

# Rouge Roubaix

*2022 Technical Guide*



# 20 Years

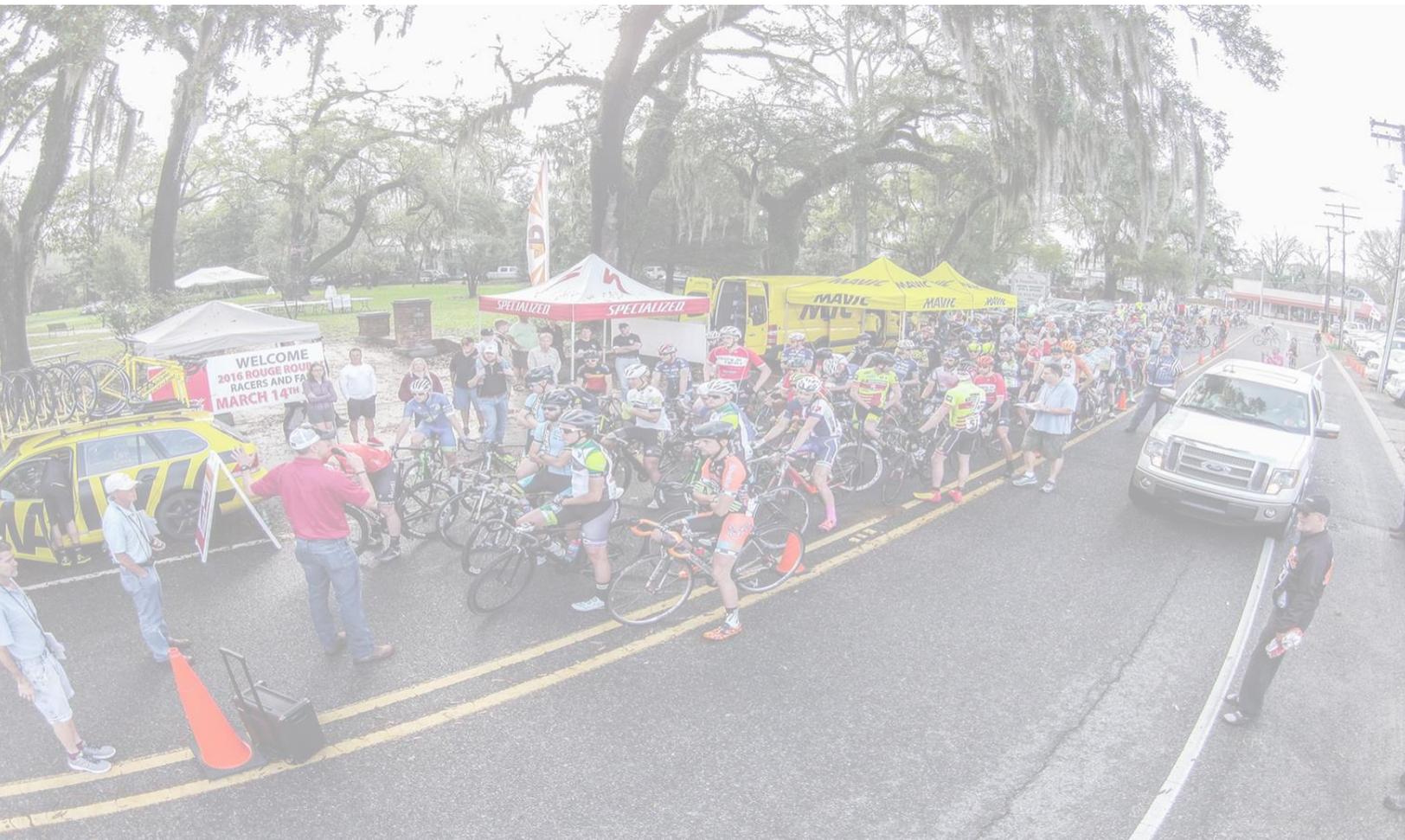


# Rouge Roubaix XX

Although it has been 5 years since the last running of the event, we are celebrating not only its return but 2 decades worth of history. Since its inception Rouge Roubaix has evolved and grown from an idea in Jon Anderson's mind, to the first group ride challenge, to a full-blown categorized race with a nice prize purse. Riders from all corners of the country and even Europe have participated. Rouge Roubaix was gravel before gravel was something. Rouge Roubaix is not a gravel race. To fit Rouge Roubaix into any one category is a mistake, the event is simply a true hybrid. In the years since this event started many things have changed in cycling from equipment to popularity of discipline but Rouge Roubaix consistently delivers the components of what makes most of us want to hop on a bicycle and push oneself to their limits. Rouge Roubaix XX will feature some of the original segments from the first years, the feature segments many have come to know the event for, as well as some new sections that are amongst the most popular roads in the area. This year's format may be different than the last edition, but the same spirit and passion remains. Time and Mother Nature will determine what the future holds for the course, but rest assured knowing Rouge Roubaix will live forever. There are many people who have held the torch over the years, I am happy that we have kept the fire burning even if we seemed to be down to the embers a few years ago. I want to welcome everyone to the event and though you may not see too much of me during the race, know that the race staff, volunteers and I are here for you. Any feedback is appreciated. Please be respectful to each other and of the local residents. The Town of St. Francisville has welcomed us back. Just like the roads on the course there is always good, bad and ugly history. Let's stay positive and focus on the good, avoid the bad and not be ugly to one another. Although this is a race and timed event if you see a fellow competitor in dire need please do the right thing and help. Cycling is dangerous, the route here is relentless, pay attention, know your limits, understand the risk, follow the rules of the road, make good decisions and look out for yourself and the riders around you. There could be loose dogs, deer, cows, horses or cars appear at any moment around a curve. At some point it may not be fun until it's over and you can reflect on it. In the end I hope everyone gets the best from themselves on course and shares the experience with others to keep fanning the flame.

Sincerely,

Will



# Schedule of Events

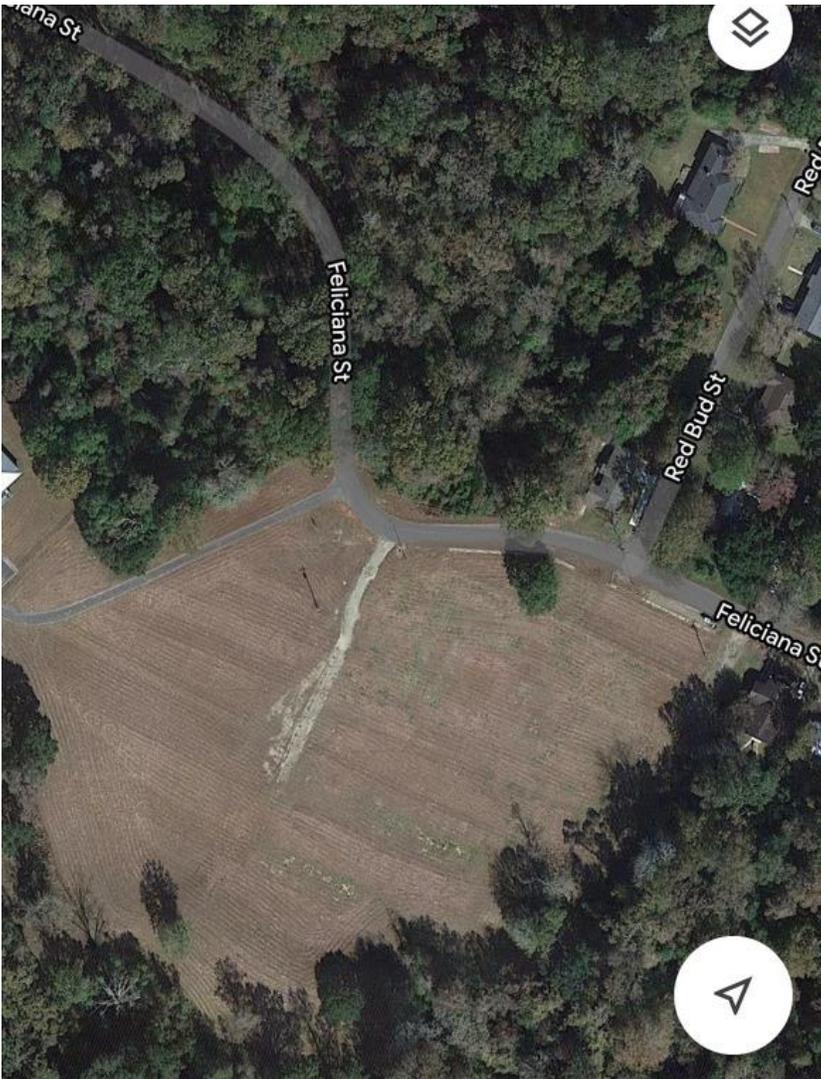
Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Location

*Race Start and Finish Site*

[4597 Feliciana St, St Francisville, LA 70775](#)

4:00pm - 7:30pm: Packet Pickup & Expo **It is Highly encouraged to pick up packets during this time.**



Packet pick up will be in the field near the road as you come up the finish hill from Ferdinand St.

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Location**

*Parking, Staging, Start & Finish Area\**  
[4597 Feliciana St, St Francisville, LA 70775](https://www.google.com/maps/place/4597+Feliciana+St,+St+Francisville,+LA+70775)

\*This is a new staging and finish area from previous years.



6:00am: Packet Pickup

6:45am: Rouge Roubaix & Short Course Staging

- Corral I: Pro & Cat 1/2 Riders
- Corral II: Cat 3 & 4 Riders
- Corral III: Cat 5 Riders
- Corral IV: Unlicensed & First Time Riders
- Corral V: Short Course Riders

6:55am: Briefing

7:00am: Rouge Roubaix & Short Course Rollout

Post-Race Food will be ready as you cross the finish line.

Awards will be presented once the majority of finishers are in.

# Staging

The staging procedure for Rouge Roubaix XX will include **5 corrals**. While a USAC license is **not** required to race, we have decided to group riders according to their respective USAC Road Category to sort groups into similar ability levels. If you are unsure which Corral you should be in, please reach out to us!

## **Corral I:** USAC Pro / Category 1 / Category 2

*Active USAC licenses are not required to enter this corral. If you are a current or former Cat P/1/2 rider and believe you belong at the front, then we welcome you to corral I.*

## **Corral II:** USAC Category 3 / Category 4

*Active USAC licenses are not required to enter this corral. If you are a current or former Cat 3/4 rider and believe you belong at the front, then we welcome you to corral II. This corral is also recommended for riders formerly competing in the master's category*

## **Corral III:** Novice

*For riders who are looking to be competitive and have little or no race experience. This corral is for spirited beginners looking to ride a fast time. This group would formerly be known at Category 5*

## **Corral IV:** Recreational "Gran Fondo" Riders

*Riding for completion. Formerly the Gran Fondo group, these riders are prepared for a long day in the saddle. While riding at their own pace, these riders should be mindful of the time cut procedures and adjust their pacing accordingly.*

## **Corral V:** All short course riders

# Rollout

The rollout will consist of a semi rolling enclosure with sheriff's escort and follow for the first ~ 4 miles. All corrals will follow one another within this neutral rolling enclosure. We will be restricted to 1 lane and the pace will be < 20mph to keep the entire group together until the last follow deputy is off of Hwy 61 and onto hwy 10. This turn is 2.1 miles from the start. Once everyone is onto hwy 10 and past the sinkhole, the race will go live. The lead Sheriff's vehicles will accelerate and move to the next few turns. At ~ mile 25 the Sheriff's dept will cease following the race. The official lead vehicle, a yellow Jeep with Rouge Roubaix window flags will lead race through the entire course. Sheriff's deputies will then man the major turns and of course the Hwy 61 crossing. This intersection will be mandatory stop for most people outside of the lead groups. It is also is right after the first SAG and feed zone. The lead groups should not have to stop but you are responsible for your own safety and should be prepared to check to be sure traffic is controlled and it is safe to cross. **DO NOT blow through any turn or intersection without checking for safety.** Ride the shoulder of Hwy 61 to Island rd. The course is open to traffic so do not take the lane on 61, it is a wide shoulder.

## *Rules and Rider Expectations*

Each rider is expected to be prepared for a challenging day of riding and racing over varying terrain. Our course will challenge the best and most experienced racers and be an adventure for those that have just chosen to test themselves. **The course is OPEN to Traffic, you are expected to respect rules of the road and be responsible for your own safety as you would if you were out for your normal Saturday ride.** It is encouraged that you have everything you will need to fix a flat or two as well as basic mechanical issues. A rear taillight is encouraged as there is a good chance you will be in very small groups before the finish. Once on the west side of the route traffic will be very light but the more visible you are the safer it is for everyone. Everyone is expected to follow normal racing rules and not take unnecessary risk. Aerobars are not allowed. There will be some bad potholes and loose gravel and sand in some areas. Certain sectors of the course are very bumpy so be careful eating or drinking. There should not be much standing water as the current forecast doesn't have much rain in the next week but avoid standing water because there is no way of knowing the depth of the hole it fills. There are also 2 pinch points on the route where it is best to be prepared to slow way down. These are the first 2 low water bridges at mile ~39 and ~ 55.5. The first bridge the best line is on the left side as the right side is usually wet and slick. The second bridge has been decommissioned by the parish and has a single line through the barricades that is rideable, but some may choose to dismount and walk, don't be reckless on either bridge as there is plenty of room to race or chase after these points. Both bridges have the capacity to catch a wheel if you are not paying attention. Follow vehicles are not allowed. Feeding outside of the designated areas is also not permitted. Please do not litter the course, drop all trash or bottles at the SAG areas. Also please do not expose yourself in public. IF you must relieve yourself be discrete. There will be a toilet at SAG 1 and a public rest room at the trail head at ~ mile 90.



## Full Course

The course will be marked with clear signage, but it is still advised to download the course file to your GPS head-unit.

**The route has been returned to the original start and is different from the previous Tech Guide**

*The Rouge Roubaix XX course features a new east loop and added pave and gravel sections. At 127 total miles, completion of the course will be as challenging as it has ever been in the history of the race. Approximately 20% of the course is gravel/dirt. With 80% of the course still on pavement, riders should match their bike and gear setup to their riding style, skill, and level of competition. Weather and course conditions will also influence the best gear choices of the day. As is tradition, the race day course is subject to change based on what mother nature has in store for us. **The course will completely open to traffic.***

**Distance:** 205 km / 127.1 mi

**Total elevation gain:** 1,696 m / 5,563 ft

[Ride with GPS LINK](#)

**SAG Stops with neutral support**

~Mile 45 hwy 421 & 61 Plus Feed zone

~Mile 79 End of Raccoon Rd. No personal Feeds

~Mile 90.5 Unsupported Feed zone

~Mile 107 Old Tunica Rd. Plus Feed zone

Restroom stop at 45 and 90.5

## Course Elements

The following are cautious course elements which include gravel sections, pavé (cobble/rough roads), and low-water bridge (LWB) crossings. There are 6 gravel sections in the full course route totaling 26 miles of gravel or roughly 20% of the course. While most of the roads of the course can be rough at times, we chose to designate 3 pavé sections we consider notable. There are 3 low water bridge crossings with one requiring a dismount. MTB/CX shoes are recommended. **Short course** riders will have the same course elements up to mile 55.5, then after the Sligo LWB, will make their way south to pick up the Greenwood Forest and continue the same course elements from there. Be aware of loose animals and wildlife.

There is a good chance there could be loose dogs, we have had a loose horse. I came across a loose cow in the road recently and at previous Rouge Roubaix a rider was taken down by a startled deer. Pay attention at all times.

Mile 29.5: Whitstown gravel 4.1 mi

*This will be a timed segment for bragging rights and bonus swag.*

Mile 39.3: Morris Rd gravel & low water bridge crossing 1.6 mi



*\*CAUTION\* This gravel section is short and includes a 90 degree right turn down to the low water bridge. It is highly advised riders cross single file as there is typically **one** good line to take across. Once across the bridge, the gravel road turns up for a 0.6mi moderate gravel climb*

Mile 47.9: Island Rd. gravel plus pavé / mixed surface 5.7 mi

*The longest single pavé segment of the day that slowly rises in elevation and has enough twists and turns to make sure you're paying attention*

Mile 55.5: Sligo low water bridge crossing (dismount may be required)



*This bridge is permanently closed to motor vehicle traffic. There will be a single-track rideable line for riders to enter the bridge, ride across, and again to exit. Give each other some room. If you choose to dismount and walk, make sure you are clear of riders trying to ride through.*

Mile 59: North Fork gravel 9.5 mi

Mile 73.1: Racoon Rd gravel 4.4 mi

Mile 88.1: Fort Adams gravel 2.4 mi

*This segment features the first of two named gravel climbs: Blockhouse hill.*

Mile 103.6: Old Tunica gravel 4.1 mi

*The premier segment of the race featuring the second of the two named gravel climbs: Big Bertha.*

*This is also a timed segment with additional swag.*

Mile 114.9: Greenwood Forest pavé 3.2 mi

Mile 118.8: Metz pavé 2.9 mi

Mile 122.5: Creek rd. very short gravel

Mile 122.8: Cr-225 (Mahoney) low water bridge crossing

## *Short Course*

We are excited to introduce for the first time a short course option as part of the Rouge Roubaix experience. Do not be fooled! This course presents a challenge to even the most experienced riders. The short course follows the first 57 miles exactly as the full route. At mile 57 the routes split until they rejoin at the entrance to the Greenwood Forest where they again are exactly the same for the last ~13 miles. Most of the Sligo road section of the difference has been part of many Rouge Roubaix events though ridden in the opposite direction. Although the short course misses the big gravel sectors and the 2 major climbs of the north end of the course it is still enough to carry the spirit of the event and should you find it appetizing enough you will want to come back next time for the full course. *Short course riders as advised to use caution at the junction point if they are riding along long course riders. **There will be 1 SAG stop at Mile 44.6.***

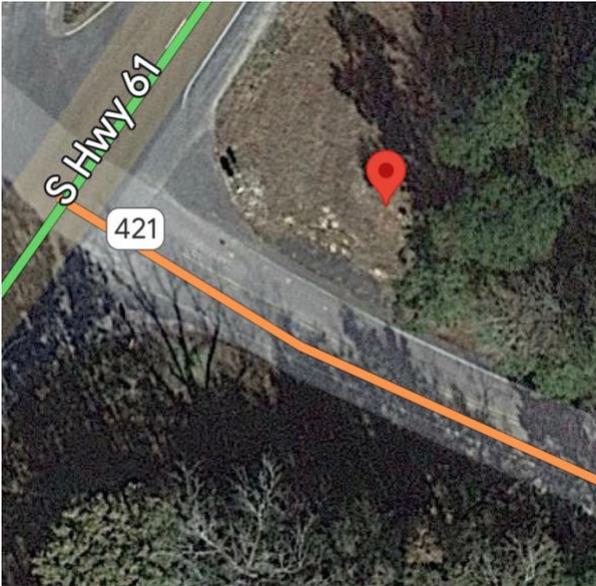
[Short Course GPS link](#)

## *Finish Line*

The finishing sequence of the race will begin with the well-known left-hand turn onto Ferdinand St where you can see the town at the top of the hill. In the most recent editions of the race, the finish line **WAS** at the top of this hill. Now riders will come up the hill and continue down Ferdinand St to take a sharp right hand onto Feliciana St taking you down a sharp downhill with one final short steep hill to finish. The new finish line is roughly 1 km further from the old one. This finish line will be clearly marked but check with the timer after you cross to be sure you have been scored.

# SAG Stations

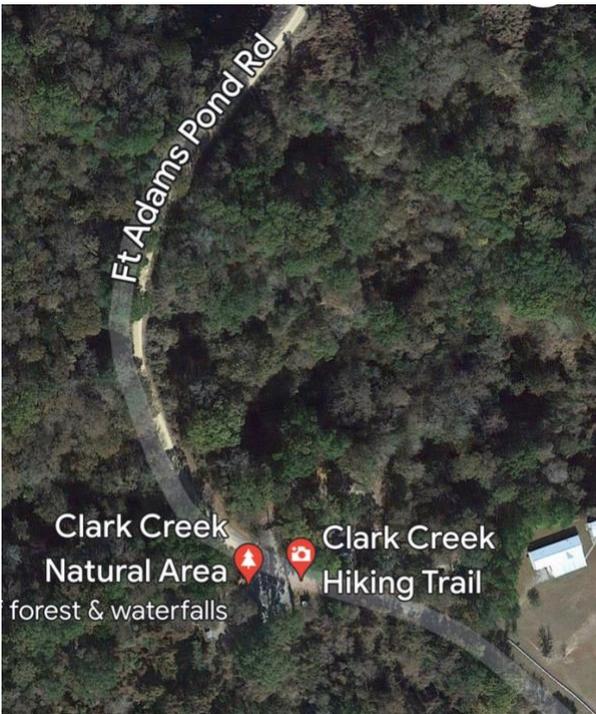
There will be 3 SAG stops (1 for Short Course) along the Rouge Roubaix Course. They will be located at miles 44.6, 78.7, and 107.6. Aid stations will be providing water, sports drink, and a variety of foods. The aid stations will also have technical support (see below) Each SAG will also do as much neutral feed support as possible, for those not wanting to stop. In addition to the neutral support, you will be allowed to have a personal Feed at SAG 1 & 3 or a second Personal Feed at the unsupported FZ at mile 90.4 The FZ at mile 90.4 may require paying the park ranger to park at the trailhead. Personal follow vehicles are not allowed.



SAG and FZ 1



SAG 2



Un-supported FZ 2



SAG 3 and FZ 3

## Support Personnel movement on course



From FZ 1, head south on hwy 61 to hwy 66 and turn towards Angola. At hwy 969 Pinkneyville rd. turn right and go to the Clark Creek Nature area, FZ2. When leaving FZ 2 head back towards hwy 66, this is the only time you are allowed to follow the course, do not stay with your rider. At hwy 66 go straight across on to Parker rd. This will take you to FZ 3. Park on Parker rd. When leaving FZ 3 go back out Parker rd. to hwy 66 then head back to the finish area via 66 and 61.

## *Bike Support*

All riders are expected to be **self-supported**. There will be limited on-course technical support. It is recommended that each rider be equipped to fix their own flat tires and carry basic multi-tools. Due to the new remote features of the course and current industry variation in wheel specifications, it is no longer feasible for the race to provide neutral wheels.

The 3 SAG stops will each have a technical support crew that will be able to provide basic support for riders who have major mechanical breakdowns. There will be zone coverage of bike support from each SAG location once the last rider is clear of a SAG area bike support from this area will follow the course. IF you need to notify race staff of your location for assistance please text 225-278-0145 with a pin location and the issue.

# Equipment Recommendations

**Bike Choice:** Road or CX or Gravel bike? The answer to that is: it depends. What kind of experience are you hoping to have? If you're hoping to ride to a top placing and achieve legendary Roue Roubaix glory, then a bike that is fast on the road with gearing to hold steady at speeds >25mph is a must. If you're hoping to give your body a break, then a gravel bike with more dampening and comfortable geometry for a long day in the saddle would be a good pick. The last factor to consider is weather and potential course changes. Riders should pay close attention to the course conditions and announcements that may change which bike they may choose to ride. Generally, the wetter the course, the more tire clearance

**Tire Choice:** This is the million-dollar question. I believe a fast but durable 30-32mm tire is optimal. The vast majority of RR's have been run on old school 23-25 mm road tires. The current course has also been ridden on 25's as well as much wider gravel tires. Weather looks good as of now but plays a major factor in tire and bike choice.

**Shoes/Pedals:** It is **HIGHLY** recommended that riders wear CX/MTB shoes and run off road pedals or road pedals that won't malfunction with dirt or mud should you have to dismount. The course has one probable (for some) dismount and the potential for many other unintentional dismounts. 1 step into mud with road cleats can make an already difficult day become that much harder!



# Chip Timing and Cutoffs

**Chip Timing:** For the first time, Rouge Roubaix will have chip timing. Each rider will be given a number that must be pinned to the jersey pockets. Full course riders get 2 white and black numbers, short course riders get a single yellow and black number for the center jersey pocket. Each rider will also receive a bike sticker number that must be affixed to the seat-post of your bike. Full details of the number pinning and timing chip will be covered at packet pick up.



If your seatpost is wider it is ok as long as you don't cut the chip

We are assigning numbers based on USAC category if you declared one at registration.

Corral 1 will be 1- and 2-digit white numbers for P,1,2

**Cutoff:** Rouge Roubaix will have a **10-hour cutoff** (12.7 mph average including stopping). The first checkpoint for the cutoff is mile 56 where full course riders would take a right onto Irondale and short course follow the yellow arrow and their GPS and go left. **If full course riders have not reached this point in 4 hours, they will be directed to the short course route.** After that point, the finish line will be packed up 10 hours following the start of the race. Riders still out on course after this point will have the option to complete the route self-supported or get picked up in the sweep vehicle. We cannot promise how long riders may have to wait for a sweeper vehicle. All riders are instructed to carry a charged cell phone with race staff numbers that are provided in this guide. If riders are picked up by their own people, we request that someone notify the race staff so that all riders are accounted for. There will be approximately 1 hour of additional daylight beyond the cutoff time. IF you need to notify race staff of your location for assistance please text 225-278-0145 with a pin location and the issue.

## *Awards and Payout*

The payout to the top 3 men and women in the full course is \$1000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$250 for 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers we also receive a champions Jersey

Top 3 podium awards will also be give based on the category selected at registration. Anyone without a category will be considered a cat 5. There is a single category for women.

Short course awards will go to the top 3 men and women but there is no prize purse for the short course. The top man and woman in the short course will also receive a regular RR Jersey.

There will be the traditional \$100 cash prime at the top of Blockhouse hill to the first rider there.

The rider with fastest segment time for each segment will each receive a swag package that includes a classic RR fine art poster, RR hat, and \$50 cash.

You do not have to declare if you are a masters rider, this will be sorted by the timer by age, 40+ and 55+.

## *Post-Race Food*

There will be post-race food and drinks waiting for you at the finish of the event. Pastalaya and beer, water, etc. We encourage you to stay and hangout as you recover and wait on your friends to finish. It should be fun to see everyone finish and the more people at the finish the more festive it will be since we are having everything start and finish at the same location this year. There is also a town festival going on in Parker Park, the old post-race event area. Check it out before you leave town.

## *Rouge Roubaix Merchandise*

We will have an assortment of RR items for sale. Hats, T-shirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, musette bags, etc. Please bring cash or Venmo if you wish to purchase anything.

## *Final Notes and Thoughts*

Thanks again for your support of Rouge Roubaix. RR has always been special. Part of its magic and folklore is the course itself. Although it changes from time to time and you never quite know what you are going to get exactly, you always get something you will remember. It is the passion that people have for this event and the folks that have supported it and work to make it happen that really motivate me to keeping it alive. This year is a rebuilding year for us, and we are grateful for the opportunity to host the event. Mother Nature has smiled on us with the river being down, but it appears she has turned up the heat which will provide and extra level of difficulty. As always, we will do our best to give each of you a day that you will hopefully talk about for a long, long, time. And hopefully you will continue to come back and bring a friend or team next time.

**Any Updates to the course or any amendments to this document will be presented the night before the race.**