

Main Divide 2026 Rider Manual

Pringle Homes Main Divide Classic • Sunday 18 October 2026

Safety comes before the race

Every rider MUST carry a charged phone. Before you leave, save both numbers below so you can call for help.

Lead medic Stephen: 027 435 5101

Alex Mann: 027 277 6659

There is no following vehicle for every group. Riders must look after one another.

If there is a serious crash, all riders at the scene MUST stop safely and assist. Check that everyone is accounted for and okay, and make sure the medic has been called before anyone continues. Stay clear of live traffic and follow emergency instructions.

For a serious injury or emergency, call 111 immediately and ask for Ambulance. Do not wait for the medic to answer or call back. Notify Stephen and Alex as well, or ask another rider to do so.

This is a local bike race. No result or prize is worth someone's safety.

Mandatory group briefings: every rider must be on the start line 5 minutes before their own group start. The first group starts at 08:30 and the last group at 09:30 on Sunday 18 October 2026. There is no separate all-rider briefing.

This rider manual covers the course, preparation, sign-in, safety, key locations and event contacts. Read it before race day and follow the final instructions given at your group briefings. All times are New Zealand daylight time (NZDT).

Race day at a glance

Item	Current information
Race date	Sunday 18 October 2026
Course	Approximately 115 km. Start in Springfield, climb Porters Pass, continue beyond Castle Hill, turn and return to finish at the top of Porters Pass.
Group start times	First group (GO): 08:30. Last group: 09:30. Check the current start list for your assigned group and start time.
Sign on and briefing	Sign in at Springfield Hotel with Susan Mann. Allow time to get ready, then be on the start line 5 minutes before your own group start for your mandatory group briefing. Hotel: https://maps.app.goo.gl/cWBihusaFJnnJ1NX7
Your mark and start time	Use the current event entry/start-list page. Marks, groups and times remain updateable while entries continue.
Finish and prize giving	Susan Mann records finishes at Porters Pass summit on the return leg. Return your bib at the summit finish, or at Springfield Hotel if you miss the collection. Prize giving at Springfield Hotel begins shortly after the first 20–30 riders finish; later finishers join as they arrive. Nibbles provided; buy your own drinks.
Event contact	Alex Mann • 027 277 6659 • alex@peloperformance.co.nz

The essentials

- The roads remain open. Keep left, stay on your side of the centre line and obey road signs and normal give-way rules.
- Race officials and vehicles do not give you priority over public traffic. Approach bridges, the turnaround, junctions and the finish under control.
- Be on the start line 5 minutes before your own group start for your mandatory group briefing. Follow the issued route and instructions; do not improvise a turn or assume another rider has checked the road.
- Arrive with food, drink, suitable clothing and a safe plan for getting home. Support and transport arrangements must be confirmed before you rely on them.

The new course

The current event route starts in Springfield and finishes at the top of Porters Pass. The February 2025 Darfield to Arthur's Pass route, transport list and finish instructions do not apply to this race.

Section	What to expect
Springfield to the pass	Around 16 km before the Porters Pass climb. Confirm the exact assembly point, start line and departure route at your group briefing before you start.
Porters Pass and high country	Climbing, descending and exposed roads. Continue beyond Castle Hill along the issued course. Ride within the available visibility and road conditions.
Turnaround	Use the cone-turn location supplied by Alex: https://maps.app.goo.gl/wiD6S4xABkmJobSf8 . See the annotated reference image later in this manual. Final cone placement and approach/turn instructions must be confirmed at your group briefing.
Return to the summit	Return towards Porters Pass for the summit finish: https://maps.app.goo.gl/eiGgH3BzUMYM6wwg6 . Susan Mann handles summit timing. Confirm the exact finish line, safe clearing area and post-finish movement at your group briefing.

Current event route reference

<https://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/6780320091/>

This is the organiser's published route reference. Use the specific bridge, cone-turn and summit links supplied by Alex and reproduced in this manual. Follow the operational instructions and on-site setup explained at your group briefing.

Bridges and the turnaround

One-way bridge location: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JmbRGsfLKdnGu58s5>. OUTBOUND: riders MUST GIVE WAY. RETURN: your direction has signed priority, but you must give way to vehicles already on the bridge. Approach under control, obey the signs and check that crossing is safe. The photographs show the two approaches.

Slow down before any bridge or turn. Obey posted priority, check the road yourself and be ready to stop. Leave enough room for riders ahead to slow or stop. A rider signal never overrides a road sign or removes your responsibility to give way.

At the cone turn, slow early, follow the final race-day setup and the marshal's instructions, and check for oncoming and following traffic before turning. The road remains open; a marshal's presence does not give you priority over traffic. The red cone annotation is a location reference supplied by Alex; it does not establish an approved traffic-control layout.

Climbs descents and alpine conditions

Expect changing wind, temperature and visibility, as well as rough surfaces, grit and road debris. Control your speed before corners and descents. Leave room to react and pass warnings through the bunch without sudden movements.

Check the organiser's latest update before travelling. If the event is held, changed, neutralised or stopped, follow the Race Director's instructions. Do not continue onto an unconfirmed course.

Registration and racing

Sign in with Susan Mann at Springfield Hotel. Allow time to collect and pin your number and prepare your bike, then be on the start line 5 minutes before your own group start for your mandatory group briefing. Ask registration to correct any mismatch in your name, number, handicap group or start time before you race.

The start crew will release the authorised groups. Check your own start time again on race morning. Every rider must be on the start line 5 minutes before their own group start for a mandatory group briefing. The first group (GO) starts at 08:30 and the last group at 09:30. Do not use the Gorges start times or a prior Main Divide start sheet.

Ride predictably and fairly

- Start in your assigned handicap group. Your group briefing must confirm the event's rules for joining a catching group and contesting prizes.
- Keep left and do not cross the centre line, including during attacks, overtaking or a finish sprint. Ride single file when it is safe to allow vehicles to overtake. Do not move or pressure others into an unsafe road edge. Give way as required and respect other road users.
- Hold a predictable line, communicate hazards and leave room for other riders to react. Slow or stop promptly when required.
- Follow the final race rules and officials' directions. Report dangerous riding to the Race Director with the rider number and location when safe to do so.

Equipment food and clothing

- Use a roadworthy bike with effective brakes, secure wheels and suitable tyres. Wear a correctly fitted and fastened approved cycle helmet.
- Carry enough food and drink for the race. Alex has advised that personal support may supply a bottle at the cone turn. This is not an organiser-provided bottle service; the exact safe handover arrangement must be confirmed with the final turn layout.
- Every rider MUST carry a charged phone with Stephen's and Alex's numbers saved. Carry your usual puncture-repair kit. Do not rely on continuous mobile reception.
- Bring warm and weatherproof layers, including clothing for after the summit finish. Confirm how any finish bag or spare clothing will reach you before relying on that service.
- Confirm event-specific equipment restrictions, including aero bars, with the organiser before racing.

Warm area parking and supporters

Springfield Hotel is the warm up area. Please do not park in the hotel car park. Park only in areas confirmed by the organiser. Keep driveways, road shoulders needed for safety, start/finish space and emergency access clear. Use the designated toilets once access is confirmed.

For cycling warm-up, ride safely away from the assembly and release areas. Supporters must obey road rules and the issued parking plan. Bruce Blackburn is the confirmed lead vehicle driver. Follow the final lead-vehicle instructions; the vehicle does not close the road or give riders traffic priority.

Help withdrawals and the finish

Emergency help

For an emergency, call 111 and ask for the service needed. Give your location, road name, nearest landmark, direction of travel, what happened and how many people need help. Follow the operator's instructions. Ask another person to notify the event team if available.

Stop only where you can do so safely. Protect yourself from traffic and provide first aid within your ability. Do not enter live traffic or create another hazard.

Event contact: Alex Mann • 027 277 6659 • alex@peloperformance.co.nz

Lead medic in charge: Stephen • 027 435 5101. For an emergency call 111 first; do not wait to reach event staff. Confirm the medical support arrangements and communications fallback at your group briefing.

Mechanical problems and withdrawals

If you cannot continue, get yourself and your bike safely clear of traffic. Tell the event team your name, number, location and whether you need help. Report every withdrawal so the organisers can account for all starters. Do not leave without confirming that your withdrawal has been recorded.

John and Kevin will provide the return broom wagon after their cone-turn duties. Confirm the pickup procedure and rider/bike capacity at your group briefing. Do not assume the medical vehicle can provide recovery. Confirm a safe return plan with the organiser or your support person before starting.

At the summit finish

Hold your line, keep left and follow the final finish instructions. Continue under control beyond the line to the confirmed safe clearing area. Do not stop in a live lane or make an unplanned U-turn. Return your race bib to the team at the summit finish once safely clear. If you miss the collection there, return it at Springfield Hotel.

Prize giving at Springfield Hotel begins shortly after the first 20–30 riders finish. Later finishers can join as they arrive. Nibbles are provided and drinks are at your own expense. Confirm safe post-finish travel/descent and warm-clothing access at your group briefing. Remain clear of live traffic while waiting.

Rider checklist

- I will be on the start line 5 minutes before my own group start for my mandatory group briefing.
- I understand the current course, exact turnaround and finish-clearance instructions.
- My bike, helmet, number, food, drink, layers, phone and repair kit are ready.
- I know the event contact, confirmed medical contact and how to report a withdrawal.
- I have confirmed my post-finish and return arrangements.

Current information and entry conditions

Race information

<https://www.themaindivide.co.nz/race-info/>

Current groups and start times

<https://www.themaindivide.co.nz/start-list/>

Refer to the Main Divide conditions accepted with your entry. To be eligible for the separate KOM/QOM prizes, upload your race-day ride containing the outbound Porters Pass segment to Strava immediately after finishing and before prize giving. Follow the race rules and directions issued at your group briefing.

Bridge approaches

Use these photographs supplied by Alex with the bridge location and current road signs. Conditions may have changed since the images were taken.

[One-way bridge location](#)

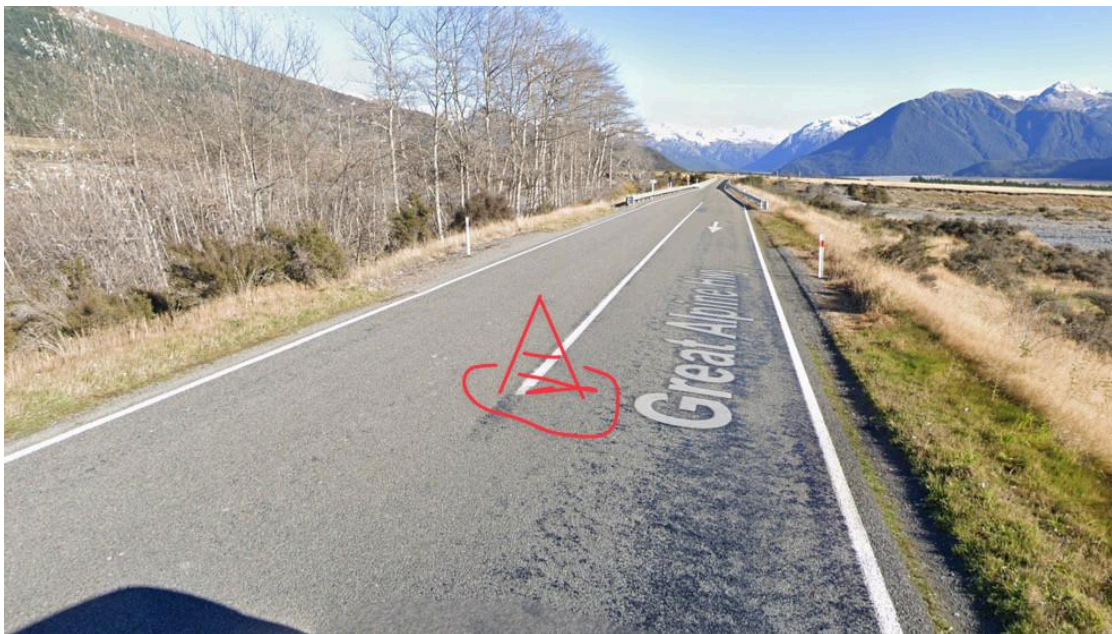


*Outbound approach: riders **MUST GIVE WAY**. Slow early, check for traffic and enter only when safe.*



Return approach: signed priority does not override vehicles already on the bridge. Give way to them and check the crossing is safe.

Cone turnaround



Alex's annotated cone-turn reference. The red marking is an intended location aid; precise cone placement and operating instructions require final confirmation.

[Cone-turn location supplied by Alex](#)

The map link opens a Street View position. It is not a surveyed cone position or an approved traffic-control drawing. Slow before the turn, check oncoming and following traffic, and follow the final race-day instructions.

Summit finish and separate Strava prizes

[Porters Pass summit finish location](#)

Susan Mann records every rider's finish at the top of Porters Pass on the return leg. The summit map link resolves to Porters Pass viewpoint; confirm the exact finish line and safe run-through at your group briefing.

[Strava KOM/QOM: Porters Pass outbound climb](#)

Porters Pass • 2.45 km. The KOM/QOM competition is on the substantial outbound climb from the Springfield side, early in the race. It is separate from the summit race finish on the return leg.

Separate KOM and QOM prizes go to the fastest race-day times on this outbound Porters Pass segment uploaded to Strava. To be eligible, riders must upload their race-day ride to Strava immediately after finishing and before prize giving. Move safely clear of the finish and traffic before using a phone. Susan records every rider's race finish independently. If regrouping after the climb, stay safely clear of traffic; do not stop in the roadway.

Prize giving

[Springfield Hotel sign-in and prize-giving venue](#)

Prize giving at Springfield Hotel begins shortly after the first 20–30 riders finish. Later finishers can join as they arrive. Nibbles are provided; buy your own drinks. Return your bib at the summit finish, or at Springfield Hotel if you miss the collection.