

Gran Fondo Australia FAQ

What is your Covid19 Policy

To give you confidence in signing up early here is the Event's Policy for your registration, if the event is not able to held in 2022 due to Government restrictions; participants will have the ability to;

(a) Transfer your registration to Road National Grand Fondo 2022

(b) Receive a full refund.

To see our full T&Cs please click here -

Please do not show up if you are feeling unwell or have any symptoms, call us on 0448248945 and we can arrange a transfer to next year's Gran Fondo.

Road Race FAQs:

When do time trial entries open?

Early bird: Thursday 4th November 9:00am

Standard: Friday 3rd December 9:00am

What does it cost to enter ?

Early Bird AC member: \$60

Non-AC member: \$70

Standard CA member: \$85

Non-AC member: \$95

When do Road Race entries close?

Thursday 13th January 2022 @ 11:59pm

Can I enter on the day?

No, you must be registered before Thursday 13th January 2022, @ 11:59am

Where can I collect my Rider Pack?

McDonalds Gran Fondo participants will be able to collect their Rider Pack in Ballarat from 2pm to 6pm on Friday 14th January at the Criterium Registration Marquee on Dawson Street South.

Alternatively, at the National Gran Fondo Registration Marquee on Warrenheip St from 2pm – 4pm on Saturday, 15th January.

Do I need to return my timing sticker?

No, you will receive an RFID transponder which you do not need to return.

Where does the ride start?

Riders will be asked to group up in their age group on Eyre St 20 minutes before race start. Once the U23 men's race is completed you will be called forward to the start line to be sent off.

What time does the event starts?

5:15pm.

There will be separate waves for each age groups which will then be followed by a separate recreational ride wave.

What happens if I miss my start time?

You will be required to start in your age group. If you miss this start you will still be able to roll around the course but will be considered a recreational rider and will not be given a time.

How are the Road Race results calculated?

The winners of each age category will be awarded based on who completes the distance of the 5 laps in the fastest time. If all riders in an age category do not complete 5 laps before the prescribed time then it is the quickest on the previous lap finish that decide the winners of each category.

Can I race as a team?

Yes

How are team results calculated?

Team winners is calculated from your teams overall time of the three riders and the combined distance at the quickest time will be awarded for the following combined age group categories in both Men, Women and mixed. Please note no medals or jerseys will be awarded only prizes.

60+

90+

120+

150+

180+

How many people can I have in my team?

You must have three riders to compete and qualify as a team, so make sure you know your teammates before signing up!

How do I sign up as a team?

You will register as an individual, from there you will have the option to enter your team name. Please make sure all three members of the team submit the same team name!

Can I change my team name?

No, all names are final. So make sure you and your team mates all have the same name.

Can I make a change to my team?

No

What can I expect from the course?

You will be riding on the same course that the elite riders will be tackling throughout the weekend. You will start under the same arch, have the same closed road conditions and climb the famous Mt Buninyong climb to the top of the King of the Mountain. Each lap of the course is 11.6kms.

RR Map: <https://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/3596785429>

What happens if I break down or I can't complete the Road Race?

Up to 40 volunteers and will be working along the route, as well as bike mechanics and first aid personnel. They are ready and happy to provide assistance to anyone who may breakdown, feel ill or experience other difficulties. We recommend that you have your bike serviced before the ride and carry a puncture repair kit and pump. If you breakdown, **turn your bike upside down and wait for the mechanic / sag wagon.**

What is the Recreation Category?

Recreation Category is for riders who wish to ride the course at their own pace and who do not wish to be grouped with riders.

Recreation Category riders will start after Age Category riders.

I would like to ride with a family member and/or friends. How do I do this?

If you enter the Age Category, unless you are all in the same age group this is not possible. You will all need to enter into the Recreation Category.

What are the cut off times on course?

Due to the nature of the Gran Fondo Australia, there are rider cut-off times to ensure that the course is clear to enable us to reopen the roads. The Course is open for riders for 2:15 hours, and all riders must start their final lap by 7:05pm. This is to make sure that participants are able to complete their final lap prior to 7:30pm and have the ability to finish under the finish arch.

Any riders who are aren't able to complete their final lap by 7:30pm will be asked to leave the course at the *300m to go* mark and will not receive a final lap time.

I have never ridden in a large group before, what should I do?

If you are inexperienced, enter in the Recreation Category and you will be starting with riders of similar speed and ability on a fully closed road with plenty of room for everyone. Group riding is faster as you save about 30% energy in a draft. It takes experience to get used to riding closely

behind someone else's wheel. Ideally, it would be best to practice this skill with a partner prior to the event. We advise riders to gain experience riding in groups prior to National Gran Fondo.

Is there any parking available at the course?

There is ample parking at FedUni and well as on-street parking up around the start finish line. Road closure will be in effect, so please manoeuvre around these with care.

What should I do if I can no longer take part in the event?

Call us on 03 9896 2050 or email eventservices@gtrevents.com.au to let us know so we can update our records. Unfortunately, entry fees are not refundable or transferable if you are no longer able to participate in the National Gran Fondo Championships. In exceptional circumstances we can transfer registration fees to another person. If you would like to request to transfer your registration fee, please email us.

What experience/level of fitness do I require?

Anyone with a moderate level of fitness can take part in Gran Fondo Australia. We suggest that you undertake some training to make the event more enjoyable and to ensure you reach the finish line with a smile on your face!

Are there any rest stops throughout the course?

Due to COVID19 there will not be an aid station at the Time Trail and Road Race course this year however water and first aid will be available as you pass the start finish line if required.

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Is the ride on shared roads?

The National Gran Fondo Championships Road race and Time Trail is a closed road course, and only cyclists are permitted.

How safe is the ride?

Safety of riders is our top priority. We collaborate with VIC Police, VicRoads, a traffic management company & Ambulance Victoria to ensure your safety. If you follow road safety rules, drink plenty of fluids and follow marshal and traffic management instructions and signage, you will have a safe and enjoyable ride.

What happens if it rains?

In the unlikely event of rain we know, cyclists are built tough – so the event goes ahead rain or

shine! The ride will go ahead in line with our risk and safety management planning systems. In the case of extreme weather we will be make a decision prior to the event in conjunction with the CFA and Victoria Police.

What if it is an extreme weather day

Cycling Australia work closely with the CFA and Victoria Police to ensure this is a safe event. In the case of extreme weather we will be make a decision prior to the event in conjunction with the CFA and Victoria Police.

What sort of bike can I ride?

Riders can choose from a selection of bikes to ride in the event, including road bikes, mountain bikes, city bikes, hybrid bikes, and cross bikes. We highly recommend Road Bikes as the course is classed as moderate to hard.

What should I wear?

Your favourite and comfortable cycling kit. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and be prepared with a warm undershirt, Arm & Leg Warmers, Gilet, and Rain Jacket if necessary.

How do I get there?

Driving - Ballarat is a 75 mins drive from Melbourne. Take the 110km journey along the Western Freeway.

Train - V-Line Trains run direct from Melbourne's Southern Cross station, swipe your Myki to arrive in less than 90 minutes on the direct V/Line train at the 19th century-built Railway station right in the centre of town.

Airport - The road trip from Tullamarine or Avalon airports to Ballarat takes about one hour. Options to get you here direct from the airport include hiring a car or booking the Airport Shuttlebus which departs from Tullamarine.

The site will be equipped with everything you'll need on the morning including coffee, first aid, toilets, luggage service and bike mechanics (for those last-minute adjustments).

I have items with me I don't want to ride with. Is there a cloakroom service?

Unfortunately, not. We suggest taking only what you need to ride the National Gran Fondo.

What is the best way to get to the event site?

Ballarat is 75 mins drive from Melbourne CBD and participants are encouraged to use public transport to get to and from the event. V-Line Trains run to and from Ballarat to Melbourne CBD. To plan your trip, visit www.ptv.vic.gov.au

For those wishing to stay in Ballarat for the event, there is accommodation available, however with the Road Nationals on, places will book out fast so get in quick! To book accommodation please visit www.visitballarat.com.au

Due to road closures around the course it is recommended that you look at our website for the detour route to get you close to the venue

Where can I stay?

See the <https://www.roadnationals.org.au/visit-ballarat/> page for accommodation links and information.