
RACE MARSHAL ARTS

Marshals are a vital part of every bicycle road race. They help ensure the safety of the event by keeping spectators, recreational cyclists, cars, children, and stray animals out of the way of the competitors, race caravan and official vehicles. They support security personnel by keeping unauthorized people out of restricted areas. They help the police by controlling pedestrian traffic and spectator activity. They are sometimes asked to perform special functions – like securing the awards area at the end of the race. And their assistance is needed to set up and remove barricades and staging material before the start and after the end of the event.

Before the Race

- **Preparation**

Get a good night's sleep. You are going to be on your feet for a long time and you need to be well rested. Take a one-gallon (plastic) milk container and almost fill it (about 90%) with water. Put it in the freezer before you go to bed

- **What to wear**

Dress in comfortable clothing that is right for the weather. You don't have to make a fashion statement, but you should be neat and presentable. Canvas running or walking shoes are recommended. Depending on the forecast: a hat and sunglasses.... foul weather gear...a sweater. Be prepared for the expected conditions.

- **What to Bring**

The frozen gallon of water you prepared last night (so you don't get dehydrated). Sunscreen. Some fresh fruit, granola bars, or other snack food. Other appropriate (i.e., non-alcoholic) refreshments. An ice chest, if you have a small one. A piece of chalk. A two (2) foot long piece of string. Two (2) extra large trash bags.

- **What to do first**

Arrive at your designated assembly point of your assigned position at the proper time. Find out if there are any special instructions. Get your souvenir tee shirt, whistle and any other paraphernalia.

- **What to Do Before You Start**

Introduce yourself to the other Marshals with whom you will be working. Locate and introduce yourself to the police officers who are stationed nearest to you. Locate the nearest communications volunteer (usually a member of a local radio club) who will be able to call for assistance, if needed.

- **Prepare your position**

Determine how to deploy the available manpower to safely control the area. Help assembly barricades or other staging material. Remove any dangerous objects (stones, glass) from the course

During the Race

- **Be careful**

Be aware of everything that is going on around you. Most importantly, be aware of yourself. Don't take an inadvertent step off the curb and into the path of the peloton.

- **Be Helpful**

Find a safe way for spectators to see and enjoy the race without interfering with the event or endangering themselves or the competitors.

- **Be Courteous**

Think of yourself as a good will ambassador. Your conduct will reflect on perceptions of the event, its sponsors, your city and the sport. Never use threats or force. If you have a problem that you cannot control, get assistance from the security staff or the police.

- **Be in Control**

Don't allow things to happen. Make things happen. Escort people across the street when it is safe to do so. Help the police direct traffic, if they can use your assistance.

- **Use Your Whistle**

As the first vehicle in the race caravan approaches, start blowing your whistle. This alerts spectators and other Marshals to expect race traffic. When you see riders

approaching, blow your whistle again and shout “Riders Up!”

- **Use Your Head**

It’s the most important piece of equipment you’ve got. Think about safety. Use common sense.

Don’ts

Do not allow spectators or traffic to cross the roadway while there is any race traffic in sight. It is best to wait until the last vehicle in the caravan passes, or until it is clear that no more race traffic is in the immediate area.

Do not allow anyone to stand in the roadway, approach race vehicles or riders, or interfere in any race activity unless they are properly credentialed. All spectators should be behind barricades or on the curb -- not on the course. Only those who are directly involved in the race itself (competitors, team support personnel, race officials, members of the stage crew, police officers and a select number of race staff members and a sponsor representatives (those who have an “All Venue” credential) are permitted on the race course.

Other Concerns

If you are working an area where traffic is permitted to cross the course or where there are opportunities for automobiles to inadvertently get on the course (driveway openings, parking lots, etc. (be especially vigilant. If a car turns on to the course, you must remove it as quickly as possible. This may require moving barricades. Get the police to help you.

Be alert for stray pets and children.

It is not a good idea to “water down” the riders. Many of them don’t like it, and it makes the road surface slippery and dangerous.

If there is a mishap, keep people away. Serious accidents are rare in bicycle races. Crashes are usually uneventful. The riders will often just pick themselves up and keep racing. If a more serious accident occurs, it’s OK to lend a hand. Get help from the police. Alert a communications volunteer. There will be EMTs, Paramedics, and other medical personnel in the race caravan or on call nearby.

If there is a mechanical breakdown – flat tires are the most common – stay out of the way. A support vehicle will be called by the race officials and it will arrive at a very high rate of speed to service the rider.

After The Race

- **Help Remove the Staging Material**

Disassemble metal barricades and arrange them in groups of 10 pieces. Help roll up fencing material.

- **Protect Signs and Banners**

Don’t allow anyone to take any of the staging material. The signs are not souvenirs. They are needed for other events.

- **Clean Up Trash or Litter**

Remember the two trash bags you brought?

One was just in case it rained and you, or one of the other volunteers, forgot your rain gear. The other is to tidy up the area.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

ALWAYS FACE THE SPECTATORS

If you are watching the race, you aren’t doing your job. You should be watching the people who are watching the race.

KEEP SPECTATORS OUT OF THE APEX AREAS OF TURNS

Mishaps are more common in turns and sometimes involve support vehicles. Every motorcycle, car and bicycle in the race caravan must negotiate each turn precisely. If something unfortunate happens, the laws of physics take over. Some turns will be taken at relatively high rates of speed. Saw horses, hay bales or barricades will not stop a motorcycle that has tipped over and is heading towards you at 50 mph.

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THANKS
FOR YOUR HELP!
WE COULDN’T DO IT
WITHOUT YOU!