

Rules and Guidelines for Canicross in Trail Running Events

Equipment:

- The dog should have a properly fitted harness that does not restrict its movement or breathing.
- The runner should use a waist belt and a shock-absorbing line that connects to the dog's harness.
- Lines should be no longer than 2 meters when fully extended.

Dog Health & Welfare:

- All dogs should be fit, healthy, and free from injury.
- Dogs should be at least 12 months old for short distances and 18 months for longer events.
- A vet check may be required before the race.
- Provide water stations for dogs along the route.

Runner Responsibility:

- Runners are responsible for the behaviour and welfare of their dogs at all times.
- Runners should clean up after their dog.
- Runners must ensure their dog does not disturb wildlife, other competitors, or spectators.
- We encourage all participants to train with their dogs prior to the event for an optimal experience.

Insurance and Liability:

- We recommend you ensure you have appropriate insurance coverage for yourself and your dog.
- All participants will be required to sign a waiver acknowledging the risks associated with canicross.

Race Etiquette:

- Faster teams should make other runner aware by calling "on your right/left" when overtaking.
- Slower runners should move to one side to allow others to pass safely.
- No aggressive dogs should be allowed. If a dog shows any signs of aggression or is deemed uncontrollable, they should be removed from the event.

Start and Finish Procedures:

- Staggered starts will be in place to prevent congestion and for non-canicross runner safety.

- A secure area at the finish for dogs to recover and hydrate will be provided.

Trail Considerations:

- Please be cautious on terrains to avoid injuring your dog's paws.
- Take note of any marked sections where you might be required to detach from your dog for safety reasons.

Weather Concerns:

- We'll monitor weather conditions closely. In cases of extreme conditions (hot or cold), we'll communicate any changes to the event schedule.
- On warmer days, shaded rest areas and frequent water stations will be available.

The welfare of the dogs should always be paramount. It's essential to prioritise their safety and well-being at all times. With these guidelines in place, your race will be safe and enjoyable for everyone!