

Bike Team – Course Marshals 101

Saturday, April 22, 2017: 6am – 3 pm

Location: Race routes as assigned by individual position

Overview

As a Bike Team Course Marshal, you have multiple roles in helping to provide a safe and successful marathon. Over the years this position has been expanded from a position that monitors racers throughout the route to one that has specific tasks toward course safety and security.

Tasks will still include monitoring runners as they travel along the course; however, additional tasks will include reporting shortages of course team volunteers to the race operations center, covering for course team members when they are in need of a necessity break, and reporting unusual or dangerous conditions in your assigned area of the route. Following are the specific responsibilities you are assigned to complete.

- 1) You are assigned to cover the route starting at mile _____ and going through _____ to include any side routes for races other than the marathon (10K and half marathon finish). **Maps will be provided.**
- 2) Upon arrival in your assigned area, complete a pass through and look for any unusual or dangerous conditions (unmarked potholes, suspicious packages, unauthorized vehicles parked in marked no-parking sections of the course, etc.) and report them to the race operations center (217-333-4587). The initial sweep is also a good time to briefly introduce yourself to the course intersection volunteers within your assigned area.
- 3) Once the initial sweep has completed, return to the designated starting position. This year, four riders (two teams of two riders) will be assigned to specific stretches of the course. The first pair will begin patrolling your assigned area (**see attached table**). Ten minutes after the first pair begins, the remaining two riders will begin their patrol. To ensure a fairly consistent spacing of bike course marshals the second pair must wait 10 minutes before beginning their patrol! Please don't attempt to catch the first pair. It is acceptable and likely necessary for the team members to not consistently ride together. Use the buddy system but not necessarily riding together.

During this period, you should monitor the runners and provide support as needed. Monitor for unauthorized persons such as unauthorized bicycles, baby strollers, runners without a bib, runners or walkers with pets, and unauthorized vehicles. If encountered, politely speak with the person(s) and ask them to leave the course or move to the sidewalk or curb as appropriate. Report uncooperative individuals to race operations center (217-333-4587). After reporting uncooperative persons, maintain a safe distance that still allows you to stay in visual contact. When law enforcement arrive, point out the uncooperative person(2) prior to resuming normal patrol. You are also to provide necessity breaks to course team members as they may need. They will flag you down and let you know. Should you encounter an emergency within your area, call 911 and report the nature of the emergency.

Each pair will ride forward to the end point designated for your area, then return to your designated start position and repeat until (**see attached table**). **For the return lap, please use parallel streets or open opposing traffic lanes when looping back. It is unsafe to bike into the path of oncoming runners. This is especially important for the earlier miles and other locations where the course is heavily congested! Remember to obey all normal traffic laws!**

4) When the tail vehicles catch up to you, you may ride forward in support of runners in other parts of the course or you may complete your assignment and return home. Do not begin to move forward until you have been met by the tail vehicles! After meeting the tail vehicles, if you choose to continue to ride in support, continue to pulse forward as you encounter the bicycle teams forward of your assignment. Ride to the front then back to the tail. Please use parallel streets or open opposing lanes of traffic for the return lap.

a. Runner Support functions include monitoring the course for developing dangerous conditions, including unauthorized person on the course. In addition, runners should be monitored to identify individuals with potential serious medical issues and help should be called for as soon as possible. It should be kept in mind that weather conditions will impact runner health. Hot humid conditions may result in dehydration and overheating while a colder day may result in hypothermia (lowered body temperature). Refer to your medical emergency card and be aware of the differences between a runner who is tired and a runner who requires assistance.

Lastly, runner support includes providing word of encouragement to the runners.

Materials / Equipment

- Safety vest – to be worn at all times while on the course
- Bike Helmet
- Cell Phone
- Course map
- Critical Info Card/Emergency Alert Systems card

Questions?

If you have any questions between now and race weekend, contact Mike at michael.farkas@gmail.com or by phone at 217-299-0622.

We thank you for your service and hope that you have enjoyed it. Please provide your feedback to Mike about your experience and what steps we may take in the future to improve this assignment.