

# RULES



## LA ÉPICA GRAVEL GRINDER™: RULES

**1. La Épica Gravel Grinder™ is a cycling event where riders are individually timed.**

### **2. ENTRY**

2.1. The entry to La Épica Gravel Grinder™ is open to riders aged 18 OR OLDER IN COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES AND 13 OR OLDER IN NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES. La Épica Gravel Grinder™ has the sole discretion over entry numbers and cut-off dates.

2.2. Riders who are serving a ban by a federation for a doping violation will be refused. Riders who have served their ban are allowed to ride in the event, but will neither be timed nor be in the results and will start at the back.

2.3. Each rider must ensure that his/her health condition is sufficient for the event.

2.4. Each rider is responsible for having sufficient insurance coverage.

2.5. Registrations and exceptions

Event registrations are non-refundable, non-transferable and non-postponable, and no rider will be entitled to a refund, in whole or in part, in the event of disqualification or for any other reason.

However, La Épica Gravel Grinder® may evaluate, at its sole discretion and on a case-by-case basis, duly justified requests due to illness, injury, serious family emergency or force majeure, and authorize one of the following alternatives:

a) Transfer of registration to another cyclist for the same edition of the event; or

b) Credit for the next edition of the event.

Requests must be submitted in writing and with reasonable evidence to [laepica.gravel@gmail.com](mailto:laepica.gravel@gmail.com) within seven (7) days prior to the event or, if it occurs outside of

said term, within seventy-two (72) hours of the situation. Any transfer will be subject to the substitute rider meeting all of the requirements of the event and may incur an administrative fee.

The decision of the organization will be final, not appealable, and will not constitute a precedent.

2.6. La Épica Gravel Grinder™ reserves the right, in its sole and complete discretion, to deny entry, revoke the entry application of any applicant at any time, and/or disqualify any individual from the Event.

2.7 With their entry riders will be automatically registered to participate in two event raffles, as follows:

2.7.a. A chance to win a free 2-night stay at the Ponce Hilton.

Eligibility: The first 300 cyclists to register for the event on or before **December 31, 2025** will automatically qualify for entry into a random drawing to win a complimentary 2-night stay at the Ponce Hilton Hotel during the event weekend.

Prize Details:

- Prize includes room accommodations for 2 adults in a “run of house” room as assigned at hotel check-in.
- Prize covers nightly room rate charges only. All other expenses, including but not limited to meals, beverages, room service, parking, upgrades, taxes, fees, or incidental charges, are the sole responsibility of the winner.
- Prize is non-transferable, non-refundable, and has no cash value.

Winner Selection & Announcement: The winner will be selected at random from qualified entries and announced during **January 2026**. The decision of the event organizers is final and binding.

Redemption & Restrictions:

- Prize must be used during the event weekend as specified. No substitutions, date changes, or extensions will be permitted.
- If the winner is unable to attend or use the prize, the prize will be forfeited, and another eligible participant may be selected.

Release of Liability: The event organizers, sponsors, affiliates, and partners assume no responsibility or liability for any injury, accident, loss, damages, travel expenses, or complications incurred by the winner or any third party in connection with the use of the Prize.

Compliance: By registering for the event, participants agree to these terms and disclaimers.

2.7.b. A chance to win a 2026 Pinarello Grevil F bike or a Zipp 303 gravel wheelset.

Eligibility: All individuals who register and complete registration for the event are automatically entered into a random drawing for a chance to win a 2026 Pinarello Grevil F bicycle or a Zipp 303 gravel wheelset (“Prize”). Only one winner will be selected per prize.

Winner Selection & Announcement: The winners will be chosen at random from all eligible registrants and announced during the event’s awards ceremony on Sunday, March 29, 2026. The winners must be present at the time of selection, or a new winner will be chosen. The decision of the organizers is final and binding.

Delivery of Prize:

Winner is responsible of transportation of the Prize to their home. If the winner resides outside Puerto Rico, the winner is solely responsible for any and all travel, shipping, delivery, or customs costs related to transporting the Prize to their hometown.

Release of Liability: The event organizers, sponsors, affiliates, and partners assume no responsibility or liability for any injury, accident, loss, or damages incurred by the winner or any third party through the use, transport, or handling of the Prize. Use of the Prize is entirely at the winner’s own risk.

No Substitution or Cash Value: The Prize is non-transferable, may not be exchanged for cash or other goods/services, and will be awarded as described.

Compliance: By registering for the event, all participants agree to these terms and disclaimers.

### **3. EQUIPMENT**

3.1. Bike: any roadworthy bicycle. The following are not permitted: triathlon bikes, time trial bikes, triathlon/aero bars, tandems, prone bicycles, recumbent bikes and bicycles with chair seating (except for para-athletes) or mono cycles. Unsafe bikes can be banned at any time during the event.

E-BIKES WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED IN NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES. Participants should register according to their birth sex (male or female) and the type of e-bike (gravel or MTB).

3.2. Helmets must be always worn by all riders and must be securely fastened with a chinstrap at all times while riding.

3.3. Bike number: the number plate with chip timing strips on the back must be attached to the handlebar and always clearly visible from the front. Any alteration of the number will lead to a time penalty or disqualification, or the timing chips may not work properly.

3.4. Jersey number: the jersey number must be worn on the jersey pockets, attached by safety pins. Any wrong positioning or alteration of the number can lead to a time penalty or disqualification.

3.5. Riders must carry equipment to repair a flat tire.

3.6. The use of headphones and/or playing music on any device will lead to timing penalty or immediate disqualification.

#### **4. START**

4.1. Entry to the start area is only from the designated spots. Riders without their La Épica Gravel Grinder™ bike number, jersey number and helmet at the checkpoint will be refused access to the start area. Not allowed at the start are large bags such as backpacks, handlebar bags or similar.

4.2. If a rider arrives after the designated corral closure time, they may be denied access to the start.

4.3. Start order:

(1) VIP: Returning champions from the previous year (overall, age groups), and guests.

(2) Competitive corrals.

(3) General riders (non-competitive categories) according to their age group (younger to older).

(4) Challenged athletes with hand cycles.

La Épica Gravel Grinder reserves the right to limit the front corral to qualifiers at La Épica Gravel Grinder™ events if there are space constraints.

Race corral requests are at full discretion of the organizer.

Riders must start in their designated corral. Riders are allowed to start in a corral further back than their designated corral. If a rider attempts to get in a corral further ahead than allocated, he/she will be put in the last corral, get a time penalty, or are disqualified.

#### **5. COMPETITION**

5.1. All riders are timed by chip timing from start to finish. Overall rankings are determined by gun time. Age group rankings are determined by net (chip) time. Only riders who complete the La Épica Gravel Grinder™ long distance course (which include BOTH Saturday and Sunday events) are eligible for competition ranking and prizes. La Épica Gravel Grinder™ reserves the right, in its sole and complete discretion, to change the rules if deemed appropriate.

Any distance shorter than the long distance is a timed but non-competitive event.

## 5.2. Categories:

Category is determined by rider's age on December 31. Sex categories are defined as sex at birth (male or female).

### NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES (GRAVEL CHALLENGE):

- *Men 13+ Gravel Bike*
- *Men 13+ Mountain Bike*
- *Women 13+ Gravel Bike*
- *Women 13+ Mountain Bike*

### COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES (GRAVEL GRINDER):

#### **GRAVEL GRINDER OPEN CATEGORIES:**

- *Men OPEN 18+ Gravel Bike*
- *Men OPEN 18+ Mountain Bike*
- *Women OPEN 18+ Gravel Bike*
- *Women OPEN 18+ Mountain Bike*

#### **GRAVEL GRINDER OPEN MASTERS 40+ CATEGORIES:**

- *Masters Men 40+ Gravel Bike*
- *Masters Men 40+ Mountain Bike*
- *Masters Women 40+ Gravel Bike*
- *Masters Women 40+ Mountain Bike*

*\*\*\* Fully timed and ranked. Top 3 in each category receive podium recognition and sponsor prizes.*

## 5.3. Awards:

### COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES (GRAVEL GRINDER):

Each participant will be awarded in the category they registered for (open 18+ or masters open 40+) and by bike type (Gravel vs Mountain).

Registration includes both days (Saturday and Sunday), even if you only compete on one of the two days.

Cash prizes will be based on the accumulated time from Saturday **and** Sunday. Friday is an independent exhibition event and does not apply for awards.

Trophies and cash prizes will be given to the top three finishers in each of the competitive categories.

The prize for the GRAVEL CRIT will only be cash (no trophies) as it is only an exhibition race. Prizes for the top 3 places will be \$100, \$75, \$50 respectively.

#### NON-COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES (GRAVEL CHALLENGE):

Non-competitive categories will only receive participation medals, they do not qualify for cash prizes or trophies.

Distribution of the prizes is at the sole discretion of La Épica Gravel Grinder™. Prizes not picked up at the awards will be distributed to other riders. Prizes will not be handed to anyone but the rider him or herself.

5.4. All protests concerning the order of finish shall be examined and resolved by the chief judge, whose decision is final and without appeal. It is the rider's responsibility to familiarize themselves with the rules of the event and the course before the start. Taking alternate routes or cutting the course short leads to disqualification from the current competition and to a ban at future La Épica Gravel Grinder™ events.

## **6. ABUSE**

6.1. No rider may be disrespectful toward race directors, officials, staff, riders, volunteers, residents, or spectators.

6.2. No rider may use foul or abusive language during La Épica Gravel Grinder™

6.3. No rider may assault (an unlawful attempt, coupled with the present ability, to commit a violent injury on the person of another) or do battery (any willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another) to anyone connected with La Épica Gravel Grinder™ (including but not limited to riders, spectators, public officials, volunteers, staff, etc.).

6.4. Any of the above will lead to disqualification and a lifelong ban for La Épica Gravel Grinder™ events.

## **7. CONDUCT**

7.1. Cyclists must obey all laws of the road, including traffic lights and stop signs unless they are overwritten by the police. Violators may be ticketed by local law enforcement and/or disqualified and removed from the event.

7.2. No rider may make an abrupt motion to interfere with the forward progress of another rider, either intentionally or by accident.

7.3. Any rider who appears to present a danger to the other riders may be disqualified by La Épica Gravel Grinder™ either before, during, or after the event.

7.4. Pushing or pulling or any other physical assistance among riders is prohibited in all categories except Him and Her categories where pushing or pulling is encouraged.

7.5. No outside assistance is allowed in competitive categories (incl. but not limited to team cars, personal support cars handing in supplies from roadside).

7.6. If a rider is lying on the ground and is visibly in difficulty, any following rider must stop and help unless there are already at least three people helping. You may continue if a) the victim is fine or b) medical personnel has arrived. Help others; you may need help one day.

7.7. Any misconduct with respect to the above can lead to disqualification and a lifelong ban at La Épica Gravel Grinder™.

## **8. ENVIRONMENT**

La Épica Gravel Grinder™ is committed to protecting the environment. Any discarding of trash or food outside the designated trash cans at the aid stations or “eco zones” is prohibited and can lead to a time penalty, disqualification or lifelong ban at La Épica Gravel Grinder™ events.

Any urinating in public is prohibited and can lead to disqualification, ticketing by local law enforcement or a lifelong ban at La Épica Gravel Grinder™ events.

## **9. ACCEPTANCE OF RISK**

All those who ride and compete under these rules do so at their own risk. No liability shall attach to La Épica Gravel Grinder™ or any of its officials with respect to any loss or injury sustained or caused by anyone competing or riding in La Épica Gravel Grinder™.

## **10. RULE CHANGES**

Course, date, rule or any other changes pertaining to the Event can be altered if deemed necessary at the sole discretion of La Épica Gravel Grinder™.