



Town of Fairplay

901 Main Street • P.O. Box 267

Fairplay, Colorado 80440

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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 **\$70** 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 "Town of Fairplay."

Entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Please talk with the Race Director if the participant needs to cancel due to an extenuating circumstance.

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,) and is attached to the halter. It may not be affixed to the saddle or to any other part of the burro. This rope may be single knotted or looped. It is also suggested that the runner be in front or behind the burro and not extended out to the side of your burro with your lead rope.

Jack chains may be used only if used with a pressure-release technique. A jack chain is a chain or strap which is used to apply pressure over the muzzle, under the chin, or through the mouth. Any racer coming across the finish line with nose and/or chin injuries on the animal resulting from the jack chain will be disqualified. The use of a jack chain must be indicated on the burro race registration form. The race veterinarian or a race official will check each donkey using a jack chain before and after the race to make sure there is no injury to the animal.

BURRO

Runners are responsible for securing their own burro for participation in the event. The burro can be one that the runner personally owns, one that they have borrowed from a friend or family member, or

one that they have rented from a burro owner 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 known as the burro owner.

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

It is the sole responsibility of the runner to secure a burro for the event. Contact the Town of Fairplay for reputable burro rental sources. Race organizers and the Town of Fairplay are not a part of any agreement made between a runner and their burro owner.

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 their 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. The race veterinarian, or other race official, shall have the authority to disqualify any animal prior, during, and/or after the race. The race director or Town of Fairplay designee 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 veterinarian checks. While held in the designated area, only the runner is permitted to be with the burro.

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.

RACE OFFICIALS

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

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.

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 obstructions (downed fencing, fallen trees, rock falls, vandalism, etc.) 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 their burro, they must retrieve the burro, return to the place where the burro got away, and resume racing from there. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Sportsmanship is defined as an understanding of and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior and integrity, and general goodwill toward an opponent. Failure to follow these rules may result in disqualification as decided by the race director or Town of Fairplay designee.

CRUELTY

Any runner mistreating his/her animal may be disqualified. No needles, 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 owners are considered an extension of the runner, often referred to as "crew" or "team." Owners are expected to follow the rules, policies and/or procedures of the event as outlined herein, just as the runners are.

Spectators are allowed on the course, as are family and friends. They may offer water, food and encouragement but may not assist the runner with their burro or interfere with any other racers in doing so. No contestant shall interfere with other contestants by deliberate personal contact or receive help deliberately from others.

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. 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 permitted 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.

No one is authorized to run with a runner at any time while on the trail. Pacing is 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.

TIME CUTOFF

Teams registered for the Long Course must reach Checkpoint 6 - Outbound by 4:00pm in order to continue the course. If the team does not meet this requirement, they will have two options. The team can choose to turn around and take the designated course back to town in order to receive credit for their completed miles OR the team can choose to be trailered out which will result in a DNF. The runner is responsible for organizing transportation off of the course. Town of Fairplay will not provide transportation.

There is no cutoff time for the Short Course.

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 or burros. Each entrant must sign a waiver and/or release and a 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 race official disqualify a runner, 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 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 burro team are required to 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. Feedback regarding the general event (Burro Days) or the World Championship Pack Burro Race, may be directed towards The Town of Fairplay. Please be respectful and constructive with your feedback.

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 June 15, 2026