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## Overview of the FulGaz Road Series

### *How many races are there in the Series?*

There will be two separate Series, each having 4 races spread over 4 months, ie. 1 race per month.

### *When and where are the races?*

There will be one Series race per month, held on a Sunday morning at 9am (usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month).

The individual races are:

### Dates: Summer/Spring Series

DATE	COURSE	LAP DISTANCE (kms)	ASCENT (meters)	Similar to
Sun 12 March	Drouin South	19	166	Dandenongs
Sun 16 April	Somers	10	42	Beach Road
Sun 21 May	Lang Lang	24	82	Kew Boulevard
Sun 18 June	Crib Point	8.5	32	Beach Road

### Dates: Autumn Series

DATE	COURSE	LAP DISTANCE (kms)	ASCENT (meters)	Similar to
Sun 20 Aug	Drouin South	19	166	Dandenongs
Sun 3 Sep	Crib Point	8.5	32	Beach Road
Sun 15 Oct	Lang Lang	24	82	Kew Boulevard
Sun 21 Nov	TBC			Beach Road

The series will provide tests and challenges on flattish sprint type courses, rolling up and down country roads and slower, hilly courses where both weight and power count.

### *What format are the races?*

Each rider will be placed in a grade (from A to F) that will contain other riders of similar ability/fitness. Each grade will start separately and will only be competing with the other riders in their own grade. This type of race is known as a 'graded, scratch' race.

The distance raced will be different for each grade but everybody will be racing for between 1.5 and 2 hours. For A Grade this will be approx. 70kms, F grade 40kms.

### *Are the races graded on ability, age or some other way?*

All races are 'graded, scratch races' which means that you will be racing in a bunch with riders, male and female, of the same ability. There will be 6 grades, A-F. If you don't already know which grade you should race in, have a chat with us and we will assign an appropriate grade.

### *How long will the races be?*

The race distance will vary depending on which grade you race in, however, expect to be racing for roughly 1.5 to 2 hours so, with a 9am start, you'll generally be finishing at approximately 11am.

### *Are the races hilly?*

The races vary, some are flat, some undulating and some hilly, although none of them will be more than 1,000m of climbing or have any super-steep pitches so everyone will be able to ride them. Have a look at the 'when and where are the races?' FAQ to see the actual elevations. Remember though, you may be doing multiple laps!

### *Are the roads closed?*

No, normal road rules apply. We will have Traffic Controllers at any major junctions to temporarily hold traffic up, however, we cannot guarantee that all drivers will obey the Traffic Controller's directions – so the onus is on the rider to be aware of any traffic and act accordingly.

When racing, neither your bike nor you should cross any double lines.

If you do the entire grade could be disqualified. In which case you will probably need a bike with a very big motor!

### *Can I ride the courses online or in real life beforehand?*

All the courses are on open roads and you're able to ride any of them whenever you like. To see the courses and potentially load to your phone or bike computer, go to the smcc website events page <https://smcc.net.au/index.php/openEvents> and click on 'Map'.

We're also really pleased to say that FulGaz, our major sponsor, will make each of the courses available on their virtual riding platform prior to each race so that you'll know the course ahead of time. For further information go to <https://fulgaz.com/smcc-road-race-courses-released/>

## Entries

### *How do I enter and how much does it cost?*

Entry for each race will open on the SMCC website at midnight on the Saturday, one week before the race. Entries will be on a first come, first served basis as our permits have a maximum number of riders allowed, both at a grade (50) and an overall race level (150). If the event is full you will be notified that you have been added to a waitlist (and will be further notified if you subsequently get an entry allocated to you). So, just to be safe, enter online once entries have opened.

Entry cost for a Series Road Race is \$25. All entry payments will be taken on the day at registration (no cash please).

### *Do I have to enter the whole Series or can I enter a single race?*

For this Series there is no 'Series entry' as such. All races will be entered individually, either on the website or at registration on the day.

### *When will race entries open and close for each event?*

Single race entries will open on the SMCC website at midnight on the Saturday, one week before the race. Entries will not close, however, if the maximum number of entrants have been reached you will be waitlisted.

### *If I cannot race for some reason, how do I scratch and do I get a refund?*

If you have entered on the website there is an option on the site to scratch. You won't have paid at that point so a refund will not be relevant.

## What do I need to take part?

### *Do I need a race licence?*

If you haven't raced in the last 3 years, the good news is that you can get a 4 week free trial licence.

If you have raced in the last 3 years, you need either:

1. An Auscycling 'All Discipline' race licence or;
2. An 'event' licence, (either a 1 day or 7 day licence is available). Note: if you want to use a 4 week trial licence, purchase it on the day of the first race and you will be able to use it for the next race as well.

### *Do I need to be an SMCC member?*

No, although, as a Masters club we do require Males to be 30+, Females 15+.

### *What equipment do I need?*

A standard UCI-compliant road bike. Disc brakes are allowed however no special aero equipment such as tri-bars are allowed. Front and rear lights are required for all races, The front light should be flashing and the rear light solid. Your lights must have sufficient power to last the duration of the race, ie. Approx.. 2 hours.

You should also carry a telephone, repair kit and spares so that you are self-sufficient. There is no sag wagon, however, the officials will do their best to assist you as time allows.

### *How much experience do I need?*

Any road bike rider who has competed in a race organised by a recognised bicycle club or who has raced their friends down Beach Road or up the 1 in 20 or their bike computer around their local course is able to race with us, as long as they are also:

A female over 15 or a male 30+ with a current Auscycling All Disciplines race license or a 4 week free trial license.

Note: NRS registered riders are **not** eligible to compete because this Series is for the “weekend warriors”.

### How do Series Points work?

#### *What competitions are there and what are the prizes?*

There will be prize money for each race in the Series. Prize money will be paid for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> and for the first Woman. There will also be a ‘Monarch of the Mountain’ at two of each 4 Series races (Drouin & Lang Lang) and an Intermediate Sprint prize at the other two, flatter of the 4 races in each Series (Crib Point and Somers).

#### *How are points calculated?*

Placing	Points
1	30
2	27
3	24
4	21
5	18
6	15
7	12
8	9
9	8
10	7
11	6
12	5
13	4
14	3
15	2
Finishers	1

#### *How many races do I need to do to qualify for Series points/prizes?*

Just one. All points gained will go towards the Series.

### *Do points from every race count or just from my best 'x' races*

Points from the best 3 of the 4 races will count towards the Series placings.

On top of that, if you volunteer you will also get:

- 2 Series points for helping with Construction;
- 5 Series points for a corner duty, course car etc and;
- A whopping 10 points for a Traffic Controller duty (qualification required)

Note: these are IN ADDITION TO the best three race results.

### *What if I miss some races?*

If you miss one of the four races, you'll still get as many races counting towards your points total as anybody else can – and if you use that fourth race to volunteer you'll end up with extra points!

### *Will I qualify for Series points if I have not taken out a Series entry?*

There is no separate Series entry for this series, just enter each race you wish to take part in individually, either on the website or on the day at registration.

### *What if the handicapper re-grades me?*

If you are moved up a grade, you will take 50% of the points you have accumulated to that point with you into your new grade.

If you are moved down a grade, you will take 100% of your points (on the assumption that if you are going down, you won't have many!)

### *How will ties be decided?*

1. Highest number of volunteer points
2. Highest number of wins then if not resolved number of second places, then third places etc
3. If all else fails, age before beauty.

## Volunteering

### *Can I race the Series if I don't do a volunteer duty?*

Yes, you will be allowed to race, however, you will certainly not be entering into the spirit of the Series. The Series is run entirely by volunteers and each rider is expected to volunteer for duty at one or more of the Series races. Remember, you will also get extra points – and maybe even free coffee!

### *Won't volunteering mean I lose Series points?*

If you race the other three in the Series you will still have the maximum number of races counting (the maximum to be counted is three). It does mean that you won't get the opportunity to drop your worst result but you will get extra volunteer points on top of the points for your 3 races.

### *I/my partner/friend can't race. How else can we help out?*

We would love help with some roles on the day and in the lead-up. Please contact our Secretary: Bill Upston at <mailto:wupston@bigpond.net.au>

## Weather & cancellations

### *Will races still go ahead if it's raining?*

Two factors will determine this, rider safety and the volunteer's welfare – standing on a cold, wet corner for 2-3 hours doesn't encourage people to volunteer a second time!

### *If the weather looks bad, how will I know if the race is going ahead?*

If at 9.00 pm on the Saturday night before the scheduled day of the race

<https://rainfall.willyweather.com.au/> indicates that there is more than a 75% chance of more than 10mm of rain between 8 a.m and midday on the Sunday, the event will be cancelled.

Notice of the cancellation will be posted on the Southern Masters Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthernMastersCC> and the Southern Masters website. Please be sure to check.

### *If a race is cancelled, do I get a refund?*

If we have to cancel we will make that decision prior to taking any payments (all payments will be on the day at registration) so there will be need to process refunds.

## Getting there and before the race

### *What time do the races start and what time will I need to get there?*

All races will start at 9am. Please arrive at approx. 8am to get parked, sign on and warm up.

### *How far away are the races?*

That varies of course, however, Drouin is the furthest from Melbourne at approx. 95km whilst the average is roughly 75km.

### *Are there toilet/changing facilities at the start/finish venues?*

Yes, all of the venues have decent and separate male and female facilities. At most venues we have hired the local hall or clubhouse.

### *Will there be sufficient parking?*

All of the venues have a reasonable amount of parking, however, if everyone drives separately there will be a lot of cars so we suggest if you want to make sure of getting a decent park, arrive by 8am – and if possible car share to save money, the environment etc.

### *What happens at registration?*

Go to the registration desk and provide your name or, if you have an SMCC rfid sticker, just scan that. We will tell you your grade and race number and will give you a timing chip – in exchange for the princely sum of \$25 (eftpos only, no cash please). Pick up your allocated race number and a couple of cable ties to affix the transponder to your front fork (left or right). Your number and transponder will need to be returned at the end of the race. Cutters will be available at the finish to remove the transponder from your bike.

## The race itself

### *Do the different grades all ride together?*

No, each grade starts separately, a few minutes apart. A grade will leave first at 9:00am, followed by B, C etc at intervals of approximately 3 minutes. Please be at the start approximately 10 minutes before your start time as there will be a race briefing from the Commissaire before your race start.

### *How many people will be in the bunches?*

Bunch sizes will vary but tend to be larger for the higher grades than the lower ones. A, B and C will likely be approx. 25-50, D, E and F will be between 5 and 25.

### *What do I do if I get dropped?*

No problem, you won't be pulled from the race if you don't want to be. Try to get back on to the group, work together with others if possible. If you are dropped, it's likely others will be too. Plenty of people get dropped, work to get back on and finish strongly. On most of the courses you will ride multiple laps of the course so if you really don't want to or are unable to keep going you can pull out at the end of that lap.

If you don't finish one race you can still do the other events. Check out these sites for more information about road racing <https://cyclingtips.com/2018/02/the-golden-rules-of-road-racing/> and <https://totalwomenscycling.com/road-cycling/technique/10-tips-riders-thinking-racing-year>

### *Can I ride with another grade if they catch me or I catch them?*

No, you cannot obtain any advantage from riders of any other grade.

## After the Race

### *Do I need to return my timing transponder after the race?*

Yes. The transponders are hired for each race so there will be a \$75 fee for any transponders not returned after a race.

### *Do I keep my race bib?*

No! Please return your race bib immediately after you finish. We need the numbers for the next race.

### *Will there be food/drinks available on the day? Will I need to eat during the race?*

We will try to arrange for a coffee cart where possible and we will have cold drinks available, however, at this stage we do not anticipate having a food van at the start/finish. Most venues have a small town nearby with a store or café or two. We'll provide more information for each race individually.

If you want to eat or drink during a race make sure you come prepared with your preferred food and drinks such as bananas and bidons. Please don't leave any mess or energy bar wrappers around the course because .. well it's obvious why not.

### *Presentations*

There will be presentations as soon as possible after all grades finish. There will be prize money for 1st to 3rd in each grade, 1st Woman in each grade and, where applicable, first over the Mountain or Sprint winners in each grade. We may also have some random giveaways.



## Where do I go for more information?

Visit our [Website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) or to speak to a real person, please contact our Secretary: Bill Upston at <mailto:wupston@bigpond.net.au>