

**11 - 18 June 2022**

## **REGULATION**

### **Art. 1 - Organization**

Alta Via Stage Race is a competitive sporting event organized by the Sports Association Outdoor Experience Finale Ligure based in Finale Ligure (SV).

### **Art. 2 - Participation**

Alta Via Stage Race foresees two registration modes - **SOLO and COUPLE** - and two participation formulas:

- **HERO formula** from Saturday 11 to Saturday 18 June 2022
- **WEEK END formula** from Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 (stages 1 / 2 / 3) or from Thursday 16 to Saturday 18 June 2022 (stages 5 / 6 / 7); this formula requires that participants reach the village the day before the departure (Saturday 11 or Wednesday 15) and that, as regards the first weekend, they participate in the prologue.

The prevailing formula is the HERO one. All the indications in this Regulation refer to it. Athletes enrolled in the WEEK END formula are equally required to comply with its articles, except for those which clearly do not relate to the chosen formula.

### **Art. 3 - Couples**

For the whole stage, both components of the couple must stay together or, as a maximum, 2 minutes apart from each other and must provide each other with technical, physical and psychological assistance. Any pair failing to provide mutual assistance will be disqualified: the unfair competitor will be excluded from the race, while his partner can continue in Solo mode. The race time will be stopped when the second competitor crosses the finishing line. Until 15 May 2022 it will be possible to change the partner once. It will not be possible to make a second replacement. By the same date, it will also be possible to form a new couple or dissolve an already registered couple.

### **Art. 4 - Requirements**

The minimum age to participate is 19 years old by 10 June 2022, while the maximum age is set on the day of the 70th birthday.

Participation is open to all athletes in possession of:

- **racing license**  issued by the Italian Cycling Federation or by FCI affiliated Sports Promotion Bodies (Italian athletes)
- **racing license**  issued by National Cycling Federations and recognized by the UCI (foreign athletes)

Athletes who are not member of a national cycling federation can choose whether to become a member independently or request the activation of the license (that is mandatory for participation in cycling races) through the Outdoor Experience Finale Ligure association, organizer of Alta Via Stage Race. The license will be issued by the CSAIn (Centri Sportivi Aziendali e Industriali) Sports Promotion Body and will be valid for the whole year, until 31/12/2022. To obtain the license it is necessary to present a **competitive medical certificate for cycling, issued no earlier than six months**. There is an extra cost for this service.

## **Art. 5 - Registrations**

Registration is completed when the individual entry fee and any booked optional services have been paid and the following documents have been sent:

- copy of identity document
- copy of racing license
- copy of competitive medical certificate
- medical form relating to the participant's state of health
- liability waiver.

The participation fees are indicated on the website <https://altaviastagerace.it>

Registrations will be closed at the established number. The Organization, without having to disclose the reason, may refuse any registration from a competitor.

## **Art. 6 - Withdrawals**

Registration is binding. In case of withdrawal, the following criteria will be applied:

- for cancellations received by 30 April 2022, a refund of 50% of the fee is provided
- for cancellations received by 31 May 2022, a refund of 25% of the fee is provided
- for cancellations received after 31 May 2022, there is no refund.

Withdrawals may only be made in writing.

The refund will be made in 60 days following receipt of the written notice of withdrawal.

## **Art. 7 - Race format**

Alta Via Stage Race is a mountain bike competition with a prologue and 7 stages. Each stage includes one or more timed sections, which will determine the rankings, and one or more transfer sections. At the end of each stage, a stage ranking (absolute and by category) and an overall ranking (absolute and by category) will be drawn up with the sum of the times of the timed trials and any accumulated penalties.

## **Art. 8 - Categories and rankings**

Absolute rankings and category rankings are foreseen.

### **Admitted categories**

- Open 19-34
- Open 35-49
- Open >50

### **Absolute rankings**

- Solo Men
- Solo Women
- Couples

### **Category rankings**

- Solo Men Open 19-34
- Solo Men Open 35-49
- Solo Men Open >50
- Solo Women Open 19-34
- Solo Women Open 35-49
- Solo Women Open >50
- Couples Men 19-34 (sum of the couple's ages <69 anni)
- Couples Men 35-49 (sum of the couple's ages 69-99 anni)
- Couples Men >50 (sum of the couple's ages >100 anni)

Couples Women 19-34 (sum of the couple's ages <69 anni)  
Couples Women 35-49 (sum of the couple's ages 69-99 anni)  
Couples Women >50 (sum of the couple's ages >100 anni)  
Couples Mixed 19-34 (sum of the couple's ages <69 anni)  
Couples Mixed 35-49 (sum of the couple's ages 69-99 anni)  
Couples Mixed >50 (sum of the couple's ages >100 anni)

**There is a minimum of 3 members for a category to be valid. In case of insufficient registrations, the invalid category will be merged with the most similar valid category.**

The WEEK END formula does not provide for category rankings, but only for absolute rankings.

#### **Art. 9 - Race number plate / Dorsal number**

Each competitor will be given one race number plate and one dorsal number. Competitors are required to display the race number plate and the dorsal number intact, not folded, not modified, without additions. Only the competitors with the race number regularly positioned and clearly visible, both on the bike and on the back, will be admitted to the grid for the start of the race. In case of loss or damage to the race number plate or the dorsal number, the competitors must contact the race office.

#### **Art. 10 - Prologue**

The prologue is a stage like any other and, therefore, the travel time will be added to the overall race time and any penalties. The time taken by the competitors to complete the prologue will determine the starting grid for stage number 1.

#### **Art. 11 - Stage departures**

Competitors will usually start in the reverse order of the overall ranking, spaced 30 seconds from each other, except in special cases in which it may be necessary for organizational reasons to adopt other methods.

#### **Art. 12 - Briefing**

Pre-stage briefings with English translation available will be held every evening. All the information related to finding the route will be provided in the briefing and any difficulties on the following day's stage will be highlighted with the help of audio-visuals if applicable. Attendance at briefings is mandatory.

#### **Art. 13 - Itinerary and travel procedures**

The race is particularly demanding, since it largely takes place on inaccessible paths and in mountainous terrains, therefore it requires excellent skills in mountain bike riding, even in adverse weather conditions or in the absence of light.

Since the itinerary is on open roads, it will be possible for competitors to cross vehicles, including those coming from the opposite direction. Riders must respect the Italian Highway Code in all cases in which Alta Via Stage Race goes onto roads open to traffic.

In no case route cuts will be allowed, which will be sanctioned with disqualification.

**In order to verify any anomalies, the Race Direction may also require the GPS track recorded by the competitor.**

During every stage, one or more controls may be carried out, which may not even be known to the participants. Failure to pass through any checkpoint will incur the maximum possible penalty.

#### **Art. 14 - Maximum time limit and intermediate time gates**

Each stage will have a maximum time limit, which will be communicated at the briefing on the evening before departure. Any further changes to the maximum time limit may be communicated at the official briefing the following morning, depending on particularly adverse weather conditions or any sudden criticalities detected on the route.

At the unquestionable discretion of the the Panel of Jury, in agreement with the Race Direction, intermediate time gates with maximum time limit may also be established: any competitor arriving at the said intermediate time gate beyond the time limit must abandon the race course.

The competitor who does not complete the stage in the maximum time limit or who does not pass an intermediate time gate will be assigned the stage time used by the last regularly classified competitor plus 2 hours of penalty.

#### **Art. 15 - Overtakings**

Overtaking must be done in conditions of maximum safety, signaling the intention and indicating the side. The whole procedure must take place with mutual respect and great fair play.

#### **Art. 16 - Refreshments**

Two or more refreshment points will be provided along the route of the stages.

#### **Art. 17 - Itinerary changes**

The Organization reserves the right to modify the itinerary for safety reasons.

#### **Art. 18 - Mandatory equipment and security provisions**

Given the demanding nature of the race, competitors are required to have an equipment that is adequate for the needs of the route and for sudden weather changes, as well as a mechanical vehicle in perfect condition.

**The following equipment is therefore mandatory.**

##### **Individual equipment**

Mobile phone active on call and with charged battery

Whistle

Approved helmet

Front light system and rear reflective light

Rear red light and head light

Backpack

Water bottle or camelback with at least 1 liter of water

Windproof jacket

Arm and leg warmers

Thermic blanket for emergency

2 Tubes

Dropout derailleur hanger

##### **Solo / Couple equipment** (One equipment per type is sufficient for couples)

Cartographic GPS

Pump

First Aid Kit

Multi-Tool

**Approved helmet:** it is mandatory during the entire route of each stage, it must not be damaged and must always be connected.

**Mobile phone:** it is recommended that it is adequately protected from shocks and, if possible, that it relies on operators equipped with roaming on Tim / Vodafone, as well as, for couples, on different operators for the two team members.

**Cartographic GPS:** each Solo / Couple must be able to use it competently, since the GPS track represents the essential guide tool, unless otherwise provided by the Organization, which reserves the right to communicate it in time to competitors. Please note that, while safeguarding the adventurous nature of the competition, the route will be marked by a sufficient number of strips at the crucial points where visual recognition of the itinerary is considered important to ensure the necessary sense of safety for the competing athletes. Furthermore, in the points that require particular attention or that are considered dangerous, a warning will be made by means of signs or colored ecological spray paint.

**Bicycle:** competitors are allowed to replace parts at will and, in case of frame breakage, the bicycle itself, after giving notice to the Organization. The Organization reserves the right to check the condition and efficiency of the mechanical vehicle and to impose, where it deems necessary, any maintenance and / or replacement interventions, under penalty of failure to authorize the departure. Competitors using pedal assisted vehicles will not be admitted.

**The mandatory equipment will be subjects of scrutiny both during the pre-race technical checks and during the competition.** Time penalties are foreseen in the event that the Panel of Jury verifies the lack of one or more equipment.

#### **Art. 19 - Obligations of the competitors**

Each competitor will have the obligation to:

- comply with all decisions made by the Organization, the Race Direction or the Panel of Jury regarding the conduct of the race
- put sporting integrity above competitive spirit
- follow the race route scrupulously, without making any route cuts, either by bike or on foot
- comply to the Highway Code on any roads open to traffic
- provide assistance to any competitors in difficulty by informing the Race Direction by mobile phone
- respect the environment and avoid leaving any kind of waste along the route
- notify the Race Direction by mobile phone in case of the following situations:
  - are victim of an injury or illness
  - have been out of the race route (GPS track) for more than half an hour
  - choose to deviate from the race route (GPS track) and re-enter using a different route (in order to avoid unnecessarily searches)
  - witness problematic situations involving other competitors or external situations that may have consequences on the course of the race.

Failure to comply with the rules mentioned in this article will result in the imposition of a time penalty in the ranking or disqualification, depending on the seriousness of the conduct.

#### **Art. 20 - Penalties**

Some incorrect behaviors are sanctioned with time penalties.

#### **Penalty of 30 minutes added to his own stage time for the competitor who:**

- arrives at the start with more than 5 and less than 15 minutes late on the assigned departure time
- proceeds without having his partner less than 2 minutes away
- does not have one of the mandatory equipment indicated in these Regulation
- leaves residues of any kind on the race course.

**Penalty of 1 hour added to his own stage time for the competitor who:**

- arrives at the start with more than 15 and less than 30 minutes late on the assigned departure time
- does not have two or more of the mandatory equipment indicated in these Regulation.

**Penalty of 2 hours added to the his own stage time for the competitor who:**

- arrives at the start with more than 30 minutes late on the assigned departure time, without prejudice to the possibility for the Panel of Jury to prevent the departure
- witness problematic situations involving other competitors or external situations that may have consequences on the course of the race and does not notify the Race Direction.

**Assignment of the time of the last classified in the timed section plus 1 hour for the competitor who** does not regularly complete a timed section, but completes the stage within the maximum time limit allowed and does not incur intermediate time gates.

**Assignment of the time of the last classified in the stage plus 1 hour for the competitor who** has been out of the race route (GPS track) for more than half an hour and does not notify the Race Direction.

**Assignment of the time of the last classified in the stage plus 2 hour for the competitor who:**

- does not show up at departure
- withdraws during the stage
- does not pass through a checkpoint
- does not pass an intermediate time gate
- does not complete the stage within the maximum time limit established by the Race Direction
- is caught towing or being towed by an other competitor.

For other infringements of these Regulations, which do not involve disqualification, the time penalty will be established case by case basis by the Panel of Jury.

**Art. 21 - Disqualifications**

There is a disqualification for the competitor who:

- does not comply with all decisions made by the Organization or the Race Direction regarding the conduct of the race
- behaves unsportsmanlike
- voluntarily** makes a route cut
- does not comply to the Highway Code on any roads open to traffic
- does not provide assistance to any competitors in difficulty
- does not provide assistance to his partner (for couples)
- is caught being towed by an external vehicle
- is caught spending the night in campers, hotels or accommodation facilities in general.

Any competitor disqualified for serious infringements by the Panel of Jury will have to abandon the Alta Via Stage Race group.

In addition, the Organization reserves the right not to allow a competitor to start or continue the race after consulting with the race doctor: in this case the decision is final.

**Art. 22 - Withdrawal from the competition**

Any competitor who has withdrawn from the competition may continue to follow the race as a tourist, by bike, own vehicle or accompanying person's vehicle, benefitting from all the logistical

services provided for competitors, with the exception of time tracking and emergency recovery service, if he travels outside the race route and out of hours (behind the motorbike-broom that follows the last competitor).

### **Art. 23 - Complaints**

The Race Direction will only accept complaints submitted in writing, within 30 minutes from the posting of the race unofficial arrival order, accompanied by a fee of euro 50,00 and provided with evidence justifying the complaint. The deposit shall be returned only in case of acceptance of the complaint by the Panel of Jury.

### **Art. 24 - Recovery of injured or withdrawn competitors**

The recovery of the competitor will be carried out according to the procedures deemed necessary by the Organization. The injured competitor will be rescued by suitable means and transferred to the most convenient hospital unit, where all obligations on the part of the Organization will cease. The competitor who has simply withdrawn will be accompanied to the village at the end of the stage. The recovery of the bicycle and its transfer will be carried out with utmost care, but no complaints of any kind shall be made about the state of conservation of the bicycle, which will be returned exclusively to the competitor.

### **Art. 25 - Awardings**

With reference to the **HERO** formula:

- **at the end of each day**, there will be the awarding of the first classified of the three ABSOLUTE rankings of the STAGE.  
The first classified of the three ABSOLUTE OVERALL rankings will be awarded the leader's jersey, which must be worn in the next stage.
- **at the end of the competition**, prizes will be awarded to the first three classified of each ABSOLUTE OVERALL ranking and to the first classified of each OVERALL CATEGORY ranking (see art. 8 of these Regulation).

The **WEEK END** formula provides for the daily awarding of the first classified of the three ABSOLUTE rankings of the STAGE and then, at the end of the competition, for the awarding of the first three classified of each ABSOLUTE OVERALL ranking, who will receive the leader's jersey. There are no category prizes.

The prizes may be cumulative and will only be awarded to prize-winners in person.

### **Art. 26 - Image**

Shirts worn by athletes must be approved by the Panel of Jury, who may require the competitors to replace them under penalty of disqualification. Competitors undertake not to display obscene, political and religious advertising.

### **Art. 27 - Overnight stays**

Unless otherwise explicitly requested and approved by the Race Director, the athletes will have to spend the night at the tent encampment set up by the Organization at each stage village. Overnight stays in campers, hotels or accommodation facilities in general are excluded, under penalty of disqualification.

### **Art. 28 - Baggage**

The Organization ensures the utmost care and attention in transport, but shall not be held responsible for damage or theft suffered by athletes' equipment, in particular with regard to any electronic equipment or other particularly delicate and fragile objects.

**Art. 29 - Accompanying persons**

The Team can be followed by an assistance vehicle through the stage locations. This vehicle must be conducted by a person accredited as a companion. Accompanying persons will be identified with an appropriate badge and their vehicles with an identification sticker. People who cannot be identified as accredited companions will not be permitted to use the services.

**Art. 30 - External performances**

Technical assistance and massage service will be provided by partner companies of the Organization according to current commercial practices. However, the use of these services will remain under the responsibility of the competitor and in no case may the Organization be held responsible.

**Art. 31 - References**

For anything not covered herein, the FCI Technical Regulations and implementing rules apply.

**Art. 32 - Various**

The Organization, in agreement with the President of the Panel of Jury, reserves the right to modify these Regulation, the race course or the stage locations, by publishing in advance any changes on the site.

Any changes made during the competition will be communicated to the competitors during the briefings and shall be considered an integral part of the Regulation.

Upon registration, the competitor declares to accept all points of the Regulation and any subsequent amendments, as well as the prescriptions verbally communicated by the Organization or the Race Director, in addition or partial modification of the same.