

## RACE REGULATIONS OF THE UCI WORLD SERIES

### *Gravel Fondo Limburg*

#### **Definition**

The Trek UCI Gravel World Series is composed of individual Gravel competitions. A Trek UCI Gravel World Series event is a competitive mass participation event with a mass start which is fully timed for all participants and splits results per age group and gender. The riders have to respect road traffic regulations at all times. The UCI Gravel World Championships is the last event of the series, open to riders qualified through the series.

#### **Rights**

##### **- Licenses**

Riders can take part in the Trek UCI Gravel World Series if they hold any of the following licenses:

- No license, under conditions established by the organizer's National Federation a day license is required.

Note: For Gravel Fondo Limburg a day license is needed. This can be purchased during registration. One week prior to the race non-licensed riders must have acquired the day license (for five euro).

If the license is not purchased in time by the participant the race direction will ban the rider from the race without rights on partial or total reimbursement. So make sure to have your day license purchased in time.

- Amateur license
- Master license
- Cycling for All license
- Elite license

Note: Riders qualified for the UCI Gravel World Championships, must hold a valid license issued by their respective national federation (day licenses being excluded), must hold a UCI ID and must be adequately insured against accidents and civil responsibility in the country in which the UCI Gravel World Championships are held.

*If you registered for Gravel Fondo Limburg and you decide not to participate, for whatever reason, total or partial reimbursement of the registration fee is not possible.*

- **Age groups**

The Trek UCI Gravel World Series event must provide results for the following different age groups, for both women and men:

- MEN ELITE
- WOMEN ELITE
- 19 – 34y
- 35 – 39y
- 40 – 44y
- 45 – 49y
- 50 – 54y
- 55 – 59y
- 60 – 64y
- 65 – 69y
- 70 – 74y
- 75 – 79y
- Etc. (any further 5-year category for which riders have entered)

Age Groups applicable to the TREK UCI Gravel World Series are defined by the rider's age on December 31st of the year of the qualifier event. Riders who qualify past the World Championships for next year's World Championships and change age group in the following year will automatically take their qualification to the next age group so don't need to qualify again in their new age group in the year of the World Championships. As per the regulations applied for the UCI Gravel World Championships, medals and titles will be awarded for men and/or women as soon as 1 rider is registered in the respective 5-year age category. Riders registering for the elite category must hold an Elite-yearlicense with UCI ID which should be asked during registration.

## **Qualification**

As per the official qualification system for the 2024 UCI Gravel World Championships, each TREK UCI Gravel World Series event grants qualification rights for the UCI Gravel World Championships for those riders finishing in the first 25% of their category.

The 25% is calculated based on the number of starters in each category, and not on the number of riders having finished the race.

Elite riders from a UCI registered team must always take part in the elite category. Elite riders with a national level license have the choice to start in the elite category or in their respective age groups but must make that choice prior to the race. Riders signing up for the elite category can only qualify for the elite category at the UCI Gravel World Championships. Riders signing up for the age group categories can only qualify for the age group categories at the UCI Gravel World Championships. If a rider who started with the elites didn't qualify in the elite category, he can't claim qualification in his age group if his finish time would be within the top 25% of his age category.

In addition, the first three riders of each official category will qualify directly for the World Championships, independently of the number of starters in that age group. Riders must finish the race to gain qualification.

For all other methods of qualification (wild cards, masters national champions, etc.), please consult the official qualification system for the 2024 UCI Gravel World Championships.

The names of riders having gained qualification through the TREK UCI Gravel World Series will be communicated on the TREK UCI Gravel World Series website and will receive an official email from the UCI inviting them to register for the UCI Gravel World Championships via the dedicated online registration portal.

## **Course**

To standardize all the events in the Trek UCI Gravel World Series and render them accessible to all levels of cyclists, the UGWS has standard course formats for all qualifier events. This results in the following features for Gravel Fondo Limburg:

### **- Format**

The objective of the series being to allow both competitive and recreational riders (and riders with or without a license) to compete in a single mass participation event, it is therefore not possible to create a separate UCI wave within a single event.

### **- Course distances**

Qualifying distance: Elite, men 19-59 years old and women 19-49 years old do the long distance (120 km) to qualify and the men 60+ and women 50+ do the short distance to qualify (80 km). Changing distance is possible up to 1 week before the event.

### **- Feed Zones**

The local organizer must provide feed zones where participants have access to drinks and food every 25-30km.

All feed zones must have:

- Beverages: water, isotonic drinks and, if the temperature is low, a hot drink
- Food: fruits, cereal bars, a food item with high nutritional content
- A sufficient number of mobile toilets must be provided.
- There must be a feed zone delimited by signs at the start and end of the zone.

### **- Display panels**

In addition to standard signs warning participants about dangers along the course or indicating the direction to follow, specific panels must also be installed on both sides of the road as follows:

For races with multiple laps on a circuit

- Panels must be placed to indicate the last 5km, 1km, and 500m before the finish line.
- Panels must be placed to indicate the start and end of each feed zone
- Panels must be placed to confirm the number of laps remaining

## - Bikes

Riders may use any type of bike (road bike, mountain bike, city bike, hybrid bike, cross bike, etc.) with the exception of tandem or recumbent bikes. Time trial road bikes are also forbidden. During the UCI Gravel World Championships, **all bikes should have dropped handlebars**. It's not possible to participate in the UCI Gravel World Championships with a mountain bike.

## - Jerseys

Riders are free to wear any type of jersey in the qualifier events, with the following exception:

Reigning World Champions are obliged to wear their official jersey in UGWS qualifier events .

## - Mechanical assistance

All riders should bring their own tools and spare tire or tubular to the race. Tools have to be foreseen in the feed zones to give riders the opportunity to fix other problems. Riders can change wheels during the event, but have to use the same bike frame throughout the event.

## - Timekeeping and ranking

The event must be timed for all the participants, for the entire length of the course. The timekeeping provider must produce a ranking per category and gender. The timing of the event must start with the gun, and not when each individual rider crosses the starting carpet (GUN time principle). The winner of the different age groups can only be defined using Gun time.

## - Published results of qualified riders

The organizer must provide a full list of results to Golazo Sports within 5 days after the completion of the event. This list must be created in Microsoft Excel (or another spreadsheet program) and must contain the following details: category, full name, email and nationality of the rider (or country of residence if the nationality is not available, UCI ID for the elite categories men and women).).

The timing company must use the following regulations to define the number of qualified riders per age group:

- ALL riders completing the qualifying distance, independent in which start wave they are starting, are eligible for the UCI Gravel World Championships and must be taken into account to calculate the top 25% list of qualified riders.

- For all categories, the first three finishers per category are always qualified, independently of the number of starters in that specific category. A five-year age group should be created from the moment that at least 1 rider from that age group participates.
- The top 25% is based on the number of riders effectively taking the start (not the number of pre-registered riders or riders finishing the race). The 25% is rounded to the highest number to determine the exact number of qualified riders per category (for instance: with 26 starters, 6.5 are eligible for qualification, meaning that the first 7 will be invited for the World Championships)
- As the minimum age to participate in the UCI Gravel World Championships is 19 years old, only riders born before 31 December 2005 can qualify for the 2024 UCI Gravel World Championships. For events organized in the same year and immediately following the World Championships (October-December), riders aged 18 at the moment of qualification may already qualify as they will turn 19 in the year of the 2024 World Championships.
- Lists of qualified riders may be published online or on-site at the qualifying event as long as it is clearly specified that the results are pending approval from the UCI. Only the list which is published on the [ucigravelworldseries.com](https://ucigravelworldseries.com) website can be considered as the official list of qualified riders.

## **Start**

### **- Starting procedures**

Elite men start in front, followed by elite women with a small interval (minimum 1 minute). Both elite starts should have a priority start box with maximum 25 riders. Only Elite riders can apply to be a candidate to be put in the priority start box with the organizer and it's the organizer who allocates the 25 spots for the priority start box.

Age group categories must start with a minimum of 2 minutes interval to the elite women and can be combined in one big start or in separated starts per age category with small intervals (always minimum 1 minute), depending on the size of the total field.

All different starts will have different gun times.

It is essential that the participant selects the correct wave corresponding to the chosen category. Starting in the wrong category may result in immediate disqualification. Proper positioning in the correct category is not only crucial for the fair progress of the race but also for the safety and efficiency of the event.

Every participant is strongly urged to adhere to the assigned category and ensure that they are in the correct location before the race begins. Disregarding this rule may have serious consequences, including disqualification. This policy is strictly enforced to maintain the integrity of the race and ensure that all participants have a fair opportunity to gauge their performances within their respective categories.

### **Finish line**

The finish must consist of a straight line measuring at least 100 meters long and be marked with barriers on either side for at least the last 100 meters before and 50 meters after the finish line. These distances may be shortened in the event of a finish on top of a mountain, where the speed is lower.

The finish is preferably on a road section or better gravel section.

### **Awards**

#### **- Podium ceremony protocol**

The organizer must announce, both on the website and at registration, the precise timing of the podium ceremony. The top three finishers of the Elite and each age group, in both genders, are expected to attend the podium ceremony.

The podium ceremony can be started with the younger age groups as they often finish earlier, thus giving the opportunity to older age groups to prepare while the ceremonies have already started.

The age group order of the podium ceremony is the following:

- Elite men
- Elite women
- 19-34 male
- 19-34 female
- 35-39 male
- 35-39 female
- 40-44 male
- 40-44 female

- 45-49 male
- 45-49 female
- 50-54 male
- 50-54 female
- 55-59 male
- 55-59 female
- 60-64 male
- 60-64 female
- 65-69 male
- 65-69 female

and any further 5-year category for which riders have entered

The speaker calls the number three to the podium, followed by the number two and number one, announcing them in the local language and in English. When all riders are on stage, the number three gets the UGWS medal, followed by the number two. Then the winner first gets the UGWS categories winner jersey followed by his/her medal. The jersey must be worn on stage and not be given in hand.

#### **- UGWS Medal**

Every rider who finishes in the top 25% of his/her category in the UGWS qualifier events shall be given a medal. These medals will be provided to each organizer by Golazo Sports. To ensure all concerned riders receive their medal and confirmation of qualification, the organizer must set up a desk where these medals can be distributed to the participants following the race. The top 3 finishers per age group receive their medal on the podium. The desk where medals are collected by riders should clearly have a message mentioning : "Receiving a qualifier medal doesn't give you automatically the right to participate in the World Championships as results are pending approval by the UCI".

#### **- UGWS Jersey**

TREK UCI Gravel World Series will provide a jersey for every winner in his/her category for both men's and women's races. A total of minimum 20 jerseys will be provided by Golazo Sports for the event. The elite category winners will get a special design.

## **Safety**

### **- Participants**

- **Mandatory helmet:** As per UCI regulation 3.031 , wearing a helmet is mandatory for all UGWS events, throughout the whole race. Participants are informed in advance by the organization that they will be barred from the start or that their race number will immediately be withdrawn if they are caught by a member of the organization without their helmet.
- **Medical certificate:** To confirm the physical capability of a cyclist to take part in a UGWS race, the organizer stipulates, in the conditions for entry, that the participant attests to (and signs) the fact that he/she is in perfect health and fit for the physical effort required for such a cycling race.
- **Accident and third-party liability insurance:** The organizer must ensure that all cyclists who take part in a UGWS event possess appropriate medical and third-party liability insurance.
- **Each rider is responsible for ensuring that they possess adequate medical insurance.** This can be ensured either through an individual race license (from a National Federation affiliated to the UCI) covering races abroad or through a private insurance policy.

- **Safety on the course**

- Safety plan: The organizer must prepare a full safety plan, comprising in particular:
  1. A detailed plan of the route or routes to be taken during the event with all the necessary instructions relating to the course, in particular the danger points (crossroads, turns, damaged road surface, etc.) and the methods used to make these danger points safe
  2. The requirements laid down by the legislation of each country, namely obligations of the traffic regulations of the country or countries concerned, in connection with the organization of a cycling event on a public highway, and the rules of the national cycling federation affiliated to the UCI for organizing a cycling race
  3. The number of road intersections and marshal / police positions
  4. The emergency system implemented
  5. The details of all the hospitals close to the event that have been notified of the fact that the event is taking place
  6. All the important telephone numbers which must be known.
- The timing carpet at the finish should be as thin as possible to ensure the safety of participants. It should be a flat carpet, with a system of wires on the ground or which ensure timing at either side, but preferably not a bumpy carpet as used in running events.
- Identification of danger points: The organizer must take care to indicate all the danger points, such as dangerous downhill bends, portions of road which may be damaged, etc. For this purpose, they will ensure the presence of signs or people to warn the cyclists of the danger at these points. Since crossroads are also high-risk points, they will be regulated by marshals wearing an official bib of the organization and carrying a marker flag and/or a whistle. They will therefore manage, as effectively as possible, the smooth crossing of the cyclists and an adequate control of road traffic. In addition, and in order to warn drivers who are approaching any crossroads on the course, the organizer will position a sign indicating that a cycling race is in progress and position a marshal at all major crossroads.
- Following vehicles: To ensure sporting fairness and to avoid possible problems, the organizer must include a provision in the rules of the event specifying that cyclists must compete alone and will be eliminated immediately if they are caught benefiting from roadside assistance from a third party not belonging to the event organization.
- Radio or mobile telephone links: Radio or mobile telephone support is essential during the event. The organization will therefore put in place a system which permits rapid and efficient communication between the people involved in the organization. For the well-being of the cyclists (who are

increasingly prone to carry a mobile phone during the race), their families and also the marshals spread out over the race, an emergency number will be available (and notified to everyone) throughout the event.

#### **- First aid**

- Emergency system: The organizer shall ensure the following requirements are met: 1 ambulance should remain on stand-by with 1 additional ambulance per 2000 extra participants. The UGWS will accept an adapted emergency system created by the organizer for its event, different from the one listed above, subject to prior agreement having been requested from and granted by the UGWS.
- The organizer must make sure that first aid is available to provide assistance to cyclists at the start and finish.
- Information on the back side of the race numbers: To deal as effectively as possible with accidents which may affect a participant during the event, and to facilitate the work of the doctors as much as possible, the organizer must produce race numbers which include on the back side a medical form which must be completed. The organizer must warn all participants of the imperative need to complete this form and inform doctors so that they are aware that this vital information is available. The minimum information required by the UCI, which shall be written on the back side of the race numbers, is as follows:
  - Last name and first name
  - Blood group
  - Present physical condition (asthma, diabetes, allergy(ies), epilepsy, etc.)
  - Any current medication
  - Last name, first name and telephone number (with national dialing code) of the emergency contact.