

2025 Life Time Sea Otter Classic - Downhill Course Marshal Volunteer Job Overview

Mountain bike downhill racing is exciting, exhilarating, spectacular, and obviously a little extreme, and it needs an entire Team of volunteers and professionals in place to ensure the safety and smooth running of the event, during practice and racing!

Downhill racing ultimately revolves around the presence of Course Marshals, that is YOU!!

Once practice and especially racing begins, “the show must go on”, and confident course marshals = great racing experience for riders.

How does Downhill racing work?

Downhill racing is raced on a set course, safely and carefully built and marked. Riders go off one at a time and the aim is to get to the bottom of the course, as safely and as quickly as possible.

During practice riders go off with as little as 10 seconds between one another, so you can imagine that the FLOW must be continuous.

Downhill racing attracts the second biggest number of riders of the entire event, with riders queueing up at the top of the start line an hour prior to practice beginning, in order to get at least 1 or 2 runs in before race day! It is a jam-packed, busy day from beginning to end with very little space in between to relax. Schedule times HAVE TO BE ADHERED TO and that means us all being in position on time.

When you sign up to be a Downhill Course Marshal, please check the arrival time carefully. A small buffer is built in to allow for course marshal training, radio training and briefing about what is required in the event of an accident, as well as getting you all to your positions in time for practice and/or racing to begin, which, on average is a 90 minute exercise. We want you to feel comfortable doing something that you're perhaps not used to and prepare you as best as possible.

DOWNHILL RACING MOTTO: SAFETY FIRST!!!

- Know your marshal point number
- You will be given a food/drink hamper for your shift or bring your own small cooler, and a chair to sit on – please feel free to bring your own umbrella and sunscreen in the event of heat and/or rain
- Please be flexible with the time schedule as with events there are many unseen circumstances and we will do our very best to be on time to ensure you are looked after
- “Nature Breaks” – as we are all human and the nature of this event, there are no close-by porta-potties, etc. so please be aware of this and use discretion – at times during each day there will be 10-15 minute break between sessions - if you need to get to a porta-potty, then call in on the event radio, if it's urgent, so please aim to be self-sufficient
- Always have your eyes and attention on the course and be aware of the flow of riders at all times
- Do not leave your marshal point before being officially released
- Conduct radio checks prior to each session (listen for cue from Downhill Start – you will be briefed on this before each day/shift)
- Use discretion when calling in a “rider down”
- When you call in a “rider down” the protocol is: Before calling it in, count to 10, then announce “Course marshal x, rider down” and then if rider gets up then call: “Course marshal x, back on course, course is clear”
- In the event of a serious accident, count to 10, then call: “Course marshal no. x Hold course” and the start line will know to not allow more riders to start until course is cleared
- The Ski Patrol provides medical services on course and will be the person to call in the event of a serious accident
- Use responsible and safe discretion
- Your job is to warn riders if there is a rider down ahead of them (protect the fallen rider). You will be issued a bright orange flag to be more visible so you can wave in front of the next rider coming down the course to slow them down
- Prior to each new group starting their practice and/or race runs, the Downhill start will announce a race/bib/plate number color and/or number range that will be allowed to be on course – if you see anything outside of these parameters, call on the radio and the next marshal has the jurisdiction to request the rider to leave the course

- Listen to your radio at all times (you will be briefed on which channel to operate on and how to use the radio effectively before each session)
- At the end of each session (practice or race) each marshal needs to announce, by radio, that that particular race number has passed their point
- No one **without a number plate** is allowed on course, EVER! If you see someone doing so, call it on the radio so the marshal point below you can ensure rider leaves the course
- Aim to keep the event rolling – however, SAFETY FIRST!
- The success of the downhill event relies on YOU!! Thank you!!

Most of the marshal points will have a First Responder positioned with you, that is Ski Patrol. They will take charge in the event of a serious accident and call for medical back up if required. Your job as course marshal is to ensure:

- Safety of riders
- Flow of event
- Report any course issues that need attending to, to course director:
 - Unsafe ruts/grooves that need to be compacted
 - Course tape that is broken
 - Poles that need to be replaced/hammered securely back in
 - Course hold in the event of a serious accident

There are 2 radio systems of which you (course marshals) will have a **Race Radio** with you – not all ski patrollers have race radios, but will have Event Medical radios, and may rely on listening in to your radio traffic. The Fire Department with a special side-by-side offroad vehicle will have both Race radio, as well as Event radios, they will then orchestrate a full medical evacuation.

The full event schedule for **Downhill** for 2025 Life Time Sea Otter Classic can be found [here](#).

Please use file search for Downhill and also note that Enduro's first stage is Thursday morning from 7:00 AM – 12:30 PM on the Downhill course

Below is a simplified version of the race schedule, bearing in mind that we will need you to be there earlier and later than times set out on this schedule. For more information about volunteering, contact: jeff@socfdn.org or melanie@socfdn.org.

2025 SEA OTTER CLASSIC		
SCHEDULE		
THURSDAY		
7h00	END	Stage 1 practice
9h00	END	Stage 1 final RACE
12h30	END	Course closed
15h15	DH	Elite / Expert practice
16h15	DH	Junior practice
17h15	DH	Intermediate / Beginner / Para / Non-Binary / Hardtail practice
18h30	DH	Course closed after last rider
FRIDAY		
8h00	DH	Elite practice
10h15	DH	Junior practice
13h30	DH	Expert practice
15h30	DH	Int / Beg / Para / Non-binary practice
17h30	DH	Course closed after last rider
SATURDAY		
8h00	DH	Junior Practice
9h30	DH	Junior Final RACE
12h15	DH	Int / Beg / Para / Non-binary practice
14h00	DH	Int / Beg / Para / Non-binary final RACE
16h30	DH	Course closed after last rider
SUNDAY		
8h00	DH	Elite Practice
9h45	DH	Elite final RACE
11h45	DH	Expert Practice
13h00	DH	Expert final RACE
16h00	DH	Course closed after last rider and coueaw tear down and clean up

Thank you for be part of this amazing event and the Downhill Race team!