

## Never Summer FAQ:

Q: Is this a team sport, and do all teammates have to stay together?

A: Yes and yes! This is one of the most fun aspects to the sport. If you sign up and start as a 3 person team, you must stay together and finish as a 3 person team in order to remain "official" for race standings. If you separate, you are breaking the rules and a penalty will be assessed. Usually this is stated in the race rules read and understood prior to racing. Team dynamics can be exciting, frustrating, and challenging, but in the end, your teammates will be some of your closest friends, and you will have memories that will last a lifetime.

Q: The Never Summer Race has mountain biking, trekking, and paddling listed. Do all team members do all the events?

A: Yes!

Q: Will I need to have my own watercraft?

A: Yes, you will need an inflatable boat - packraft, inflatable kayak, and SUP are all allowed (SUP not recommended without previous swift water experience).

Q: Can I bring my own hard boat?

A: Yes, however, you will be responsible for the boat transport. Race volunteers will only be moving inflatables.

Q: How difficult is the navigation?

A: 6 hour racers, navigation with map and compass will be easy to moderate. Most checkpoints will be located on a trail or road, so if you can follow a trail and road map and know your directions, you should be able to finish the race in the 6 hour timeframe. 24 hour racers, more advanced navigation is required to clear the course (i.e. knowing how to read a topographical map without trails). There will not be any difficult mandatory points, so beginner navigators can finish the course but may not be able to clear it.

Q: What does "clear the course" mean?

A: Both courses will have a certain number of "checkpoints" or "CPs" (orange and white orienteering flags with punches attached). These

points are pre-placed on the course by the race director and marked on your map. (24 hour racers, you may be required to plot points using a UTM plotter). In order to "clear" the course, a team must navigate to ALL of the checkpoints, punch their team passport (provided by the race), and finish the course by the cutoff time. A team that does not get all of the checkpoints or "clear the course" will be ranked below a team that does.

Q: Do I need to have a mountain bike:

A: A mountain bike is strongly recommended. However, if you show up with a non-mountain bike, you will still be able to participate. Good luck.

Q: I don't understand how this all works. What are the distances, order of disciplines, when do we get maps, etc?

A: Ah yes...the mystery of the sport. It is typical in adventure racing that there is very little you know about the course until you get there. What you do know: the Never Summer race cutoff times are either 6 hours or 24 hours. Meaning, you have that amount of time to get as many checkpoints as you can and cross the finish line. There will be trekking, paddling, and biking all while navigating map and compass. There may even be unexpected challenges. You will get your maps prior to the start of the race that will show you where your checkpoints are. You will get a passport and "rules of travel" when you get your map. This "rules of travel" will tell you what order to retrieve checkpoints and what disciplines you will be doing when. You then work with your team to strategize what the best route choice is to get to each checkpoint. You also know what mandatory and recommended gear you need to have (posted on race details). Still confused? Just come out and do it and see for yourself! You'll have a blast!

Q: Will gear need to be transported at all during the race?

A: Yes, but we will do that for you. For example, you will bike to a particular location A and drop your bikes. You will then paddle or trek to another location B. Your bikes will be moved by race volunteers from A to B along with any bike gear if biking is the next leg.

Q: What type of safety measures are you taking to protect us?

A: Event medical staff will be present in case of an emergency or search and rescue situations. Teams are required to check in and out of multiple transition areas (TAs) as well as some non-TA locations (i.e. bike drop or

pick ups). This gives the race director an understanding of where on the course each team is located at what time. Also, all teams are required to carry a cell phone as well as emergency phone numbers to be used only in the case of emergency. Last, there will be contingency plans and time cutoffs if the race director feels that it is unsafe for a team to proceed on a leg of the course (i.e. river paddling at night). With all this said, however, it is your team's responsibility to look after each other and be safe! Never separate or leave a team member behind. Be aware of what to do in the case you encounter wildlife such as moose, bear, or mountain lion. Know how to handle yourself in inclement weather (i.e. carry appropriate clothing, what to do/not during lightning strikes, etc.) And last, be aware of you and your team's hydration level.