



BellVelo Race Series – Event Guide 2022/2023

Thanks for signing up for the BellVelo Gravel Race benefitting the Greater Houston Cycling Foundation (GHCF) and the Alkek Velodrome. The following is some information that will hopefully answer some questions and make your race experience smoother. The goal of our race is to have a fun and safe race for riders / racers of all levels and to raise support for the grassroots of our sport. Thanks to all of our sponsors – Sun & Ski, Huff Brewing, and GHCF...Now, let's get to it...

Safety First

- Everyone's Safety should be everyone's priority. We are praying for a safe event, but be responsible nonetheless.
- There will be a notice at the registration with Emergency Contact numbers for the race that you can take a picture of with your phone that you should have with you, so please bring your phone to the registration and do this. FYI - 911 is active on the race course and should be used for the applicable medical emergencies and our Race Coordinator's cell number will also be available at registration for sag / support on the course.
- **Off your bike –**
 - COVID – you probably already know what to do, but PLEASE stay at home if you are sick; respect the safe distance from others, wear masks if you want to or be smart if not (this is not a mask debate).
 - Watch for cars, people, and bikes, etc.
 - Be responsible (drinking, driving, and otherwise)
 - DO NOT litter under any circumstance.
- **On your bike –**
 - Lose the attitudes and respect others,
 - Watch for cars, people, and bikes, etc.
 - ALWAYS have a buckled helmet when you are on your bike – NO exceptions – you may be disqualified if you abuse this.
 - The course is provided on RidewithGPS and additionally will be marked with signs, cones, and flagging tape at the turns. It is a very simple loop so just pay attention to the markings and you should be fine.
 - Remember, cars get the right of way both on and off of the race course – PERIOD – you won't win against a car and we value your safety. Single line pacelines when cars are coming around or giving cars adequate room to pass is a MUST. You might see cars so just be safe.
 - Yellow line rule applies on the one road section we have (FM 331) – this means DO NOT CROSS the yellow – center stripe line on the two- lane road to pass or make race moves across the center line under any circumstance – you will be disqualified.
 - You need to have water and mechanical support for yourself, we will have some of this available, but plan for you and don't count on it. Mechanics will be on-site but not on the course.
 - DO NOT litter under any circumstance.



GENERAL Info

- **Parking –**
 - Pull into the gravel road entrance to the brewery and drive down the road until you see a parking director. Parking will be directed and will be in the grass fields on the side of the entrance gravel road to the brewery. Watch for the parking directors. Please let them know if you want to try to park near your friends.
- **Registration –**
 - Registration / check-in will be inside the Brewery.
 - You will be provided your pre-assigned race number that should be immediately placed visibly on the left side of your jersey so you don't misplace it. Sorry, if the officials can't see it, then you won't be scored.
 - There will be a notice at the registration with Emergency Contact numbers for the race that you can take a picture of with your phone that you should have with you, so please bring your phone to the registration and do this.
 - Numbers are assigned either from your existing Velodrome Number or at the race registration and pinned to jersey on left side and **MUST** be visible. **THIS IS YOUR NUMBER FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES SO DON'T LOSE IT PLEASE!!!**
 - Color-specific Ribbons (flagging) will be provided at the registration and is used to designate riders in specific categories to aid in scoring and timing. Sorry, but you will not be scored if you don't use your assigned ribbon. Flagging designations that will be used are as follows:
 - 60-miler racers –
 - Men's 60-miler category / Women's 60-miler category – NO Ribbon
 - 30-mile racers / 15-mile racers (Everyone else) – Men's 30-milers – Orange ribbon
 - T-SHIRTS - If you paid for a season pass, we will have your shirt at Races #2 and 3. This is because we were waiting for all season pass holders to sign up then order all of the shirts. We do have some shirts from last time if you want to buy one. First come first served for last year's shirts.
 - Please be understanding since we tried hard to keep the entries cheap and make money for the Cycling Foundation. Thanks.
- **Food:**
 - Typically, there will be a few vendors selling food on-site and fresh-brewed beer available for purchase at the brewery.
- **Restrooms –**
 - A bathroom is available in the brewery for the ladies.
 - Two porta-potties will be available outside the brewery and at the start line for general use.
 - Please be neat and respect others – 'nuff said.
- **Event Awards:**
 - Awards will be given as follows:
 - 60-miler Men's – 1/2/3 trophies; NO primes this season
 - 60-miler Women's – 1/2/3 trophies



- 30-miler Men's – 1/2/3 trophies
- 30-miler Women's – 1/2/3 trophies
- Juniors – 1/2/3 trophies
- Race category awards will be given approximately 30-45 minutes after each race ends and we will announce when this will happen.
- Series points (for the 3-race series)
 - Points for the top 10 finishers awarded for each series individual event.
 - Series points are awarded as 10 points for first, 9 points for second, etc. down to...2 points for 9th, 1 point for 10th.
 - Series champions will be the racers with the highest total series points in each category – max points available for the three-race series is 30 points.
 - In the event of a tie, the series Champion will be determined by the placing in the last series race (series finale).
 - The top series champion in each category will receive a unique 2022/2023 BellVelo Series Champion award to be given at the end of the final series race.
- **Photographer** – Sometimes a professional photographer should be on-site for the event. We will send links to the photos / website after the race.

RACE Notes

- **Start:**
 - Start order (Order / line-up is determined by who gets to the start line first):
 - 60-mile group will start as one mass-start group at 0900 am.
 - 30-miler and 15-miler Junior race will start as a mass start together approximately 5-minutes after the start of the 60-mile race. At approximately 0905 am.
 - There will be a neutral rolling start for each category through the first few turns led by a lead car. This is for safety at the start of the race. Once the majority of the riders have safely cleared the hard right turn, the lead car will honk the horn a few times and pull to the left. DO NOT ride near or pass the lead car until the horn is honked and the lead car pulls off to the left onto the left side of the course and is clear of the course. Then racers are clear to pass the lead car ON THE RIGHT passenger side of the lead car. Violation of this will be an immediate DQ for violating riders – no exceptions.
 - The start / finish line will have a yellow nylon rope strung across the road which is the official start / finish line. Times / placings will be taken at the line. Also, the official lap bell and lap counter will be positioned here. You can see which lap the race leaders are on by noting the number on the lap counter when you pass it. Listen for the bell to know if it is a prime or final lap.
 - Time will be started for all riders based on the official start time of the race which includes the neutral rollout. Lap times for each rider are taken at the start/finish line.
- **Mid-Race:**
 - Official laps and times are recorded by hand using two official stopwatches for each group start and hand-entry of the data. The times and lap status are recorded in the event race time tracking sheet and associated app.
 - Lapped riders should keep racing, get back in the groove, finish if you can. We will do our best to track leaders and lapped riders that mix packs. The colored bar ribbon



- should help this as well, plus riders can self-police. We should know with our lap records if you short a race or not and who is actually winning, so please just be honest.
- We are planning to use the Velodrome live / real-time results tracking system which will be available for viewing on a live TV feed at the start / finish line and will be available for viewing online through the link at the Velodrome website.
 - Cars get the right of way both on and off of the race course – PERIOD – you won't win against a car. Single paceline on the right road side and/or giving cars adequate room to pass is a MUST.
 - Yellow line rule applies on the one road section we have (FM 331) – this means DO NOT CROSS the yellow – center stripe line to pass or make race moves under any circumstance – you will be disqualified.
 - The course is in a very rural area but there are still a potential cars and farm equipment, etc. Usually, the vehicle traffic is limited but will still be present, especially as the day progresses. If you see cows in the road, don't engage, make a peaceful escape.
 - Be mindful of cars both on the race course road and gravel sections as these are probably property owners in the area and we want to give them respect so we can maintain a good relationship with them.
 - Under NO circumstances will littering be tolerated on or off of the course. Stuff your trash in your pockets. If you are seen and reported as littering then you will be disqualified. Police may be present on the course and may issue fines for littering in Austin County – so PLEASE don't do it. Littering is one thing that will ruin the privilege of having future events in Austin County.
 - The course has some hills and semi-challenging gravel climbs. It has some fairly smooth gravel sections mixed with chunky asphalt. Approximately 2/3's into the course is one two-lane asphalt smooth road section of about 3.5 miles which will be very fast and a good place to drink and eat and/or drop the hammer. It will be followed by a hard right turn onto a gravel road (Lamp Road) so be careful and aware of this turn. We are going to have some people directing at this turn, but please pay attention here.
 - A self-supported feed zone will be available before the start/finish line for those that need to refill, refuel or handle mechanical issues. You can leave your own food / drinks there but you will be responsible for hand-ups. We will not be managing or staffing that zone other than having water jugs available for bottle refills.
 - You need to have water and mechanical support for yourself, we will have some of this available at the event from our sponsors, but be prepared and plan for you and don't count on it. Mechanics will be on-site but not on the course.
 - If any non-critical emergency happens or you need a sag there should be a vehicle sweeping the course that can call for a sag or call the number (Race Director) that you photographed at registration. Our sag van will have a bike rack for transport back to the race start.
 - If you get into a wreck or assist people involved in one – please make sure everyone is OK first, then you can worry about your bike or their bike. If someone is hurt or needs any type of medical or roadside assistance, minor or otherwise, please notify the race director (again – this number will be given at the registration).
 - Again - DO NOT litter under any circumstance.



- **Finish:**

- Times / lap position will be recorded throughout the race. However, please give us time to compile the race results final or otherwise. Also, please be patient as we are using a manual system so if there are some errors that you can help us identify, then we will do our best to correct them.
- Protests – must be logged with the designated race official within 15-minutes after the protestor finishes the race. Remember – ask yourself first – is it worth it? Most of us are not paid pros, so keep things in perspective.
- You must completely cross the finish line with your bike and complete all of the required laps in your designated race to have your result count. If you can't finish your race or need to leave your event early, then please tell the finish line crew and we will note DNF on your placing. No harm in DNF – we've all been there. That way we keep track of you for safety.

Hopefully, we answered most / many of your questions, but if you have any more questions, please contact us or ask at the race registration tent. Thanks again for supporting this event and the future of cycling in Texas!