



Preferred Start Information

What it is:

- A Preferred Start position allows you to line up in the preferred start area just behind the starting line.
- This is intended to place the top riders at the front of the pack at the race start.
- Riders with a Preferred Start will have a number between 1 and 99 for the Hard Rock or between 2000 and 2099 for the Soft Rock. There are no preferred starts in the Shore Rock or Junior Rock events. Entrance to the preferred start area is based on race number only. Jumping the line is grounds for disqualification.

How you get one:

- Check the box on your entry form or online entry to request one.
- Preferred Starts are awarded shortly after the July 15 deadline to request one. You must register by July 15 to be considered.
- Preferred Starts are granted to riders with very high previous year Ore to Shore overall results, typically top 50 men and top 10 women in each event. The exact cutoff varies depending on how many requests we receive.
- If you did not race last year you must submit a race resume. If you do not have a result from last year and do not submit a race resume you will not be eligible for consideration for a preferred start.
- Preferred Start positions are not awarded based on age group or other class results, only overall place is considered.
- Preferred Start positions are not granted to tandem teams.
- If you entered last year but were a DNF or had an unusual finish time due to mechanicals, crashes, etc. you can submit a resume and ask us to consider results from previous years.
- If you were unable to race last year but want us to consider previous Ore to Shore results you need to submit a race resume. As noted above, if you do not have a result from last year and do not submit a resume you are not eligible for consideration for a preferred start.

What works on a race resume:

- The reason you think you qualify, brief and clearly written. We receive hundreds of requests to review and it is not possible to read through many pages of race results. Please keep it short and clear, something that can be read in 15 seconds.

- Overall top finishes on comparable events (Iceman, Chequamegon, etc.). For example "I was ___ overall at _____ in 2013 out of a field of --- riders."
- Results for mountain bike events are strongly preferred over road events, cyclocross events, etc.

What does not work on a race resume:

- Results for races that we have not heard of without a description. If it is not a race in our area it will help your case to tell us it was a 40 mile mountain bike race with 1,000 riders. Many times we get results saying you were 10th overall in a race in that we have not heard of and have no idea if it is a 10 mile race with 50 people or a 50 mile race with 3,000.
- Every race result you have from the last five years. Keep it short and simple.
- Abbreviations that we don't understand.
- Age group, single speed , or other class finishes. We are looking for overall results only.
- A statement that you are a pro, elite, semi-pro, etc. Only race results are considered.
- A statement that you ride on a certain team. We only review results.
- A description of your training plan for this year. Only race results are considered.

Please note that preferred starts are awarded late July after the July 15 deadline to request one has passed. Our staff are not able to tell you if you will have one before they are awarded.