



# SWISS ULTRACYCLING CHALLENGE

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## RACE MANUAL

## Introduction

The Swiss Ultracycling CHallenge (SUCH) is an ultracycling event to take place in Switzerland in September 2020. Other than cheese and chocolate, Switzerland is known for its beautiful landscapes and its winding mountain roads, providing epic and challenging rides for everyone willing to venture out there.

That being said, the SUCH was designed as an **unsupported bike race** which implies you have to be self-reliant regardless of the situation you are in.

The challenge is to ride **in all of the 26 regions (cantons)** and be the fastest to rally the finish line. For safety reasons and to give you the opportunity to visit the places of your choices, we have decided the route should be free and road planning left entirely up to you. Except for the finish line: **Bern, Bundesplatz (46.947190, 7.444037)**

This freedom does not mean there will not be any rules to follow; they are neither numerous nor restrictive but we will enforce them.

Depending on your planning and riding ability, overall distance should be around 1000 km which makes it feasible in a just under 5 days.

**Race starts : September 2nd 2020 at 10:10 am**

Start line: from **any train station in Switzerland** .

**Finish line : Bern, Bundesplatz**

**Race closes on September 6th, 2020 at 12:00 pm (noon)**

A finisher's party will be held in Bern on September 6th from 12:00 pm (noon). Exact location tbd (provided the COVID sanitary measures allow it).

There will be three categories : **SOLO, PAIR or RELAY**

We want you to have fun, to discover places you have not been before and that includes a journey to the limits of your own boundaries.

But for that to take place and the memories to build, we need you to ride safe.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The organisers : Marc and Vincent

## Registration/Fee

Since we have an open start line, we have decided not to limit the number of participants. We think you will be spread out right from the start.

**Deadline to sign up : August 10th 2020.** Registration is completed only when payment is received (see below)

Passed that date, any subscription will still be considered but might not be accepted.

**Fee :** SOLO : CHF 95.- CHF  
PAIRS : CHF 175.- CHF (both riders have to register and indicate the name of the partner)  
RELAY: CHF 130.- CHF (we have to provide two tracking device/apps and goodies for two, both riders have to sign up indicating the name of their partner)

The fee covers the costs of the website, the finisher's party, advertisement, all the goodies you will receive and guarantees our enthusiasm and the organisers' beer supply throughout the event :-)). We will be following you using online tracking, with the goal to catch up with most of you on the road.

The fee is **non refundable, with the exception** of force majeure which entitles you to a 50% refund (copy of medical certificate requested).

**Payment** is PayPal only. If you do not have an account, try using someone's else account. If impossible, please contact us directly and we will provide you with our IBAN.

**Mandatory documents** : download the Rider's Agreement, print it out, sign it and send it back to us by mail ([info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike)) along with a proof of accident, rescue and liability insurance. Although it does not replace a proper bike-check, a picture of your bike setup will be asked to make sure you have both lights and brakes mounted on your ride (see Equipment chapter).

**Riders' Agreement duly signed + copy of insurances must be sent by mail [info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike) before August 23rd**

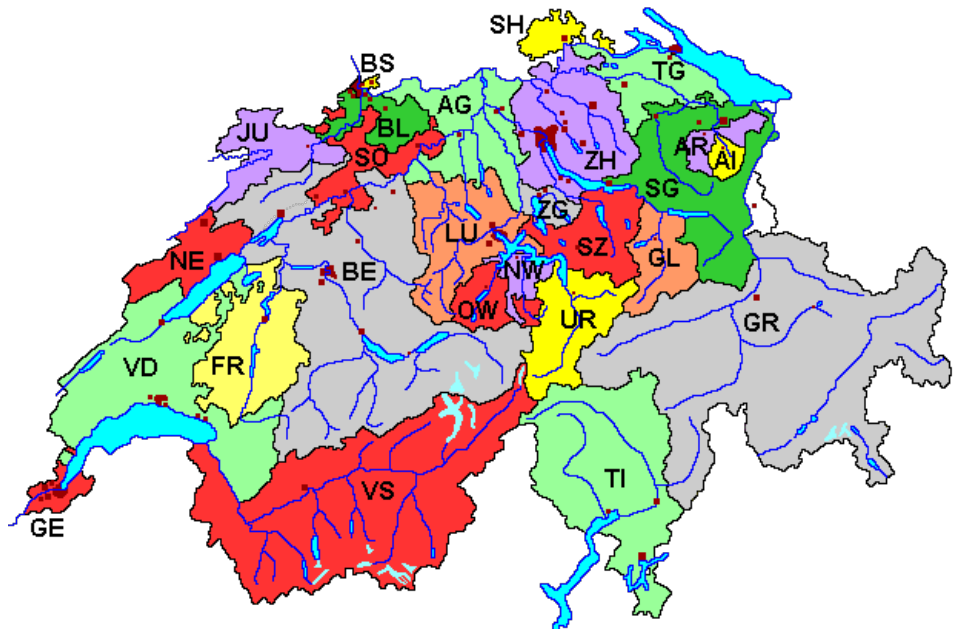
## The Route

**Switzerland**, is a landlocked country situated in the middle of Europe. It is composed of 26 cantons (regions), all fairly independent, with federal authorities and parliament seated in Bern. It is bordered by Italy, France, Austria, Germany and Liechtenstein. There are three geographically distinctive regions the Jura, the Swiss Plateau and the Alps.

There are four official languages (French, (Swiss-)German, Italian and Romansh) but English is taught at a very early stage at school, making it easy to communicate for tourist visiting.

The Swiss road network is excellent and in very good state. So is the public transport system! You will find a train station, a post office in pretty much every village you will ride through.

As mentioned in the introduction, we have decided to give you as much freedom as possible. When it comes to routing there are only the **following rules to follow** :



## Race validation/proof of passage

1. Start line : you can start **from any train station in Switzerland on the 2nd of September 2020 at 10:10 am**. You must take a photo of the clock with the name and location of your starting point. Pictures (geo tagged) need to be sent along with your name, bib# to : [info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike) **or can be shown upon arrival** You must have your GPS tracking system turned on at the time you start riding. **You can decide to leave later but the final time will be adjusted to the official starting time.**



2. **Proof of riding through a canton** : because our race is a bit different and because we did not want you to be completely “mobile phone dependent”, we came with the idea of combining a ‘brevet card’ with a ‘proof of passage’ in the form of **26 postcards**.

**You will be given 26 pre-stamped postcards**, one for each canton. For the weight weenies, do not worry, we made them small and thin!

- The front features the canton you want to validate.
- On the back, you will have to fill in the blanks : cap #, location, time and day + a couple of lines to share your feelings (not mandatory).
- All you have to do is find **a post office** or **a train station** and slip the card in the slot!  
DO NOT PICK A RANDOM MAILBOX, it must be:
  - located in a post office **or**
  - within approximately 1km radius from a train station.

**In the case of a train station being located outside of town, it is accepted to pick the closest mailbox in town provided the train station serves that town.**

**The option to take a geolocalized photo can only be used when there is a problem with the postcards and no possibility to buy one. You need to report the issue asap to the race organisers ([info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike))**

We also want to address some of the recurrent questions :

- Some train stations/post offices serve two different villages located in a different canton. In this particular case, there is no point in choosing 2 different mailboxes as the postcards will end up in the same post office.

*On the back of the postcard, you will be asked to write the name of the village you are in when you post it. If the stamp does not match the name, it will trigger automatic reviewing of your GPS tracker data. ALL WE WANT TO MAKE SURE IS THAT YOU HAVE INDEED RIDDEN YOUR BIKE THROUGH EACH AND EVERY CANTON.*

- The Gothard mailbox cannot be used to validate Ticino as there is neither a train station

(1km radius) nor a post office. You have to plan accordingly :-)

- To help you choose them, here is a link to the different official mailboxes (and use the filter « letterbox ») :

<https://places.post.ch>

Once we receive all the postcards, we will compare the location, time and date stated on the card to the GPS track. Should it be an issue, we will be contacting you and possibly ask for more details.

**You need to keep proofs of your passage in a Canton and it has to match the official GPS tracking data.**

- **Alternative accepted ? :**

If the card(s) is/are in bad condition and cannot be used at all you can either :

- a) buy a postcard and send it to the address listed above
- b) take a geolocalized photo of either the post office or the train station where you intended to send it from.

- **Train station or post office** (name must be readable)



3. Obey to the local traffic laws at ALL TIME ! Do not ride where circulation is not permitted and in particular, where bikes are not allowed

**You will be riding at your own risk.**

4. No drafting, no riding in groups, and using nothing but a self-propelled bike.

5. No taking public transport or boats.

6. **Finish line** : the finish line is in Berne, on the 'Place Fédérale/Bundesplatz', in front of the Swiss Parliament.



7 **Finisher party** : we have organised a gathering/celebration at a local café, Entrecôte Fédérale, ([www.entrecote.ch](http://www.entrecote.ch)) near the Swiss 'Capitole' **from 12pm on Sunday 6th (noon)**. If you do not intend to stay or be present, please let us know asap.

### **Important dates/deadlines**

To sum up, here are **the main dates to remember** :

- **10th August** : deadline to register for the race
- **12th August** : deadline for the payment. No payment received, no tracker, no race !
- **23rd August** : deadline to hand in the documents
  - Rider's Agreement
  - Proof of a valid travelling/rescue insurance/health and accident insurance
  - photo of bike setup and security equipment : helmet, lights, reflector
- **1st September** : a gpx file of your intended route. We do understand it might be subject to last minute changes and we promise to keep it secret, but it can help us better following you!

## Equipment / Bike recommendations

### Equipment

Depending on your route, you can be riding as high as 2500m where the weather can be unpredictable and quickly changing. Although we have asked for nice and warm weather, we have absolutely no guarantee you will not have to ride through storms and rain. So be prepared.

We can not do a complete bike check before the start, but there is a mandatory equipment that we try to keep as short as possible. You **will be asked to send us a picture of your setup** (bike, lights, brakes) **before the race starts (deadline August 23th)** :

- **-Front and Rear working lights.** Additional reflectors as well as high visibility vest is highly recommended.
- **-Helmet** and sunglasses
- **-Basic first aid kit** - this includes bandages, antiseptic/sterile wipes, medication as well as first aid kit for your bike!
- **-Suitable sleeping system** if you choose to sleep outdoors. Remember you are not allowed to sleep at friends or relatives'. We won't be enforcing a specific temperature rating for each piece of equipment, but rather, you should have with you equipment to be comfortable sleeping at relatively cold temperatures.
- **-Clothing** to face any given conditions that will be thrown at you.
- **A mobile phone** with internet access. We know some of you might be reluctant to it but it is a good way to communicate in case of emergency and depending on the method we opt for, it might be required for GPS tracking. Swiss mobile coverage is really good and prepaid SIM can be purchased from any shops.
- **A battery pack/charger (powerbank)** is often the easiest way to keep your electronic devices up and going but it is not a mandatory equipment..

### Bike recommendations

There are plenty of bike options that could be considered for this race but in the end, it will be up to you, mainly based on the route you have chosen.

With that being said, most of the roads are asphalt and/or very smooth or compact gravel ones. The ideal bike is something fast and light and more road oriented but more importantly, it has to be a bike you are comfortable with, accustomed to riding.

*To help you with your setup and to answer many of the questions you may have, here is a link to a very good website run by Chris White : <https://ridefar.info>*



**Tracking system :**

Satellite tracking is included in the race fee. We have to pleasure to announce a partnership with Legendstracking. Their system is simple, reliable and more so, very light.

In case of malfunction, please contact us asap. We will either try to reach you and provide you with a new device or try to fix it.

**The trackers along with the postcards and other practical info will be sent to your place directly, THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE START OF THE RACE. Please make sure you provide us with a valid address.**

## The Rules/Categories

In order to qualify as a finisher and to be listed in the general classification, you must complete the challenge **AND** follow all the rules of an unsupported bike race listed below.

The rules are set to ensure fairness and must be observed in order to be recorded as finisher. In case of doubt, please, collect evidence using your phone or camera and inform us using the official email address.

1. Ride from your chosen start line to the designated finish via the route of your choice but without ever crossing the Swiss border.
2. No 3rd party support, private lodgings or resupply. All food, drink and equipment must be carried with you or acquired at commercially available services.
3. Riders must not solicit any form of private resupply from locals on the race route, any such interaction must be freely offered and unplanned.
4. No drafting (other than pairs with their partners) .
5. All forward travel overland must be human powered.
6. All riders must maintain evidence of their ride.
7. Accident, rescue and liability insurances, cycle helmets, lights and equipment in the required equipment list are mandatory, we may be checking.
8. Riders must know and observe all local traffic laws.
9. Ride in the spirit of self-reliance and equal opportunity.

**Assistance** : you are not allowed to seek any outside assistance. That being said, if you are in a position where you cannot fix a mechanical by yourself, you may ask for the help of another rider but that immediately precludes you from being listed in the general classification.

In case of a mechanical you are unable to fix yourself and if you wish to stay in the race, you can use public transport to take you to a bike shop/town but **you must then ride back from the exact same location you were at the time of the mechanical**. Please, document everything as we will be asking for any proofs we think is necessary (bus ticket, taxi, shop receipts...).

**Emergency** : every unsupported bike race has its own policy, but we find that safety, health and ultimately, our survival is more important than anything else. It is just a bike ride after all!

Therefore, we will not disqualify you if you decide to act as a good samaritan and help a fellow rider in distress. You **must however report your act using the official mail** : [info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike). The rider being helped, if still able to carry on, will however not qualify for the finishers' list.

## Categories / Scratching

Regardless of the category you decide to sign up for it remains an unsupported bike race

There are **3 categories** : Make sure you select the right category (SOLO, PAIRS or RELAY) upon registration

**SOLO** : follow the rules above-listed, especially the one saying 'no drafting' at all time, finish before noon on the 6th and you will be awarded the finisher's title.

**PAIRS** : riding in pairs allows you to draft (only your partner!). You must both follow the same route and finish together in the Bundesplatz in Bern. We will follow both your progress on the map. In case of issues, we might ask for your gpx data. Pairs can share information, food and shelter but cannot get any outside assistance.

In one of the rider needs to scratch from the race, the other is allowed and encouraged to carry on to the finish line but will not be listed in the general classification, be it as a pair or solo.

**RELAY** : a special category for those of you who cannot take a few days off or are too nervous to embark solo/pairs on this adventure. **No more than 2 people per relay!** It is basically a split pair or a double solo.

Both of you have to sign up. Make sure you select the right category.

**Only on relay switch is allowed** but it can take place anywhere along the route. **You have to document it and inform the race organisers by mail** at [info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike) of the switch as *soon as possible after it has occurred, but no longer than 3 hours later*.

**Scratching** : we hope you will not have to resort to scratching from the race and strongly advise you not to take such decision after a long day on the saddle. Mike Hall used to say 'Don't scratch at night, sleep over it'.

In case your mind is still set in the morning, inform the organisers immediately via the mail address : **[info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike)**

Please note you will be responsible for arranging travel back home. We will not help you nor provide any assistance with booking tickets or hotel accommodations.

**Awards:** All finishers will receive their finisher medal upon crossing the finish line. There is no formal awards ceremony but finishers are encouraged to stay around the finish line and participate in the finishers' party.

**Insurance:** You are responsible for your own accident and liability insurance, costs of emergency evacuation, etc. International riders should verify that their insurances extends to both Switzerland and ultra-racing events. Being rescued by a helicopter is very expensive in Switzerland. Any damage claims from participants against the organisers, regardless of their legal reason, are void.

**Race cancellation:** The organisers reserve the right to cancel the race for safety reasons, for example if bad weather conditions prevail. Should the race be cancelled, the entry fee will not be refunded and the organisers will be released from performing their obligations.

**Photographic rights** : The organizers have the exclusive rights to use pictures which are taken by during, and after the event. Participants waive their right to disallow their images, voices and video to be published.

## Rider's Agreement

I understand the self-supported ethos is based largely on a code of mutual respect and self enforcement.

I understand bike riding and participating in an ultra cycling event like SUCH is potentially hazardous activity, which could cause injury or death. I waive and release the SUCH Swiss Ultracycling CHallenge organisers and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event.

I certify that I am medically able to perform this event, and am in good health, and I am properly trained.

I have read the rules in full posted on both the website and the Race Manual. Furthermore I have read the entire Race Manual and understand what it implies.

I understand I have to pay the fee to get an entry into the event.

I understand that the main contact for issues is the email at [info@such.bike](mailto:info@such.bike). Social media is not the way to contact race management about any issues.

I agree to unlimited usage of my image for any race media.

I understand the entry fee guarantees just the event entry, nothing else!

I agree to abide by the safety requirements listed in the Manual.

I agree to sign a hard copy of the Rider's Agreement

I agree to provide the organizers **with a proof of a valid travelling/rescue insurance/health and accident insurance**. I understand that I have been warned repeatedly to buy third party travel (+liability) insurance to ensure coverage for evacuation services and repatriation of remains.

I understand that the Such.bike logo is copyrighted. This means that they cannot be modified in any way. Only the organisers may authorise the use of the logo.

I will not use for commercial or non-commercial purposes, including publicity, fundraising, promotion or otherwise, any logo, name, trade name, or trademark of the SUCH Swiss Ultracycling CHallenge, including, without the organisers' prior, written, express consent. The organisers may withhold such consent in their absolute discretion.

I will remain solely liable for the payment of all and any taxes, surcharges, levies, imposts, fines, penalties or similar charges incurred by myself in connection with the participation of the myself in the event.

I will not make or permit to be made any public announcement(s) in relation to this agreement without the prior consent of SUCH Swiss Ultracycling Challenge nor disclose to any third party any information concerning the terms or subject matter of this agreement from the date here of.

I understand something catastrophic may cause the race to be unable to function and that I'll be guaranteed nothing in the case of an event of force majeure, natural disaster, political situation, etc.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel the race for safety reasons, for example if bad weather conditions prevail. Should the race be cancelled, the entry fee will not be refunded. Decision to carry on riding will be your own.

I fully understand unless I organize it, no one will track my location during the Event.

I understand that SUCH Swiss Ultracycling CHallenge retains all rights over intellectual property, this includes but is not limited to its name, logos, photos, and films.

I agree to all decisions by SUCH Swiss Ultracycling CHallenge in the management and execution of the race.

I understand that I can be ejected from the event if I am found to be in breach of the terms outlined in the Race Manual and the Rider's Agreement. Decisions made by the race organization will be final.

In case of litigation, we are under the Swiss law, the legal jurisdiction is the Canton de Vaud.

Contact in case of emergency : Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number : \_\_\_\_\_

Address where to send the starter kit (on the week of the 24th of August):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature