

# Valkyrie Moto Rally Rules and Guidance

There is so much more to rallying than we can possibly jot down in this document. If there's something you learned the hard way or a question you have and think should be included, please tell Nancy! We strongly encourage you to read both rider reports as well as daily reports from the Heart of Texas, IBR and LDX (and other events) to get more in-depth info from both rider and staff perspective. We will always answer your questions, but you will likely get more detailed information if you take the time to do a little research ahead of time. If there's something that isn't clear, please ask!

This document is broken into 3 sections. All participants are responsible for understanding the information in all 3 parts of this document. Some of the guidance here will follow in other events, some won't. But these guidelines will absolutely apply in this event and you are expected to follow them. ASK IF SOMETHING ISN'T CLEAR TO YOU!

To assist readers in finding specific information at the appropriate time, the three sections are as follows:

**I Things to Know Before Registration** – This includes some of the very basic requirements that all riders will need to comply with but are segregated out to assist a very first time rider who is trying to figure out what they need to participate before committing to it. Section II might be helpful as well because it describes many of the skills you'll want to possess before the start of the event.

**II Things to Know Before the Event** – This section describes some of things riders later tell us they didn't know or understand correctly when they needed to know it. You should be reviewing this document and working on the skills described months in advance of the event. This will give you time to ask questions, get help, maybe decide you need a different GPS and then you'll need time to order, receive, mount, and so forth.

**III Things to Know During the Event** – These are things applicable to you during the event. How to handle a found rider flag, what to do if you can't get to a bonus, and receipt requirements to name a few. We strongly recommend reading and knowing all of this PRIOR to the event, don't go looking for it when you need something mid-rally.

## **THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE REGISTRATION**

**Spotwalla** We would like you to have an active Spotwalla account enabled for the duration of the event. We won't have a public page for the event but you may share your info. Ask if you have questions about this.

**Refund Policy** - Entrance fees for our event are non-refundable and non-transferable.

**Insurance and License** – Your motorcycle must be properly registered and carry insurance. You will be asked to provide proof of current/active insurance and registration. You must be licensed with a motorcycle endorsement in your home state and you will be asked to provide a copy of your license showing this.

**Helmet and Appropriate Footwear** – You (and passenger if applicable) must always wear a DOT approved helmet while moving your motorcycle during your time with us. This includes riding around the start and finish prior to or after the event. If we see you riding helmetless or in stupid shoes, your participation in the current and future events is jeopardized.

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**Other Gear** – We recommend ATGATT (All The Gear All The Time). Your fellow riders will always be in sturdy boots, riding pants, riding jacket, riding gloves and quality helmet. We recommend that you are as well.

**Electronic Navigation** – It is certainly not required. You could theoretically do this event with paper maps. It'd be difficult, but possible. The event is geared toward, and most if not all, riders use mapping software of some sort and a GPS mounted on their bike where they load waypoints. Some folks use their phone to navigate as a backup only because you may well wind up in areas without cellular coverage for a period of time. There is more information related to GPS/navigation under Section II of this document – [Things to Know Before the Event](#).

**How to be a Finisher** – Each event will have specific requirements that must be accomplished successfully. Typically, this is in the form of minimum points to qualify as a finisher. You will be advised of what this is when the rally pack is presented to you.

**Submitting Bonuses** - You will submit your bonuses electronically to rally staff as you collect them. This will require you to have and know how to use a smart phone capable of sending photos. We will offer rider's the opportunity to use the HoT/LDX app but don't be overwhelmed by that. If you don't want to deal with it, you can email them from your phone.

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**Email and Other Correspondence from Rally Staff** – You are responsible to ensure that you make whatever settings adjustments to your email so that rally communications get to you. You are responsible to provide Rally Staff with the correct contact information for you. Obviously, if you do not, you will not receive important information. We never give or sell your information to anyone for any reason. The only reason we need your contact phone and email is to communicate with you.

You may receive emails from the following addresses:

[paultong971@gmail.com](mailto:paultong971@gmail.com)

[noswald372@gmail.com](mailto:noswald372@gmail.com)

[houstonhomebuyer@yahoo.com](mailto:houstonhomebuyer@yahoo.com)

[ldrallyred@gmail.com](mailto:ldrallyred@gmail.com)

[ldrallyblue@gmail.com](mailto:ldrallyblue@gmail.com)

[ldrallywhite@gmail.com](mailto:ldrallywhite@gmail.com)

You may receive phone calls or text messages from the following numbers:

(410) 530-7024

(214) 250-1340

(713) 305-1311

Add these to your contacts so that you don't think it's a car warranty call.

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You are responsible to respond to these communications PROMPTLY. If no deadline is provided in the communication, you should assume that means you respond within 2 days or so. If you do not, or if you fail to respond at all to repeated attempts to contact you, we will assume that you have dropped from the rally and cease attempting to contact you. Your name will be removed from the riders list.

All that said, if you feel like you should have heard something, but haven't, please reach out to rally staff just to ensure that you aren't missing something. Better to resolve this well in advance than have you show up at the start and we have no rally pack, swag or other provisions for you. Again, this is your responsibility to ensure that you are receiving correspondence from us and responding appropriately.

**Rally Specific Meetings (start meeting)** You should come prepared with a pen and be attentive during these meetings. Information presented in these meetings is as important as everything in this document and the rally pack. You are responsible to follow any guidance given and bonuses may be denied if you do not. This is not to punish you or make you look dumb. This is to be fair to everyone. If you didn't write something down and so didn't follow the instructions, but everyone else did, it isn't fair to the rest of the riders to let you slide on something. Ask if you have questions about this. The point here is that we are all here to have a good time, but there are times when you need to pay attention to what is being presented. You will absolutely be able to ask questions, we encourage you to ask questions.

**Making it to the Finish** – You must contact the rallymaster or your scorer if you will not return to the finish or will return too late to be a finisher. If you do not notify us, we will reach out to your emergency contact(s) if you go rogue without telling us. We get it if you are pushing to get to the finish so don't want to stop. But if 30 minutes have elapsed since the end of the DNF time and you haven't contacted us, your emergency contact is getting called.

**Not Making it to the Start** – You really need to tell the rallymaster. Your registration is never transferable. However, we expect you to be respectful and let the rallymaster know you will not make it. A great deal of work goes into preparing for each participant. Please be courteous and let us know if you are not going to make it.

**Accidents** – Unfortunately, they happen. You must contact your scorer or the rally master if you are in one regardless of its impact on your ability to finish.

**Tire Plugging** – Learn how to get yourself going from a flat tire and carry what you need to accomplish it. For most, this is a plug kit of some sort and a pump. For some, it might mean tube changing or patching along with a pump. Whatever your needs, learn to get yourself going from a flat. This is not a requirement, but we really really really encourage you to do this.

**Aux Fuel** – we follow the Iron Butt Association guidelines with a max total capacity of 11.5 gallons. See the IBA's full details for further information. Aux fuel is not required at all. But if you use it, follow the IBA guidelines. Ask if you don't know how to find that info.

**Social Media** – We want you to be focused on your ride, not any kind of social media. As such, we have established a no social media policy. This includes posting on your pages, other peoples' pages, liking content, sharing content, pretty much anything where you engage with social media outside of just viewing. This pertains to any moment from the beginning of the start meeting until you have completed final scoring and includes any rest breaks and meal breaks. All of that said, you are welcome and encouraged to share your experience AFTER the event. You may take photos and videos or make notes

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or whatever else to put together your content during the event. We just do not want you interacting on social media during the event. Just please always remember that your safety must be your first priority at all times. Do not ever risk your safety to create content. This rule might change in the future, but for now, this is our policy.

**Can I Store Stuff at the Host Hotel?** – If you're just talking about a bag of clothes or something, yes. If the hotel doesn't have a spot, you can leave it in a staff member's room. If you're talking about a spare engine or something, check with the rallymaster.

**Outside Assistance** Riders will not receive undue assistance related to the collection of bonuses during the event. The rallymaster will determine what constitutes "undue assistance". There are so many variables here, it is best summarized as you must plan and execute your ride solely through your own individual effort. Established teams and 2-up bikes are considered as individuals within their formed unit. If anyone provides you information or an advantage that enhances your efforts, of which other riders could not also gain through their own individual efforts, this is prohibited. As with all considerations, we apply the reasonable standard to evaluate this standard. You can always contact the rallymaster or a scorer if you have a question or need help with something.

**Bike Maintenance/Repairs** – The event is not responsible for any maintenance or repairs on your bike for any reason. You should ensure that you head out with appropriate vehicle maintenance and tire tread. Or you must have plans to accomplish this yourself. Again, the event is not responsible for this in any way. Do not change your oil in a parking lot and leave the used oil. Accomplishing your own maintenance means also dealing with the residuals of it. This is an amazing community and if you need something on the road, there's a decent chance you will be able to find someone to help you if you speak up.

**GPS** Not required but if you use one, know how to load waypoints into your GPS. Know how to do basic navigation on your GPS. It is extremely helpful to know how to check on the fly what changes to your plan would mean downstream. For example, should you drop a bonus? Do you have time to add one? Again, you will really want to use some kind of navigation device. Learn how to use it PRIOR TO the event. This is the time where outside assistance is ENCOURAGED. Ask folks who have done it.

**Rally Flag (Planning)** Think about how you will include your rally flag in your photo. You should be prepared to deal with a traditional rally flag (approximately 12" wide by 18" tall). Selfie sticks are really helpful. Skirt hangers, duct tape, magnets (rare earth are REALLY strong!), all sorts of things can assist with a means to include your flag in a photo. Don't forget that wind can present a challenge as well. Your rider number must be clearly visible for your photo to count. If the wind is blowing your flag up and obscuring the number, you may be denied the bonus. Lead fishing weights might help hold it down. Or duct tape, magnets, you get the idea. The best solution will vary with the object of interest. You are expected to deal with the challenges of the road and conditions.

**Routing Software** You will probably want to learn how to run various routes in a navigation software like Base Camp or Google Maps. Do not stress about Base Camp if you don't know it. Google Maps is completely acceptable and if you need help with that, ask well ahead, we will help you.

**Stuff you'll receive** – the specifics of this may vary by event. But in general, you will receive a rally pack containing a rally book, bonus claim form, rally flag and an electronic version of the waypoints as a .gpx file, possibly other items such as an excel file to help you calculate your score. There could be other items

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if appropriate to the event. If you start with staff, we will have printed copies of the rally book and score sheet. If you start remote, we will email the files to you and you can print on your own, or just work electronically.

**Scoring** – Because riders are constantly submitting bonuses as they go, we are constantly scoring as riders gather bonuses. This makes the scoring process really quick and easy. You will be expected to complete your bonus claim form as the event progresses. We won't collect it from you, but you will need it to know whether or not we gave your proper credit when you come to scoring. You will be handed a print out of what we have for you, you review it and sign if you agree with it. If you think we missed something, you will need your completed bonus claim form to question anything. No completed bonus claim form, no questioning what we did. We will review your photos and discuss anything we think you could do differently in the future with each rider if desired. This is not required, but available if you would like.

**Where can I get help** – You can ask on the event forum, Facebook, your friend, your neighbor, You Tube videos, whatever works. But you need to do this well in advance of the event. Not as you're sitting in your hotel room trying to figure out how to get the waypoints on your GPS. Once the event starts, and by that we mean the riders meeting, you really should have all of these skills in your toolkit.

## THINGS TO KNOW DURING THE EVENT

**Collecting Bonuses** – You are required to physically travel to each location and follow the instructions in the rally book. This is typically taking a photo of the object of interest with your flag. There might be other requirements – such as including your motorcycle or you being in the photo.

**Inability to get to a bonus** – you must document that all means of getting to the bonus are unavailable. If you approach from the east and the road is closed, but another rider comes from the west and successfully collects the bonus, you will be denied the points. If there is some other circumstance that prevents you from getting the bonus, call your scorer. You must attempt to collect the bonus by physically traveling to the location and taking a photo of your flag and the blockage(s).

**Interaction with the Public** – People do not understand our sport but how you interact with them will definitely shape their future opinion. Remember, you are an ambassador, not just for this rally, not just for the rallymaster, but for all other long-distance events out there. Be polite and courteous. If someone has questions, feel free to refer them to the rally website where means to contact the rallymaster can be located if you don't have the time (or patience!) to interact with them.

**Replacing a motorcycle** – One aspect of a long-distance endurance event is testing the ability of the rider to prepare themselves and their mode of transportation. If your motorcycle breaks down, you can have it towed to be repaired, but you go back to the site of the breakdown to resume your ride. You may replace a motorcycle if yours cannot be repaired, but again, you will need to go back to the point of the breakdown to resume your ride.

**Speeding and safe riding** – Speeding is not tolerated. Period. You may or may not be given a warning. In fact, it's so unlikely you will, consider yourself lucky if you do get a warning. We will not give a specific definition of what constitutes speeding other than to say if a reasonable law enforcement officer would stop and ticket you for it, that's unacceptable speeding. Lucky for us, we happen to have a reasonable

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law enforcement officer on staff. We will also not give a clear definition of the potential penalty. The penalty, if so assessed, will fit the crime in the opinion of our very own RLEO (Reasonable Law Enforcement Officer). In the unlikely event there is some kind of reasonable explanation, present it, but chances of acceptance are extremely slim. Don't speed. Period.

Along these lines, because we sincerely care about your safety, any manner of reckless driving, impaired driving (either by fatigue, stimulants, other), or any other activity a reasonable person would agree is unsafe will never be tolerated. The punishment will fit the crime.

You are also never permitted to operate your motorcycle on any surface not intended for a motorcycle. We are not talking about a gravel pull out where you stop to put your heated gear on. We are talking about sidewalks. And other places. Again, reasonable person's determination here.

**Help! The app is locked up!** – This happens. Just like any app, program, or electronic gadget, it gets tired sometimes and needs a little reboot. CLOSE the app. Don't just move off it, close it. Reopen it. This almost always fixes the problems. Very infrequently, a phone restart is needed to unstick the app. If you're in the middle of a meal or sleep bonus, take a screen shot or jot down the start time showing in the app. It *\*should\** be retained, but hey, let's be careful. Your scorer will work with you to make corrections or adjustments as needed.

**Wait, who is my scorer?** This information will be provided at the rally start. You should make sure that you know who your scorer is and store their name/phone number in your phone. Your scorer will be your best friend throughout the event to help you with questions, issues, concerns. They are experienced rally riders who can work with you to resolve issues. In fact, if you are having an issue, your best bet is to include your scorer in your attempts to resolve it for maximum success. This is primarily for bonus collecting/app/availability things, but seriously, we want to help you with whatever it is you need help with. Reach out to us. We are available 24/7 throughout the rally. Obviously, we sleep too so if it's not important, wait until 'normal' hours. But if it's important or you're stressing a bunch, CALL US!

**Meal bonuses** - The intent of a meal bonus is to get the rider off the bike and have a nutritious meal. Side stand remains down for the duration. We recognize some folks have a different opinion of "nutritious," we expect you to go to a restaurant and order food. Not a bag of chips and a soda at a gas station. You are required to produce a receipt showing the name and address of your chosen restaurant, as well as date and time of purchase. The receipt should itemize your purchase. Don't use the credit card receipt, use the actual bill showing what you bought. You might need both to satisfy all requirements if one shows the food purchased and the other the name/address/date/time. If you are in doubt, please call your scorer. We want to give you the bonus, but if you do stuff on the road without discussing it with us, it may be denied. And seeing as we think the meal bonus is important, that's likely to hurt your finishing position. You may not use a meal receipt for any other bonus

**Rest bonuses** – the intent of the rest bonus is to get the rider off the bike and get some quality rest/sleep. You will be expected to get a receipt documenting the start of your rest and then another receipt documenting the end of your rest. This could be a gas receipt, small purchase from a store, ATM, whatever you can get. You can use a restaurant receipt but remember that you cannot use a meal bonus receipt for a second purpose. Your receipt should have the address on it (minimum city and state) and they must be from the same city. While we understand that you might need to travel a little from a receipt to a resting place, this should be minimal. If it's more than minimal, you should call your scorer to discuss. As

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an example, if you are going to sleep at a friend's house, but the nearest receipt place is 7 miles away, call your scorer. While we encourage you to stay in a hotel to get good rest, we will never accept a hotel receipt as documentation. They are notoriously inaccurate and easily altered. We do not accept hotel receipts for anything. You may not collect bonuses or travel during your rest bonus. You may not use a start or end rest receipt for any other bonus.

**Acceptable receipts** – As a general rule, receipt must be computer generated and contain the name and address of the business as well as the date and time of transaction. It is a very good idea for you to underline or circle these items as a way of reminding you to look for them and to help your scorer find them easier. Your scorer is very nice to you, it would be nice for you to do the same. 😊 If you encounter an issue with your receipt – perhaps some of the information is missing or the time is incorrect, call your scorer. We will always work with you when you include us in your decision-making process. There are many possible solutions depending on the specifics of your case but include us in the process for the highest chance of success.

### Example of receipt submission –

#### Meal





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## Sleep



**Rally Flag (During)** - Your rally flag MUST be in ALL photo submissions unless there is a specific statement that it is not required. If something just says "Take a photo of..." Your photo must include your rally flag. If you do not, your submission will be denied. Also be aware that your rider number must be clearly visible on your flag. If the wind blew your flag over or the flag is completely backlit or it's backwards and looks like a different number, you will likely be denied. It is your responsibility to check your photo before submitting.

**Two up bonus submissions** The pillion's FACE must be in all photo submissions unless specifically stated otherwise. The only exception to this is meal and sleep receipt submissions. More than the pillion's face may be in the photo, but the face must be recognizable.

**Losing your rally flag** – Oh, this is unfortunate. We're sorry this happened to you. You now must have the object of interest plus your face in each photo. If you are a two up, BOTH rider AND pillion's face must be in each photo submission. You also lose half your points. You will be asked to present your rally flag at the finish check-in. You will not need it at scoring unless otherwise instructed.

**Finding another rider's flag** – LEAVE IT, DO NOT TAKE IT, MOVE IT, OR TOUCH IT. They may come back for it as has happened many times before. Only to find their flag is gone, taken by another rider. Do not



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take their flag. If you know who it is by the rider #, you may call the rider, or you can let your scorer know. But unless the rider or a staff member specifically asks you to do something with the flag, leave it where you saw it.

**Develop Your Process** – Arriving at a bonus location requires several actions you must complete, including checking the bonus requirements, taking the photo, submitting the photo, recording the stop information, and more. Many a rally tale has been told of a rider who “lost their chance” because they forgot to do something at a bonus location after being distracted. If a LD fan or other person seeks to disrupt your process, polite request they wait until you are done with your tasks, then you can respond (again refer to **Interaction with the Public**). Have a process in place, a mental or physical checklist you perform every time you stop and before you begin moving again.

**Late Penalty** – unless advised otherwise for a specific event or at the personal direction of the rally master, arriving late will incur penalties that get ugly fast. 2 to the power of minutes late.

Examples:

2 minutes late =  $2^2 = 4$

5 minutes late =  $2^5 = 32$

10 minutes late =  $2^{10} = 1,024$

15 minutes late =  $2^{15} = 32,768$

20 minutes late =  $2^{20} = 1,048,576$

### Final Thoughts:

The rallymaster's primary job is to ensure you are able to safely start and safely complete the rally event. The rallymaster's job and that of their staff is to help riders successfully claim their bonuses submissions. When in doubt, contact your scorer. You will find that 99% of all problems can be quickly resolved by a quick call or text to the staff. Texts and emails are nice but we understand typically you need an answer now, not when we get around to it. When in doubt, just call. Do not hesitate to call as the only dumb question is the one not asked. All matters are important because if it rises to the level you need to contact rally staff, it's important. Be patient with rally staff, with hotel staff, and with other riders. Bring issues to the rallymaster. If you involve us in the problem-solving process, we will bend over backwards to assist you. It is when a rider tries to implement a “creative” solution that bonuses are denied and issues abound. The rallymaster always has the final say, this does not mean you cannot ask to discuss a situation, but the rallymaster's decision is final.

Thank you for choosing to ride with us. Without you, the rider, rallies would not be possible.