange your timing chip, as only your overall team time is being recorded. The interchange of your team timing chip is the official handing on to the next team participant. As the event does not have timing for each leg we suggest that you record your own individual split times. Your cut off time is also 3.00pm.

Individuals: Elite races Men and Women

To claim a cash prize (via the Elite category) you must complete the whole race within the official cut off time

Open race: Spot prizes only

Please discuss with your support crew the importance of parking well off the road while supporting you throughout the race, this issue has been discussed with the Police and is a direct request from them.

IMPORTANT:

The event organisers can not and will not accept any responsibility for any competitor whom refuses to leave the course after 3.00 pm Saturday.

This ruling has been made considering all participant and event officials safety after significant discussion with the events Traffic Manager, Police, Medical staff and event directors. We have also had to consider that we are now out of day light saving.

Remember all roads are open to all traffic the Explorer takes you well into Heart land NZ expect the unexpected along with some brutal climbs!

Good luck from your Gisborne team hosting this event, please read again and share with your support crew