**Wasatch Back 2017**

**TEAM CAPTAIN MEETING**

# Wasatch Back TOP 3

These are the three most important takeaways from the Team Captain Meeting:

1. **No Van Support/No Pulling Over** – 90% of this course designation is done by the Law Enforcement in the areas we come through. If the road is designated “No Van Support/No Pulling Over” its because the police in that area feel that it is unsafe to have vans on the side of the road. There is extra attention around it this year as the excessive run off has weakened shoulders on roads and the shoulder could cause your vehicle to get stuck! It is also the # 1 reason we lose access to certain parts of the course. This is especially true on Trapper’s Loop and Park City. If the area is marked as a No Van Support please be respectful of this and encourage those around you to do the same so we can come back next year. In case you were wondering – the other 10% is No Van Support because your runner is on a trail and literally can not be accessed (like Leg 27).
2. **Parking for Exchange 32 –** Parking for Exchange 32 (Guardsman’s Pass) is sooooo limited. In order to attempt to get everyone to fit into the parking lot, Park City has asked that we hand out parking passes so that you only arrive 10-15 mins before your runner. The way this will work – Your runner will leave Exchange 31 to tackle the Ragnar Hill. (FYI The fastest time anyone ran it last year was in 1 hour and 16 mins – the slowest time was 2 hours and 54 mins – the average time to run this hill (if you are running about a 9.5 min mile normally) is 1 hour and 53 mins. ) Once your runner passes Water Station 32 C (3.9 miles into the 6.4 mile leg), your team number will be radio’d to the volunteers stationed at Ex 31. They will write your number on the white board and then you can check in with them to get your parking pass. Once you get your parking pass please proceed straight to the exchange – do not pull over along the way. Once you pick your runner up from Ex 32, please move quickly along to Ex 33. And yes – we have eliminated the hill from last year! Hooray for no hiking!
3. **App/Sweet Happs** – There’s a lot happening during any point of this race, the best way for me to alert you of any changes is through the App. It just got a face lift and is so much more user friendly – spend some time with it and get familiar with your legs before the race. It’s a great reference point and is always more accurate than the maps you can print off from the website. When in doubt – trust the app! It is also a great way to know what amenities to expect at the upcoming major exchange. One thing I do want to call out – Exchange 30 has very limited amenities – not really any place to sleep and no showers or indoor toilets. I would suggest hanging around Exchange 24 once you finish instead of pushing on to Exchange 30 if you plan on sleeping or showering.

# RAGNAR GOES GREEN

The Reebok Ragnar Relay Series is going green and we need your help to do it. We want to make small changes that add up in a big way. Here are just some of the ways we will be going green this year:

* **CUPLESS RACES**: Ragnar Relay events are now cupless races. Every participant (runner, volunteer, friend, family, crew, etc) should bring two cups - one for cold liquid and one for hot liquid. We will provide the water, hot chocolate, and coffee but you need to bring the container. Runners are encouraged to use reusable water bottles instead of plastic water bottles. Bring a big cooler of water in the van and fill up your smaller, reusable water bottles as needed. Remember, there won’t be cups at water stations along the course so bring your reusable cups with you on your leg! By going cupless, you are helping us eliminate over 300,000 disposable cups from our races each year!
* **No Trash at Minors:** Van 1 and Van 2 will receive three clear trash liners, and one blue trash linerwhen checking in at either Start or Exchange 6. There are no trash bins at minor exchanges, so please use the trash liners in your van and dispose of trash in the appropriate dumpster when you arrive at the next Major Exchange.
* **Recycling:** There will be recycling at Major Exchange 6, Major Exchange 12, Major Exchange 30, and the Finish Line. Please use the blue trash liners for recycling and dispose of recyclables at these locations.

We’re all in this together. Just like you couldn’t conquer a Ragnar Relay without your team, we couldn’t reach our goal to become more sustainable without you. Please keep the following in mind while you are out enjoying the most unforgettable weekend of the year!

* **Turn your key, be idle free:** Whether you are pulled over on the side of the road and cheering on a teammate or hanging out at an exchange please turn your vehicle completely off.
* **Practice responsible costuming:** Feather boas, glitter, and streamers are all things that can accidentally trash the course. When you are coming up with team costumes and van decorations, please make sure that nothing can inadvertently fly off and leave a mess while you are moving along the course.
* **Drive the speed limit:** Driving the speed limit not only conserves fuel, it is also the safe thing to do!
* **Bring reusable grocery bags:** Instead of using plastic bags to transport your food from the grocery store to your van, use reusable bags instead. Remember, we’ll be providing trash liners to collect any trash that accumulates in your van.
* **Carpool:** While running a Ragnar Relay you’ll automatically be carpooling as you traverse some of the most beautiful areas in the country. Why not carpool to the Start Line, Finish Line, Packet Pick Up, or your training runs? Life is more fun with a copilot anyway.
* **Leave it better than you found it:** See a GU packet or gum wrapper on the course? Maybe someone accidentally dropped trash from their van? These things happen. Pick it up and leave it better than you found it! Bonus Karma points for you!
* **Buy local first:** Throughout your 200-mile journey you’ll have the chance to *taste* the local flavor. Local businesses and restaurants keep the money flowing within communities, create jobs, use local produce, and are a solid pick when stopping for dinner, coffee or snacks. While you’re there, don’t forget to thank them for being awesome hosts!

# LOVE THE LOCALS

Ragnar is a beautiful thing and we want to keep it going for as long as we can while keeping our runners and the local communities happy. Unfortunately, there have been times when Ragnar has lost the support of local communities due to bad runner behavior. Our relays cannot happen without the support of the people who live along the course, so this year we are encouraging all Ragnarians to Love the Locals. We want to show these communities just how much Ragnar loves and appreciates their hospitality. Please help us make our courtesy campaign successful by being aware of the following while out on the course:

* **Respect quiet zones:** Please keep noise down during night time hours. Be aware of when you are in residential areas. No honking, cowbell, loud talking, music or other loud noises when in residential areas.
* **Leave it better than you found it:** Like we mentioned earlier, be sure to pick up any and all trash you see along the course or at exchanges.
* **Keep van decorations clean:** A lot of the exchanges along the course are located at churches, schools, and parks (aka places often frequented by children). Not only that, but your vehicle will be seen by many locals as you drive along the 200-mile course and through their communities. Please make sure your van decorations are free of profanity, sexual innuendos, racial slurs, or any offensive images. Unfortunately, inappropriate van decorations are one of the biggest reasons we are not invited to return the next year.
* **Thank the volunteers:** These events wouldn’t be possible without the hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to make your Ragnar experience awesome and safe. Please thank them frequently and always respect their instructions when at exchanges.
* **Spread positive vibes:** Please think twice before making any negative comments about our communities or volunteers – both in real life and on social media. You never know who is listening and we want to make sure we’re only spreading positivity.
* **When you gotta go, go in a toilet:** You would think this one goes without saying, but runners should only pee and poop exclusively in toilets. Public urination or defecation will get you immediately disqualified and could even get your arrested. There are many business with toilets available along the course in addition to the portable restrooms provided by Ragnar at the exchange points. Plan accordingly.
* **Keep off the grass:** Please stay off local residents’ landscaping. Do not run, walk, stand, park your vehicles or sleep on their lawns or in their gardens.
* **No trespassing:** Do not trespass onto other people’s property or force entry into any buildings.
* **Dispose of trash in trash cans:** Putting trash in portable toilets causes serious problems so please dispose of all trash at the designated areas at the major exchanges.
* **Practice responsible tagging:** If you must tag another team’s van, please do so with either a magnet or washable window markers. Only write on windows and not on the paint to avoid damaging their vehicle. And of course, no vulgar language or images!
* **Go with the flow:** Drivers should never slow down or block the flow of traffic to interact with runners. Go the speed limit at all times and do not shadow your runners. Be considerate of the drivers behind you. Traffic jams caused by slow van drivers is one of our biggest complaints every year.
* **Park responsibly:** Park in authorized parking spots only. Do not park in or block a neighbor’s driveway. Only take up one parking spot.

# UPCOMING DEADLINES

* All runners registered after May 6 will incur a $20 fee. Payment for these fees will be collected at Exchange 6 on race day. We accept cash or card.
* Deadline to electronically add runners online is April 20. After this date, you will need to register runners on site on race day. There is a $20 fee per race day registration. Payment will be collected at Exchange 6.
* Pay for volunteer option closes on May 19. If your volunteers don’t show up for their shift, your team will be disqualified. We would hate to see that happen, so please make sure your volunteers are registered and ready for their shift on race day!
* Final volunteer confirmations are scheduled to go out via email 7 days before the race. This email will connect your volunteers with their shift manager(s) and include a copy of the volunteer packet. Please have your volunteers contact the volunteer coordinator at wbvolunteers@ragnarrelay.com if they do not receive their confirmation email.

# CHECK IN

When checking into the race on Friday, please follow the below steps. Van 1 runners and Ultras will check in at the Start Line and Van 2 runners will check in at Exchange 6. All 6 members of your van must be present in order to check in. Be sure to arrive at least one hour before you are expected to start running so that you have plenty of time to go through each of the check in steps. The first thing we will ask for when you arrive at check in is your team number. Please help us keep lines short by having your team number ready before you arrive.

1. **Check-In and Safety Gear Check:** Each van will need to show that they have 2 flashlights/headlamps, 6 reflective vests, and 2 LED tail lights. Jackets and shirts with reflective piping will not be accepted. Teams must have these items with them to complete check in.
2. **Safety Briefing:** All members of your van will be required to watch the 10-minute safety and courtesy video.
3. **Flag Check-Out:** Each van will receive 2 safety flags to be returned at the end of the race
4. **Goodie Bags:** Each van will receive 6 bibs, 2 van stickers, and 1 goodie bag
5. **T-shirts (Thursday Packet Pick-Up or Exchange 6 Only):** Participants can pick up t-shirts by individual, by van, or for the entire team. You will receive whatever size you requested online, so please make sure you have the correct size entered on your profile. Any participant wishing to exchange sizes may do so at the finish line. You can contact customerservice@ragnarrelay.com to update your t-shirt size.

**\*\*THURSDAY PACKET PICK UP (OPTIONAL) – Thursday, June 1 – 2-8 PM right here at Scheel’s in Sandy.**

Skip the lines on Friday and check in on Thursday! Van 1 and Van 2 are encouraged to complete the optional Thursday night check in so that they do not have to check in on Friday. Both vans do not need to check in at the same time, however all 6 members of your van must be present with safety gear to check in on Thursday. The check in process is the same as above.

# RUNNING ON THE COURSE

Here is what you can expect when running your legs along the course:

* **Turn signs:** There will be turn signs located at intersections where you change direction as well as confusing intersections to direct you where to go. Turn signs are ‘Touch and Go’, which means you should not turn until you are close enough to touch the sign. For example, if you come to an intersection and see a left turn sign across the street, you should cross the street, get close enough to the sign to touch it *and then* turn left. This makes sure you do not turn left too early and risk missing additional signs along the course because you were on the wrong side of the road.
* **Missing signs:** There are hundreds of signs along our 200-ish mile course. Unfortunately, some of them will inevitably get turned, knocked down, or stolen. We will have Ragnar Staff patrolling the course to maintain signs during the race, but runners should always carry a phone while running to check the maps in the app.
* **Run against traffic:** All runners should run on the left side of the road (against traffic) unless directed otherwise. Always run on the sidewalk if there is one available.
* **Run in same sequence:** Runners should run in the same sequence for each segment of the race. For example, if a runner runs leg 3 then he/she must also run leg 15 and leg 27. In the event of an injury, any of the remaining 11 runners can replace the injured runner’s legs. You are not allowed to bring in a 13th team member to run the remaining legs. If you are a mixed team and a woman is injured, at least 18 of the legs must be run by women.
* **Do not shadow runners:** Vehicles are not allowed to follow runners to illuminate the road for them or pace them. Bike pacers are only allowed on trails at night. Pacers during night time hours are also required to wear their safety gear.
* **Lost runners:** If you believe your runner is lost, please text Race Command your team number, the leg number, and the area you last saw your runner. Include a description of the runner and any additional information that might help us locate your runner. Once you’ve notified Race Command, leave your next runner and a teammate with a cell phone at the exchange and then send out the van to look for your runner. That way your next runner can start running if the lost runner arrives while the van is out looking for them. The teammate with a cell phone can then call the van and let them know they found your runner!
* **Supporting your runner:** We encourage each team to spend time out on the course supporting their runner. When supporting your runner, please find a safe and legal place to park and wait for your runner to run to you. Do not park on private property. Always use your crossing flags when crossing the road to support.

While at an Exchange please be aware of the following:

* **Only the “on” vehicle is allowed at the minor exchanges.** Only Van 1 can park at Exchanges 1-5 and only Van 2 can park at Exchanges 7-11, etc. Both vans can park at Major Exchanges 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, and finish. Van stickers will be distributed during check in and should be placed on the front and rear windshield so that your van is easily identifiable to volunteers at each exchange.
* **Parking:** When you arrive at an exchange, please obey the parking directions of volunteers. Only park in designated parking areas and park within the lines. If parking spots do not have lines, please park as efficiently as possible so that everyone can fit.
* **Vehicle size:** If your vehicle cannot fit in a standard parking spot, it is too big and will not be allowed at any of the exchanges. Your vehicle should not be longer than 20’. This includes: motor homes, pulled trailers, buses, or limos.
* **Toilets:** There will be portable toilets available for use at every exchange. Remember, if you gotta go, use a toilet!
* **Lock up:** We hate that we have to say it, but unfortunately our events are not without theft. Please make sure you are always locking your vehicle whenever your team gets out at an exchange. Make sure someone has the keys with them before you lock up and that the keys don’t run off with the next runner! While it is easy to be trusting of a sea of people wearing superhero costumes and tutus, we know you are leaving a lot of valuables in your car and would hate to see them disappear.

**LOST AND FOUND**

All clothing items, electronics, wallets, and other personal effects will be collected by staff and turned in to finish line. Participants can check in at Ragnar HQ to see if their missing items have been turned in. If your lost item is not at HQ, you can text Race Command to see if it was turned in somewhere along the course and when it is expected to arrive at the finish line. You can email customerservice@ragnarrelay.com to locate your items after the race.

# SAFETY

**GENERAL SAFETY**

* **NIGHT TIME HOURS: 7:45 PM – 6:30 AM**
* **Orange Crossing Flags:** Each van will receive 2 orange crossing flags during check in. These flags are to be used whenever a team member who is not the active runner crosses the street. These flags do not magically stop traffic so please look both ways and always cross where it is safe and legal to do so. You will return your flag at the finish line. Any unreturned flags will incur a $15 fee per flag charged to the Team Captain.
* **Three Strike Rule:** Race officials will monitor teams throughout the event to ensure everyone is staying safe and following the rules. Teams will be notified via text message when a rule violation occurs. If a team receives 3 violations, they will be disqualified. Race Officials reserve the right to automatically disqualify a team for serious infractions.
* **Race Command:** 661-RAGNAR1 (661-724-6271). Race command is your one stop hotline for anything and everything you could possible need during a race. Toilets running low on toilet paper? Let Race Command know! Can’t find the designated sleeping area at a major exchange? Race Command to the rescue! If you see a team cheating or violating the rules, please text it in to Race Command immediately. Race Command is a text only number so please text and do not call.
* **Sleep in designated sleeping areas only:** Do not sleep in parking lots or anywhere a car could accidentally park on top of you. Any teams caught sleeping in parking lots will receive a violation. Make sure you are sleeping in designated sleeping areas and not on private property.
* **Race Bibs:** Please be sure to fill out the medical information on the back of your bib. Your bib should always be pinned to the front of your clothing and on the outermost layer of clothing so that it is always visible to volunteers and staff.

**LEG SUPPORT DESIGNATIONS**

Each of the 36 legs on the course are designated one of three ways: Support, No Van Support/No Pulling Over, and Partial No Van Support.

* Support Legs: Teams can support their runner anywhere along the leg so long as they find a safe and legal place to pull over. Teams should not block the runner’s path or park in a local resident’s driveway while supporting their runner.
* No Van Support/No Pulling Over: Vans CANNOT pull over or support their runner anywhere along the leg. Vans should find somewhere off course to wait for their runner or head directly to the next exchange. All No Van Support legs over 4 miles will have at least 1 water station on the leg. **NO VAN SUPPORT/NO PULLING OVER LEGS AT THIS RACE: 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36**
* Partial No Van Support: Similar to a No Van Support leg, except only a portion of the leg is designated No Van Support/No Pulling Over and the rest of the leg is full support. Teams should refer to the leg maps to confirm which section of the leg allows support. **PARTIAL NO VAN SUPPORT LEGS AT THIS RACE: 1,2,23.**

**WEATHER**

* **Heat:**
	+ PRE-HYDRATE, HYDRATE, AND RE-HYDRATE: Every van should carry a cooler for water and/or sports drinks. Runners should pre-hydrate before each of their legs, hydrate while running, and re-hydrate after each leg. Be sure to supplement water intake with electrolytes such as Nuun or salt sticks. Proper hydration is achieved when a runner has clear (light lemonade colored) and copious urine.
	+ OBSERVE YOUR RUNNERS: Closely monitor the condition of your runners before, during, and after each leg. If the heat index is about 90 degrees, heat cramps and heat exhaustion are possible. A heat index of 105 degrees or higher, means heat exhaustion is likely and heat stroke is possible with continued activity.
	+ SUNSCREEN: Lathering up is cool. Especially when you’re wearing a Speedo.
* **Extreme Conditions:**
	+ Race Command will monitor weather conditions continuously throughout the race. Should any extreme weather such as lightning or flooding occur on the course, we will implement a weather hold. Staff will be available on the course to give instruction on how this works and make sure all runners are clear on procedure. Here are the basics:
		- If a hold is necessary on all or part of the course, teams will receive a hold card when they arrive at the exchange before the hold area. This card will tell them how many hours to hold and which exchange they should restart their legs from.
		- Stay safe and stay off course. You will need to skip one leg for everyone one hour of the hold.
		- When it is time to restart (the time will be listed on your hold card), you will drive to the exchange and send that runner off. Be sure to hold onto your card to turn into volunteers at the exchange so that we can make the necessary adjustments to your finish time.
		- Runners who missed a chance to run during the hold may double up and run any other later leg on the course.

**FIRST AID**

* First aid stations are located at the major exchanges (6, 12, 18, 24, and 30) and the finish line. Medics are equipped to handle minor injuries and heat exhaustion.
* If a runner’s heat exhaustion is severe enough to require an IV, that runner will be transported to the nearest hospital and will not be allowed to finish their remaining legs.
* In the event of a medical emergency (i.e. any life-threatening condition or injury that requires immediate medical attention) call 911 immediately. Once you have called 911, notify Race Command via text message so that we can provide your team with additional assistance.
* The ER closest to each Major Exchange will be listed in the Ragnar App

# PACE PROJECTIONS AND HOLDING TIMES

Always be aware of your team’s pace as you move through the course. Teams that get ahead of the holding times will held at the exchange for as long as two and a half hours to ensure they do not get ahead of the set-up crews and volunteers. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to download and complete the pace calculator and compare it to the Holding Teams Document to ensure that you are not projected to get ahead of the holding times.

You can find the pace calculator and Holding Teams Document in the UPDATES section of the website. If your start times places you ahead of the holding times or behind the “Course Takedown” times, please send a copy of your completed pace calculator to will@ragnarrelay.com to request a new start time. All teams should cross the finish line by 8 PM.

# TEAM DIVISION AND CLASSIFICATION

By default, all teams are listed as “Mixed Open” on the website. If your team is competitive, it is important that you update your division and classification on your team page so that we place you in the correct standings at the end of the race. There are many different divisions and classifications so please use the table below to see which one best fits your team.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DIVISION**OpenSubmastersMastersCorporateHigh SchoolPublic Service | **REQUIREMENT**One or more under 30All 30 or overAll 40 or overNine employees or family of employeesStudents ages 14-18Nine military/firemen/law enforcement officers |

Within each division there are 3 gender classifications.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CLASSIFICATION**MenWomenMixed | **REGULAR (Teams of 12)**7-12 menAll women6 or more women | **ULTRA (Teams of 6)**4-6 menAll women3 or more women |

All division and classification adjustments can be made by your team captain on your team page. The last day to change your divisions and classifications will be Friday June 8. After that date, we will no longer accept division or classification changes.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are the earliest and latest star times available?
A: Start times are from 4:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Q: Can I leave my personal vehicle at the Start or Exchange 6 on Friday and then come and pick it up after the race?
A: Unfortunately, you cannot leave your personal vehicle at any of the exchanges to be picked up at a later time. We suggest riding to Start/Exchange 6 in your team vehicle. If you must drive your personal vehicle, we suggest you find a public parking lot where you can leave your car and not get ticketed or towed.

Q: Why do legs and course maps change?
A: Each year we need to make adjustments to the course based on permit requirements, increased team size, construction along the course, conflicting events or feedback from local communities. The number one reason for course changes every year is bad runner behavior. This is why it is so important to Love the Locals! Respect quiet hours, keep your van decorations kid-friendly, and respect private property at all times.

Q: What is van parking like at major exchanges? Are friends and family allowed to park and hang out?
A: Unfortunately, our majors and minors are not able to accommodate additional vehicles for friends and family. Only the “on” vehicle will be allowed to park at each of the minors and only 2 vans per team will be allowed to park at the major exchanges. Friends and family are encouraged to wait until the finish line where there is plenty of additional parking for them.

Q: How early should we arrive at Start or Exchange 6?
A: Van 1 should arrive at the start line at least one hour before their assigned start time and Van 2 should arrive at Exchange 6 at least one hour before Runner 6 is expected to arrive at the exchange.

Q: How many teams are in each start wave?
A: Approximately 20-40 teams start at each start time.

Q: How many bibs does each team receive?
A: Regular teams receive 12 bibs and Ultra teams receive 6 bibs.

Q: Can a team use one vehicle instead of two?
A: Absolutely! Teams often use one vehicle to save on rental fees and fuel and to be more eco-friendly. If you decide to use one vehicle, make sure you place the stickers for both Van 1 and Van 2 on your vehicle so that you will be allowed to park at each of the exchanges.

Q: What do the runners use as a baton to hand to their next runner?
A: Teams will receive one slap bracelet to pass from runner to runner at each exchange.

Q: What if we lose our slap bracelet?
A: If you lose your slap bracelet, you can simply high five/hug/chest bump in the exchange chute and continue.

Q: Are we able to recycle our slap bracelet?
A: The slap bracelet is yours to keep! However, if you plan on tossing it in the trash, we encourage you to turn it in at the finish line so that we can properly recycle it

Q: How many mile markers do you have on the course?
A: We place a “One Mile to Go” sign at the one mile mark before each exchange. We do everything we can to make sure the sign placement is accurate, but it might vary by a tenth of a mile in some cases.

Q: What happens if a sign is lost or stolen?
A: We have staff patrolling the course replacing lost or stolen signs. If you come across a missing sign, please text it in to Race Command immediately so that we can get it fixed ASAP. Always run with your phone so that you do not get lost if a sign is missing or stolen.

Q: Where and when do you take team photos?
A: We take your team photo at the finish line.

Q: Will there be beer at the finish line?
A: You bet! Red Rock Brewery will be available for purchase at the finish line. A portion of the proceeds from the beer garden will benefit the United Way so come ready to party!

Q: Do all 12 runners have check in at the start line?
A: No. Only Van 1 is required to check in at start. Van 2 will check in at Exchange 6.

Q: Will there be Ragnar merchandise available for sale at the race?
A: Yes. Ragnar merch will be sold at Exchange 12 and at the Finish Line.

Q: Are there showers available?
A: Showers are available at Exchange 18 and 24 – at 18 the locker rooms we traditionally use will be under construction so head to the Trojan Center next door to use the locker rooms there!

Q: Are there water stations along the course?
A: We have water available at all of the major exchanges and on some of the No Van Support legs. Check the leg descriptions in the app to see if there are water stations on your legs.

Q: What if we lose reception on the course? Can we still use the Ragnar App?
A: Fortunately, our app and all of the information on it can be pre-loaded. Prior to the race (we recommend Thursday night before the race to get the most recent information) you can open the app, click on the race, and click on each page to pre-load the content. Make sure that each page you plan on using is opened. Leg maps can be further bookmarked by clicking on the small hart at the top right corner of the leg map.

**Please remember to thank our volunteers and locals! Along with our runners, they are the heart and soul of our races and we couldn’t do it without them!!! Happy Running!**