

# Gorges Grand Prix 2026 Rider Manual

Pelo Performance • Open road handicap race

Read this manual before race day, attend the rider briefing and follow the final instructions from race officials. The roads remain open throughout the event.

## Race day at a glance

**Saturday Oct 10, 2026 • Loburn School**

**First handicap group starts at 8:30 am**

Sign-on and preparation: From 7:45 am,

Mandatory briefings: all riders must attend the general race briefing at 8:20 am in the Loburn School hall. Be at your mark's start point five minutes before its start for the full racing briefing. If you are late, you risk chasing your mark from behind.

Finish and prize-giving: at Loburn School once the field is safely home, approximately midday. Final prize details will be announced by the organiser.

Check your name, race number, handicap group and start time on the live start list. Check the live start sheet at [www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/whos-racing](http://www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/whos-racing) for your latest mark and start time. Marks and times may change as race day approaches, including for weather. Be ready early and listen for your group to be called.

### Current handicap starts (NZDT)

**Provisional** times from the race sheet. Recheck the live start list before travelling.

| Handicap mark | Start (NZDT) |
|---------------|--------------|
| Go or Limit   | 8:30 am      |
| Early Mark 1  | 8:36 am      |
| Early Mark 2  | 8:41 am      |
| Mid Mark 2    | 8:45 am      |
| Mid Mark 3    | 8:50 am      |
| 3rd Break     | 8:55 am      |
| 2nd Break     | 9:00 am      |
| 1st Break     | 9:06 am      |
| Break         | 9:14 am      |
| Scratch       | 9:18 am      |
| Scratch Plus  | 9:21 am      |

## The essentials

Keep left and never cross the centre line. Give way to vehicles and obey normal road priority at all times.

Marshals direct and stop cyclists. Do not assume vehicles will stop or that a marshal's presence gives you right of way.

Slow down well before bridges, intersections and the turnaround. Stop when directed and move only when it is clear and safe.

## Course summary

This is a 90 km out-and-back handicap road race on rural sealed roads, with the turnaround at the 45 km mark shown on the course map.

Expect chipseal, grit, potholes, farm debris, wind and changing weather. Leave room to react and warn riders behind you about hazards.

## Course overview

Course map: the 90 km route turns at the 45 km mark. Follow the route shown below and race-day instructions.



## Course points to remember

Both one-lane bridges are used on the outward and return legs. Give way to vehicles already on or approaching the bridge. Do not enter unless the crossing is clear and safe.

At Ashley Gorge, the fast descent leads towards the bridge. Reduce speed early; if warned about traffic, slow down and be ready to stop before the bridge.

At German Road, turn left on the outward leg and right onto Ashley Gorge Road on the return. Two marshals will be stationed there. Approach under control, give way to traffic and be prepared to stop. Obey the marshals, check for yourself and turn only when safe.

The turnaround is at the 45 km mark shown on the map. Slow down well before it, obey the race-day signs, cones and officials, and turn only when directed and safe.

## **Rider conduct**

### **Share the road**

All roads, side roads, driveways and accessways remain open to the public. Stay alert, ride predictably, hold your line and respect other road users.

Keep as far left as practicable. Ride no more than two abreast and single out when needed for safe traffic flow. Do not cross the centre line, including during attacks or the finish sprint.

Obey every marshal instruction. If a marshal tells you to slow or stop, do so promptly and warn riders behind you. Do not pass a stopped group or follow another rider through without checking.

### **Race fairly**

Start in your assigned handicap group. In this race, if a faster group catches you, you may join them. You have no obligation to work with them unless you choose to, and you may still contest the sprint.

Dangerous riding, centre-line crossing or ignoring officials may lead to disqualification. Stay calm and courteous if a driver is impatient.

### **At the finish**

Hold your line and keep left. There is no guaranteed traffic-free finish. After crossing the line, continue forward under control, follow the finish crew's directions and clear the road before stopping.

## **Registration and briefing**

Sign on at Loburn School and collect your number. Allow time to pin it, prepare your bike, use the facilities and attend the mandatory rider briefing.

Pin your number as shown by the registration team so the finish camera can read it. Check your group and start time, and ask the start crew about any discrepancy.

Be at your start point early. Alex Mann ( [alex@peloperformance.co.nz](mailto:alex@peloperformance.co.nz) ) is the starter. Listen to the final safety instructions for your group before moving to the line.

## **Equipment and rider preparation**

Use a roadworthy bike with working brakes and secure wheels. Wear a correctly fitted, fastened approved cycle helmet whenever riding.

No aero bars in bunch racing. Carry a spare tube, tyre levers and pump or CO<sub>2</sub>, along with enough drinks and food for the race.

A rear daytime light and weather-appropriate layers are recommended. Check the forecast and prepare for cold, wind or rain.

## **Parking, toilets and warm-up**

Park where directed and keep school access, driveways and the road clear. Use the designated facilities respectfully; confirm toilet access with the registration team.

Warm up safely on open roads, keeping left and giving way. Stay clear of the start and finish areas while groups are being released or finishing.

## **Contacts and help**

### **Emergency • 111**

If a rider is unresponsive, is not breathing normally, has heavy bleeding or appears seriously injured, call 111 immediately. Give the road name, nearest junction or landmark and what has happened. If a second helper is available, ask them to notify the event medic and Alex while you follow the 111 operator's instructions.

### **Race director and starter • Alex Mann • 027 277 6659**

[alex@pelopperformance.co.nz](mailto:alex@pelopperformance.co.nz)

For event questions, an incident report or a withdrawal, contact Alex or speak to the nearest marshal.

### **First response medic • Bob Waldron • 021 616 551**

For a minor injury, contact Bob, the event medic with Ruapuna Motorsport Rescue, then notify Alex. For a serious injury or medical emergency, call 111 immediately; do not wait to reach event staff.

### **Lead vehicle • Bruce Blackburn • yellow 4x4**

Stay behind the lead vehicle and follow race officials' instructions. Its presence does not close the road or change normal road priority.

### **If you witness a crash**

Stop safely, protect yourself from traffic and check the rider. Call for help, provide first aid within your ability and notify a marshal. Do not put yourself or others in further danger.

## **Withdrawals and mechanical problems**

If you withdraw, tell a marshal or the finish crew your name and race number so the organisers know you are safe. Return your number as directed.

If you cannot continue, move yourself and your bike clear of traffic and contact event staff. Arrange a safe way home. The medic vehicle is not a cycle-recovery service.

## **Weather and race-day changes**

Check the event website before travelling and listen carefully at the briefing. Start order, handicap gaps or racing arrangements may change for safety.

If racing is held, neutralised or stopped, follow officials' directions. Never improvise a route, turn around early or assume a section is safe because other riders continue.

## Pre-race travel

Make your own plan to reach Loburn School with time to sign on and prepare. No organised pre-ride bunch departure has been confirmed for 2026.

## Rider checklist

- I have checked my group and start time and will attend the mandatory briefing.
- My bike and helmet are ready, my race number is visible, and I have food, drink, repair tools and suitable clothing.
- I will keep left, stay on my side of the centre line and give way to vehicles.
- I will approach both bridges, German Road and the turnaround under control, and stop when instructed.
- I know how to call for help and will tell the organisers if I withdraw.

## Participant entry conditions

The 2026 entry form includes the following participant conditions. Read them alongside the full terms accepted with your entry and the final race instructions.

**Acknowledgement of risk:** road cycling involves inherent risks of physical injury. Participants affirm that they understand and accept those risks.

**Waiver and release:** participants agree to release and hold harmless the organiser, sponsors, partners and affiliates from claims, damages or liabilities connected with participation, including claims of negligence.

**Personal responsibility:** participants confirm that they are physically fit and sufficiently trained, are responsible for their own safety and will follow all event rules.

**Insurance:** participants are responsible for arranging personal insurance for injuries or accidents. The organisers are not responsible for personal injuries or property damage.

**Event conditions:** participants agree to comply with race regulations, follow official directions, and respect New Zealand traffic laws and local road conditions.

**Media and promotion:** participants grant permission for free use of their name, voice and picture in event-related broadcasts, advertising, films and other promotions.

**Event changes:** the organiser may alter the format, route, timing or other arrangements for weather, safety, legal or administrative reasons.

## Questions and updates

Race information: [www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/race-info](http://www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/race-info)

Start list: [www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/whos-racing](http://www.gorgesgrandprix.co.nz/whos-racing)

Email: [alex@peloperformance.co.nz](mailto:alex@peloperformance.co.nz)