



Town of Fairplay

901 Main Street • P.O. Box 267
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www.fairplayco.us

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP PACK BURRO RACE

Fairplay, CO OFFICIAL RULES

ENTRY

Each entrant, or their sponsor, will pay a \$65 registration fee. This fee can be paid online via the registration website, or must accompany a paper entry application, prior to or on race day. If paying by check, make checks payable to “The Town of Fairplay.”

Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Please talk with the Race Director if there is a medical reason participant would need to cancel.

EQUIPMENT

Each burro is required to be equipped with a regulation pack saddle, packed with prospector’s paraphernalia, and must include a pick, shovel, and gold pan. It is strongly recommended that all participants carry at least one quart of water, food (an energy bar), and weather appropriate clothing (such as a windbreaker). Loss of all or part of the pack and paraphernalia will disqualify the runner.

The runner may hold the burro with a single lead rope that does not exceed 15 feet in length (measured from the furthest end of the rope to tip of the buckle.) The lead rope may only be connected to the halter and may not be affixed to the saddle or to any other part of the burro. The halter must fit properly. Rope/leads should be held in the runner’s hands. Using a harness or any other apparatus to connect the lead rope to the runner is prohibited.

The use of jack chains is prohibited.

BURRO

Runners are responsible for securing their own burro for participation in the event. This burro can be one that the runner personally owns, one that they have borrowed from a friend or family member (loaner), or one that they have rented from a burro lessor (lessor) of their choosing. In any case where the burro is owned by anyone other than the participant him or herself, the owner of the burro will be

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known as the burro lessor (lessor). Whether money changes hands to obtain a burro or not, or whether a lessor operates as a for-profit or not-for-profit entity, the term “lessor” is used universally.

Entry fees are separate from any burro rental fee a runner may incur from a Burro Lessor.

It is the sole responsibility of the runner to secure a burro for the event. The Western Pack Burro Association (WPBA) is a reputable source for identifying burro lessors to inquiring runners.

Race organizers and The Town of Fairplay are not a part of any agreement made between a runner and their burro lessor.

The following is the definition of a burro and is to be used in selecting a burro: The word “burro” comes from the Spanish word meaning donkey. A donkey is defined as being an ass. They have chestnuts on the forelegs only, while other animals of the same species, such as mules or horses, have them on hind and forelegs. The tail has no hair, except on its lower part, which has a brush.

For those participating in the “Long Course,” it is *suggested* that the team have completed at least 3 training runs together before racing *if possible*.

Burros must be sound and in good health. We will not permit the participation of a lame burro in the event.

Race officials have the right to check any animal prior, during, and/or after the race. A race official, shall have the authority to disqualify any runner and animal that does not match the above description, or whose animal is sick, doped, injured, or mistreated.

Winning burros can be held in a designated area by the race committee for up to 30 minutes for checking by race officials. While held in the designated area, only the runner is permitted to be with the burro. Should anyone other than the runner enter the area, the team may be disqualified.

All runners must keep their burros under control. Any burro that interferes with another runner or burro may be disqualified.

After disqualification or completion of the event, all burros are to be returned to a corral or trailer within 30-minutes. They may not be left unattended with a lead rope that can become entangled.

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RACE OFFICIALS

Defined as any person performing the duties of a race director, race committee member, race owner, The Town of Fairplay and its staff, or officially recognized race staff or registered volunteer.

Burro lessors, burro racers, and burro owners are not race officials. It is imperative that individuals not present themselves as a race official, or behave in any manner that may confuse participants, landowners, other vendors, volunteers, *actual* race officials, or the public into believing that they *are* a race official. Should any individuals present themselves in this manner before, during, or after the event; all teams (see definition of 'Team' below) that include the individuals in violation of this rule may be disqualified.

COURSE

The race route must be followed exactly as it has been laid out. Race officials will make every attempt to mark the route with signs, surveyor's tape, people and/or checkpoints. Race officials do not guarantee that the course will remain free of course vandalism in the hours between marking has started and race operations have terminated. Therefore, it is up to the runner to know the route.

Do not cut switchbacks or any other aspect of the route. If a runner loses his burro, they must retrieve the burro, return to the place where the burro got a way, and resume racing from there. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

CRUELTY

Any runner mistreating his/her animal may be disqualified. No needles, jack chains, electric prods, narcotics, clubs or whips, or anything other than the halter rope may be used.

TEAM

Runner and burro starting the race must remain a team throughout the contest. Should any runner hand their lead, rope, halter, etc. to any other person, this will signify that the team has quit the event and they will be officially disqualified.

Burro lessors are considered an extension of the runner, often referred to as "crew" or "team." Should a lessor violate any rules, policies, or procedures of the event, or what is outlined herein, the runner utilizing that lessor faces the possibility of disqualification.

Spectators are allowed on the course, but they may only spectate from public properties. Should a team receive assistance from family, friends, strangers, or lessors, that team may be disqualified.

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Everyone must remain at least 15 feet off to the side of the official finish line for the event, and 15 feet past the finish line, which will be marked by a box. They may not be *at or in* the finish line, or in the road on the way to the finish line. Runners will lead their burro off the official course upon completion of their race and transfer handling of the burro outside of any finish corral.

NO RIDING

The runner may lead, drive, push, pull, or carry the burro. The runner may not ride the burro. The runner shall at no time progress except under his/her own power.

COURSE RULES

The lead rope and the runner's voice are the only legal ways to motivate a burro. Using anything other than the lead rope or the runner's voice to motivate the burro may result in disqualification. No runner shall interfere with other runners by deliberate personal contact, nor shall they use anything other than the speed of travel to keep from being passed. No one shall scare or startle any opponent's burro.

Pacers of any kind are not allowed.

Any race official may stop a burro while on the course to check out equipment, the runner, or the burro. If the race official or other authorized person feels that a violation has occurred, runner and burro may be disqualified.

LIABILITY

No city/town, private-property owners along the course, sponsoring businesses, governmental agencies, persons, or organizations will be responsible in the case of accident or injury to runners. Each entrant must sign a waiver and/or release and hold harmless agreement.

WINNING TEAM

The winning combination consists of a human and burro which must cross the finish line as a unit. The human may be leading or following the burro but the burro's nose crossing the finish line first constitutes the winner.

TIES

In the event of a tie, the prize money involved, if any, will be equally divided by the contestants involved.

APPEALS

Should a runner be disqualified by a race official, they may continue the race (a second offense will pull them from the course). Disqualified runners may appeal their grievance to the race director. Appeals

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must be submitted no later than 1-hour after notification of disqualification. If a runner wants to file a complaint against another runner, it must be filed within 1-hour of the runner filing the complaint completing the race. **The decisions of the race director and The Town of Fairplay will be final.**

FIREARMS

The carrying and/or use of firearms will not be permitted.

CODE OF ETHICS

Each runner, and lessor (team) is required to always follow the race code of ethics, which states:

You agree to abide by the following code of conduct before, during, and after this event. You agree to be respectful to all other athletes, race staff/officials, and thankful to all volunteers. You acknowledge that should you, or those associated with you, for any reason treat *anyone* poorly before, during, or after this race you may be listed in the results as a DQ and face banishment from all future iterations of the event. Feedback regarding the rules of burro racing should be addressed to The Western Pack Burro Association (WPBA). Feedback regarding the general event as pertains to Burro Days, may be directed towards The Town of Fairplay. Only feedback presented in a respectful manner will be entertained.

A FEW LAST WORDS TO THE RACERS

This is your race. Keep it clean and remember that spectators make the race possible, so please grin and bear it if they become troublesome.

ENJOY THE RACE!

Adopted by the Town of Fairplay Board of Trustees on February 6, 2023
(*Non-substantive revisions completed June 15, 2023.*)

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