

Iron Hill Twilight Criterium - Saturday July 5, 2008

Race Marshal Information:

Race marshals are a vital part of every cycling event.

They help insure the safety of the event by keeping spectators, cars, children, stray animals, recreational cyclists, and pedestrians out of the way of the competitors and official race vehicles. They support security personnel by keeping unauthorized people out of restricted areas. They help police by controlling pedestrian traffic and spectator activity. They are sometimes asked to perform special functions – such as securing the awards area at the end of the race. Their assistance is needed to set up and remove barricades and staging material before the start and after the end of the event.

Before the race:

Preparation

Get a good night's sleep. You are going to be on your feet for a long time and you need to be well rested and alert.

What to wear

Dress in comfortable clothing that is appropriate for the weather. You don't need to make a fashion statement, but should be neat and presentable. Running shoes or walking shoes are recommended. Depending on the forecast: a hat and sunglasses, sunscreen, foul weather gear, or a jacket. Be prepared for the expected conditions.

What to bring:

Sunscreen, water, fruit, granola bars, and other snack food. Other refreshments (non-alcoholic) like juices or sports drinks are recommended as well as a small ice cooler or backpack. Also bring 2 large garbage bags.

What to do first:

Arrive at your designated assembly point or your assigned position at the proper time. Find out if there are any special instructions. Get your marshal T-shirt, event program, and any other event information you may need.

What to do before you start:

Introduce yourself to the other marshals with whom you will be working. Locate and introduce yourself to the police officers that are stationed nearest to you. Locate the nearest staff member who can call for medical or other assistance, if needed.

Prepare your position:

Determine how to deploy the available manpower to safely control the area. Help assemble barricades or other staging material if needed. Remove any dangerous objects (trash, stones, glass, etc) from the course.

During the race:**Be careful:**

Be aware of everything of that is going on around you. Most importantly, be aware of yourself. Don't take an inadvertent step off the curb and into the path of the peloton.

Be Helpful:

Find a safe way for spectators to see and enjoy the race without interfering with the event or endangering themselves or the competitors.

Be Courteous:

Think of yourself as a goodwill ambassador. Your conduct will reflect on perceptions of the event, its sponsors, your city, and the sport. Never use threats or force. If you have a problem that you cannot control, get immediate assistance from the security staff or the police.

Be in Control:

Don't allow things to happen. Make things happen. Escort people across the street when it is safe to do so. Help the police direct traffic, if they can use your assistance.

Use your Head:

As the race caravan approaches and you see the lead car or peloton shout "riders up" to let spectators around you know that riders are approaching. Think about safety...yours, spectators, riders, and pedestrians. Always use common sense.

Don'ts:

Do not allow pedestrians or traffic to cross the roadway while there is any race traffic in sight. It is best to wait until the last vehicle in the caravan passes, or until it is clear that no more race traffic is in the immediate area.

Do not allow anyone to stand in the roadway, approach race vehicles or riders, or interfere in any race activity unless they are properly credentialed. All spectators should be behind barricades or caution tape or on the curb – not on the course. Only those who are directly involved in the

race itself (competitors, team support personnel, race officials, members of the stage crew, police officers and a select number of race staff members and sponsor representatives, etc) are permitted on the race course.

Other concerns:

If you are working an area where traffic is permitted to cross the course or where there are opportunities for automobiles to inadvertently get on the course (driveway openings, alleyways, parking lots, etc) be especially vigilant. If a car turns on to the course, you must remove it as quickly as possible. This may require moving barricades. Get the police to help you.

Be alert for stray pets or children.

If there is a mishap or crash on the course, keep people away. Serious accidents are rare in bicycle races. Crashes are usually uneventful. The riders will often just pick themselves up and keep racing or head to the neutral support pit. If a more serious accident occurs, it's acceptable to lend a hand. Get help from the police. Alert an event staff member right away. There will be medical personnel in the race caravan or on call nearby.

If there is a mechanical breakdown – flat tires are the most common – stay out the way. The race officials will call a support vehicle and it will arrive at very high rate of speed to the service of the rider.

After the Race:

Help Remove the Staging Material:

Disassemble metal barricades arrange them in groups of 10 pieces. Help roll up fencing material.

Protect Signs and Banners:

Don't allow anyone to take any of the staging material. The signs are not souvenirs. They are needed for other events.

Clean Up Trash or Litter:

Use one of the large trash bags you brought with you to pick up any trash in your area. The other trash bag was to use in case it rained or if another marshal forgot to bring one. Please tidy up your area and make it better than you found it.

Special Reminders:

Always face the spectators:

If you are watching the race you are not doing your job. You should be watching the people who are watching the race.

Keep Spectators Out of the Apex Areas of Turns:

Mishaps are more common in turns. Every motorcycle, car, and bicycle in the race must negotiate each turn precisely. If something unfortunate happens, the laws of physics take over. Some turns will be taken at relatively high rates of speed. Plastic fencing or barricades will stop a motorcycle that was launched towards you at 50 mph.

Most Importantly:

Thank you for your support. The event would not be possible without you.

