



1<sup>st</sup> Rider Communique for the prestigious

## **FNB OTJIHAVERA EXPERIENCE**

### **Team Stage Race for 2023**

on 01 – 03 September 2023

By now, this event, its 18<sup>th</sup> version, needs very little introduction save to say that the committee of the Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Club is proud to announce that FNB Namibia has remained committed to be the title sponsor of Namibia's oldest and only team stage race. Thank you to Gordon Pokolo, Kiselle Clarke and Rosa Kantema from FNB for being so exceptionally supportive and helpful during the planning phase.

We confirm that:

- Riders can only participate in teams of two – this race is predominantly about teamwork,
- Teams can be entered into age categories which are determined by the combined age of the two riders in the team as at 31 December 2023.
- Riders will have to ride together and need to always stay within 2 minutes of each other during the race,
- The race will be made up of:
  - Friday, 01 September - Prologue, probably on Farm Hoffnung (for Adult Teams only).
  - Saturday, 02 September – day 1 from Otjihase mine to Midgard Country Estate.
  - Sunday, 03 September – day 2 on the farms adjacent to Midgard Country Estate.



➤ Race Categories:

Adults Race Age Categories (racing the long route)

The minimum age that may take part in the adult category is 17 years old but jointly the team must be at least 36 years old eg 17 plus 19 (as at 31 December 2023).

<b><u>MEN'S Teams</u></b>	<b><u>WOMEN'S Teams</u></b>	<b><u>MIXED Teams</u></b>	<b><u>e-Bike Teams</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined age: 70 and less</li> <li>• Combined age: 71– 95</li> <li>• Combined age: 96 and older</li> </ul>	Open category only	Open category only	Open category only
3 podium positions per category	3 podium positions	3 podium positions	3 podium positions (provided that 5 teams or more have entered)

Junior Race Age Category (racing 2 x 40km)

Participants in the junior race are at least U/14 and older (as at 31 December 2023).

<b><u>Boys' Team</u></b>	<b><u>Girls' Team</u></b>	<b><u>Mixed Team</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined age: 25 to 34 years</li> </ul>	Combined age: 25 to 34 years	Combined age: 25 to 34 years
3 podium positions	3 podium positions	3 podium positions

Kiddies' Race Age Category (racing 2 x 20km)

Cyclists participating in the kiddies' race are from the U/10 & U/12 age categories (as at 31 December 2023).

<b><u>Boys' Team</u></b>	<b><u>Girls' Team</u></b>	<b><u>Mixed Team</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined age: 24 years &amp; younger</li> </ul>	Combined age: 24 years & younger	Combined age: 24 years & younger
3 podium positions	3 podium positions	3 podium positions





➤ Entries and Registration Fees:

Entries for this event will open on 26 July 2023 and a maximum of 150 adult teams will be allowed to race. Entries will be handled on a first come – first served basis and must be done online through the Chronotrack's link <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/75141>.

To secure the entry the following registration fees are payable:

- Adult Teams – N\$ 3,200.00 per team
- Junior Teams – N\$ 1,000.00 per team
- Kiddies Teams – N\$ 800.00 per team

**Note:** Rock & Rut club members get a 10% discount on their entry fee. This means, if only one rider of an adult team is a member of the Club, then the discount applies for that rider only and the total registration fee payable by that team to the Club is N\$ 3040.00 (1440 + 1600). The registration fee does include a goodie bag for each rider.

Entries close on 25 August 2023. This will also be the last day for substitutions at an additional fee of N\$ 200.00 per change. Kindly note that registration fees are not refundable and do not include lunch at Midgard Country Estate on Saturday and Sunday.

➤ Registration procedure:

1. Enter through the Chronotrack link (<https://register.chronotrack.com/r/75141>).
2. 1 st Team Member (captain) to enter also creates the team with Team Name. Please consult with your team member prior to entry in order to avoid double entries.
3. 2 nd Team member can now join the Team by selecting the Team Name on Chronotrack when entering. Please ensure you use the correct spelling.
4. Once you have entered, please contact the Midgard Country Estate' Veronica at [midgard.res@ol.na](mailto:midgard.res@ol.na) for your booking. As in previous years, there will be rooms, train and camping options available.

At this point we need to acknowledge and express our sincere appreciation to Midgard Country Estate for offering all participants of this event exceptional special room rates.





Thus, when booking, you must indicate that you are a FNB Otjihavera Experience participant to qualify for the special room rates.

- **Payment:** Only one team member must pay the entry fee of N\$3,200.00 (for adult teams), etc. via EFT to the account listed in the registration confirmation within 48 hours and kindly mail the proof of payment to [accounts@rockandrut.org](mailto:accounts@rockandrut.org). Please use your Team Name as reference. Kindly also note: your online entry will be cancelled if you have not paid the entry fee within 48 hours in order to give another team an opportunity to enter.

Banking Details: FNB Namibia Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Club  
Acc No: 62250706416 Branch Code: 280071

- **Shuttle Service:** To be advised by the next rider correspondence.
- **Route and Event Format:** The race will take place on farm roads / jeep tracks with short single-track sections. The route will be a great challenge with spectacular scenery and an elevation profile will be available closer to the race day.
- Unlike the starts over the previous couple of years, all starts will be bunch starts again.
  - Adult Race
    - Prologue (Friday 01 September 2023) Start – to be advised

**Note:** Teams who do not participate in the prologue will automatically have a the slowest race time of their age category recorded plus a 1 hour penalty time added to their race time.

  - Day 1 (Saturday 02 September 2023) Start –07:00 at Otjihase Mine and the race ends at Midgard Country Estate. Distance: ± 80km
  - Day 2 (Sunday, 03 September 2023) Start –07:00 at Midgard Country Estate and ending at Midgard Country Estate. Distance: ± 65km





- Junior Race
  - Day 1 (Saturday 02 September 2023): Start is scheduled for 10:30 at Leopard Lodge gate and the race ends at Midgard Country Estate.
  - Day 2 (Sunday 03 September 2023): Start – at 08H00 at Midgard Country Estate and ending at Midgard Country Estate.
  
- Kiddies Race
  - Day 1 (Saturday 02 September 2023): The start will be at the entrance gate to the Grimm Park (Midgard Farm) at 11:30.
  - Day 2 (Sunday, 03 September 2023): Start – at 08H15 at Midgard Country Estate and ending at Midgard Country Estate.

Route profiles will be communicated via the different social media channels in due course.

- **Midgard Country Estate Arrangements:** Midgard will be the “Race Village” for this event. All accommodation needs to be booked directly with Midgard Country Estate on their event specific portal using the link provided above. Please note that it is each entrant’s own responsibility to book accommodation (room, train or camping) with Midgard Country Estate. Please use FNB Otjihavera Experience 2023 as your reference with them. Accommodation (Rates are based on DBB basis): Please consult Midgard’s reservation department for this purpose. (The Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Club and or FNB Namibia take no responsibility for any changes in rates or if these are incorrectly recorded). Meals: Accommodation rates above include a buffet dinner, bed and buffet breakfast and are only for persons who have booked accommodation at Midgard. However, lunch (on Saturday and Sunday) can be bought from Midgard Country Estate
  
- **Other Accommodation Options:** Should Midgard Country Estate be fully booked, please contact the surrounding establishments. Please note cancellations and refunds on accommodation are subject to the terms and conditions of the accommodation





establishment and need to be dealt with directly with the accommodation establishment. The Rock and Rut Mountain Bike Club and or FNB Namibia will not take any responsibility in this regard.

**In Closing:** While the organizers take great care to ensure the safety of all participants, mountain biking always holds the risk of injury and hence it is important that each rider has appropriate medical and evacuation cover.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the farmers availing us their property to ride on. Midgard Country Estate as well as many private farmers have allowed us to use their farmland. This is a great PRIVILEGE and to ensure that we may come back year after year please take care to only leave behind tracks. Please do not litter!!

Lastly, please keep in mind that changes may still be appropriate or necessary (e.g. race distances) and the Committee of the Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Club reserves the right to do so, but will obviously then communicate these changes immediately. We also thank all our other sponsors for their generous contribution towards prizes, goody bags, lucky draw prizes as well as for the food and drinks at the water points which are always well stacked. Anyone who wishes to sponsor this event or who knows of someone who wishes to use this event as an opportunity to sponsor and market their products and services is welcome to approach anyone of the committee members.

Good Luck with your training!

The Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Committee

