

Rules of the Ultramarathon

1. Ultramarathon



“Ultramarathon” is a multi-day paddling marathon with time trials and natural obstacles along a 175km course. This race is a continuation of the paddling marathon tradition established in 2001 with the 222km race “From Ciecere to the Liiv Coast”.

2. Race location and date

Latvia. Augshzeme region close to Lithuanian border. The rivers Dienvidsuseja, Memele, Lielupe.

The race will start on June 30, 2006. Technical details about the course will be published a week before the race.

Start of the race:

Saukas lake, the exact place will be finalized in June. **Friday 30th of June at 20.00.** Participants may register until 19.00.

Finish:

Mezhotne on the right bank of the river Lielupe. Sunday 2nd of July, **starting from 17.00.**

Intermediate finish lines and time

- First day: to be finalized week before the race. Dienvidsuseja river approximately nearby Nereta village.
- Second day: to be finalized week before the race. Memele river approximately nearby Kurmene village.

Special tasks and time trial.

The course is split in several legs. The first day – a prologue leg is a time trial leg. Two consecutive days’ course contain legs of various kind – time trials, special tasks (only general tourism skills required, may include the elements of orienteering) and time check along the course.

3. Participants

The race is open to anyone who feels capable of completing the course, agrees to comply with these rules and has completed the registration formalities. Participants can register for one of five classes – two-person canoe, two-person (foldable or rigid) kayak, sea-kayak, touring kayak or 4-person canoe.

Children under 16 can only participate together with an adult. If that adult is not the child’s parent, the child must have parental permission to participate with the specified adult.

4. The race

The race is held according to general rally-raid rules. The final result is the sum of the splits the teams show up in the time trials and special task legs less penalties for being late in the free-ride time check legs of the race. The winner of the race is the team with the best time.

5. Racing procedures, regulations and judging

5.1. General regulations

Winners are determined separately in each class.

5.2. The start

On the first day (start in Saukas lake) racers will start in a groups (by class) in 10 minute intervals. The start order is

following: 1) canoe, 2) 4-man canoes, 3) touring kayaks, 4) tandem kayaks, 5) sea kayaks.

On the second day – racers start in 2-minute intervals according to prologue results (FILO, owners of better prologue times start later). The order by class is the same as in the first day. The start order will be posted on the information board at the start of each day’s racing one hour before resumption of the race. The day’s start – at 9:00.

On the third day - racers start in 30-second intervals according to accumulated results of the second day (FILO). The order by class is still the same. First start at 10:00.

5.3. Time checks

Time checks will be set for each time trial or free-ride leg. The time check sets the time by what you have to enter the consecutive leg of the race.

Delaying the time specified for your team will lead to penalty, which is calculated as 2 x (your delay) plus your next time check is set from the previous check time, not your actual leg entry time.

No bonuses are given for arrival before specified time check on free-ride legs.

5.4. Time trials

Time trial on the Ultramarathon race is a paddling leg. It is allowed in these legs to “cut-off” the meanders of the river by portaging or whatever (you can’t use minor or major general purpose roads for that) according to your best strategy and tactics.

5.5. Free-ride legs

In contrast to 5.4.p., you have to follow the race line (river or marked portage) on free-ride legs.

5.6. Special tasks

The race may contain the special tasks you’ll be asked to complete. These tasks are “ad-hoc” and you can’t know ahead what kind of challenge you’ll be facing. These race legs may include: general rope works, orienteering, obstacle courses, rescue tasks etc. – on the water and on the ground.

5.7. Equipment

5.7.1. General regulations

Participants will use their own equipment during the race. In the event of disputes about equipment complying with these rules (section 5.7.2.) the decision of the main judge of the race is final.

5.7.2. Boats

Canoes. Length must not exceed 5.47 m (18’) and the beam (width) must be no less than 80cm (31.5’). There is no restriction on using slalom, touring or marathon boats. Olympic style flat-water racing boats are not allowed.

In the kayak class two-person rigid and foldable kayaks or sit-on-top kayaks may be used.

Boats which sink when capsized (for instance, foldable kayaks “Salūts” or “Taimiņš” as well as rigid composite kayaks without bulkheads) must be equipped with additional flotation.

Touring kayaks. These boats should be less than 4.70m in length and more than 60cm wide. Longer and/or slimmer boats will be considered as sea kayaks.

Downriver kayaks are not allowed in sea or touring kayak class. Sit-on-top kayaks (single models) will be considered as touring kayaks. Surf-skis are no allowed.

Boats must not be changed during the course of the race.

5.7.3. Paddles

All boats should use their specific paddle type. No kayak paddles are allowed for canoe racers.

All paddles (spare also) will be marked at the start. Spare paddles should be marked and carried with you all the distance. Penalty for using an unmarked paddle – 15 minutes.

5.7.4. Essential equipment

- personal flotation device;
- daily map (provided by the organizers when applicable) and watertight clipboard;
- a wrist watch or a chronometer;
- orientation equipment (compass);
- mobile telephone with fully-charged battery, in a waterproof bag;
- first aid kit;
- boat repair kit (must for foldable boats);
- drinking water (at least 2 liters per person per day);
- food for one day for two people, restocking in the day camps only;
- water-proof matches;
- gear for unexpected overnight stay en route (in the event of accidents or when the mobile phone network is unavailable f.e.).

5.8 Support and help

No support or help of any kind is allowed from the side during the day. From the start until the (day) finish teams will operate entirely independently. Water and food supplies may not be restocked and broken paddles may not be changed – teams are encouraged to bring spare paddles along with them. Teams that receive support from the side will be disqualified. GPS are not allowed.

Teams can use a boat transportation carriages (trolleys) to make the portages easier, however if used, they will be marked at the start and should be carried with you all three racing days.

5.9. Meals

The organizers will ensure that participants are fed at the end of second and third day of the race. Meals will be hot (at least for those who make it on time...) Hot drinking water will be available every morning.

5.10. Help on the course

The organizers will ensure that teams who drop out or who have accidents will be picked up (next morning). For this to happen, teams must inform the organizers (by mobile phone, through other participants, ...by runner) about their location and circumstances. If necessary, teams should be prepared to spend the night on the banks of the river.

Participants are obliged to help other teams that have had accidents (upturned boats, injured participants etc, to the extent that emergency assistance is necessary). Refusal to provide help will result in disqualification.

Participants should wear a personal floating device (a life vest). For not doing so in the lakes you'll be given a note for the first time and 10 minute penalty for the next.

6. Prizes

The first three teams to finish in each class, as well as the winners of the time trials, will be awarded certificates and souvenir prizes (hats or T-shirts with competition logos etc).

No provision for any other prizes has been made in the competition budget. Competition sponsors may award other prizes. Potential sponsors are invited to call +371-9222339.

7. Signing up

To sign up for the competition, you should fill in the application (on the web page) and pay the participation fee.

7.1. Participation fee

The competition participation fee is 22 EUR (twenty two EUR) per participant (canoes, tandems x2, 4-man canoes x4). This sum covers the administrative costs of organization, meals for the participants (2x dinner) and health insurance for those participants who register before 1st of June.

The participation fee does not cover travel or transportation of equipment to and from the race or boat rental costs.

The participation fee may be paid in cash or by wire transfer. (Cheques are not accepted). The invoice will be sent to you upon registration on the web, to the e-mail address you state in your application.

8. Competition administration

8.1. Announcement of results

The official results of the race will be announced on the *Campo* corporate website www.laivas.lv. Summaries of daily events will be available each evening at the intermediate finish lines.

8.2. Disputes and complaints

Any complaints should be submitted in writing to the race marshal (at the start, finish and intermediate finish lines). Complaints will not be accepted less than 60 minutes before the start of the day's racing. Complaints about the final results and placements may be submitted up until the winners' award ceremony.

In the event that the allegations made in a complaint are upheld (proved) and demonstrate crass disregard of these regulations (including, but not restricted to damaging course markers, damaging, hiding or using other participants' equipment, receiving help from the side, refusal to provide emergency assistance and so on) and there is sufficient reason to disqualify a participant or team, and in the event that this participant or team has been awarded a winning place, the team must surrender its prizes, even if the complaint is submitted after the award ceremony.

Proof is considered to be witness statements by teams or supporters if they include facts that can be confirmed by:

- a) opponents of the protesting team, of their supporters
- b) course judges

Photographic and video materials showing the alleged infringements may also be considered.

9. Responsibility

9.1.

Participants are responsible for providing correct and truthful information in their applications.

By signing the application, participants agree to abide by these regulations, and also agree not to make any claims against the organizers after the race with regard to any injuries sustained during the race as a result of the participant's own carelessness, over-exertion, disregard for conditions and circumstances or other participants' actions.

9.2. Insurance

Participants who register by 01.06. will get a basic insurance for the duration of the race.

9.3. Equipment

Organizers are not responsible for the safekeeping or protection of participants' personal property, and sporting/camping equipment.

10. Contact information

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