

Red Dirt Backyard Ultra 2026

Race Manual – Version 3 (Released 05/10/25)

Introduction

This Race Manual provides essential information for runners and their support crews to prepare for and participate in the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra.

Public Authorities

The Red Dirt Backyard Ultra is made possible through the cooperation of the **Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH)** and the **City of Karratha**. Their support is essential, and as part of their approval, several requirements have been incorporated into the event rules. To ensure this event can continue in future years, all runners and support crews must follow the rules outlined in this manual and comply with directions from authorised officials.

Race Organisation

During the event, and subject to the overarching authority of the public bodies above, the Race Director has final authority on all matters relating to the event.

Volunteers

This event would not be possible without the dedication of volunteers who give their time to help runners achieve their goals. Please treat them with respect and gratitude.

Race Details

- **Date & Time:** Starts 7:00am, Saturday 27 June 2026
- **Location:** Rear of Bayview Hotel Karratha, Bayview Road, Nickol, WA
- **Parking:** Across Bayview Road on the gravel area (TBC). Vehicles are not permitted in the staging area unless directed by organisers.

Qualification Requirements

There are no specific qualifying criteria from previous events required to compete in the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra, however the below restrictions comply.

- **Age:** Runners under 18 years old on race day, must receive approval from the Race Directors prior to registering and must always have a support crew member aged 18+ present during the event. Please email pilbaratrailblazers@gmail.com before completing registration.
- **Experience:** Entrants should have a reasonable base level of fitness and regular running experience. By registering, entrants confirm that they are trained and prepared for the distance attempted.

Entries

- **Registrations Open:** October 2025
- **Registrations Close:** 11:59pm AWST, Sunday 21 June 2026 (The closing date is final, there will be no reopening of tickets after 21 June 2026)
- **Fees:**
 - \$60 – Launch pricing (until 31 Dec 2026)
 - \$70 – Early Bird (1 Jan – 31 Mar 2026)
 - \$80 – Standard (1 Apr – 31 May 2026)
 - \$90 – Late (1 Jun – 21 Jun 2026)

Refunds & Cancellations

- Unfortunately, Pilbara Trailblazers do not offer refunds on Entry costs
- If you can no longer run due to Pregnancy, Injury or another commitment coming up on that day. You can either defer your entry to the following year, or you could find someone else to transfer your ticket to. In both cases you need to confirm with the race directors via the contact details below.
- If cancelled by organisers due to weather a new date will be chosen as soon as possible

Race Numbers

Bib numbers will be issued at check-in. Bibs must be worn in a prominent position at all times, be mindful of this if you plan to change shirts or remove layers during the event.

Rules & Disqualification

- Runners must be inside the corral at the lap start bell each lap (hour) and start the lap at the bell
- Except for restroom breaks a competitor cannot leave the course until the yard is complete
- No unofficial runners allowed.
- No pets allowed
- No outside assistance allowed during a yard, this includes being handed aid by a bystander or handing something to a non-competitor during the yard
- No artificial aids (hiking poles)
- Each yard must be completed in less than an hour to be counted

- Runners may not store supplies or equipment of any description along the course
- Breaches of rules by runners or their crews may result in disqualification
- The Race Director has authority to stop any runner deemed unsafe or in violation of event rules.

Dropping Out

All runners except the Last One Standing are classed as a **DNF** (Did Not Finish)

- Runners can DNF from the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra only at the start marquee. It is imperative that withdrawing runners notify the Race Director or appropriate marshal IN PERSON of their withdrawal so that no unnecessary concern is caused or searches are conducted.
- The ways in which you can DNF are by Voluntary withdrawal, medical withdrawal, timed out (did not complete the lap within an hour) or disqualified due to breach of rules.

Sweepers

- If for any reason you don't make it back after 15 minutes of the next hour, the race director will attempt to contact you via phone to check to see if you require help. If contact isn't made, then a sweeper will come out to locate you and report back to Race HQ.

Fitness & Safety

This event is physically demanding. By entering, runners confirm they are appropriately trained and accept the risks, which include:

- Heat stress, hypothermia, hyponatremia, kidney failure
- Overuse injuries, falls, fatigue
- Snake/spider bites, dehydration

Mandatory Gear:

- Mobile phone (with Race Director's number stored)
- Night laps: head torch, some sort of reflective clothing or reflective tape (available at Aid station)

Other Recommended Gear:

- Sun protection (hat, shirt, sunscreen, sunglasses)

- Ice neck ties, cold packs etc.
- Hydration system (no single-use cups)

AUTRA and backyard ultra online records use of personal information

- It is a requirement that race organisers furnish within 30 days after the race, information for their database of the competitors (first name, last name, mailing address, telephone number, email address and DOB). This is for purposes of email newsletters, records and rankings and for their competitor database generally. This information will not be passed on to third parties. By entering the race, you consent to your personal information being used as described.

Insurance

- The organisers of the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra have public liability Insurance coverage through the Australian Ultra and Trail Runners Association (AUTRA). This insurance does not provide any coverage for injury or illness to entrants, spectators or support crews. All entrants, spectators and support crews are encouraged to ensure they have medical insurance that covers them for injuries or illness sustained during the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra.

Course Information

- **Distance:** 6.71km continuous loop (Electronic maps will be provided on the website for download in GPX format)
- **Markings:** Clear signage at all intersections and along the course
- **Hazards:** Gravel surface (hard/soft), potholes, other path users (bikes, dogs, etc.)
- **Toilets:** Located at the start line (priority to runners 15 min before each lap)

Runners must be in the corral at the start of each lap. Once the bell sounds, runners must cross the start line. Support crews can only assist between laps at the corral.

Trail Etiquette

Runners should show courtesy to all people including other path users encountered on the Red Dirt Backyard Ultra course. Runners are likely to encounter bicycles, pedestrians, dogs and possibly dirt bikes on the loop as it is an open recreation area. Please use common trail etiquette.

Track Conditions

Entrants must cope with a combination of track surfaces. The track is all gravel trail, both soft and hard surface, no technical elements. Potholes may exist on the trail. Runners should be careful and take caution. There shhowever, no water crossings on

course, however if there is unseasonal rain the course may have water. This will be detailed in the pre-race briefing.

Weather

The average maximum temperature for Karratha in June is 26 degrees Celsius, with an average minimum temperature of 15 degrees. However, in previous years during this event, temperatures have reached 32 degrees, please be prepared for warm temperatures and ensure that you hydrate adequately. We will have ice for competitors to cool themselves down should temperatures rise above 30 degrees.

Support Crews

- Crews may only assist at the event village
- Aid station supplies are for runners only
- No littering, blocking, or disruptive behaviour
- Children are not permitted in the aid station area
- Crews must comply with officials at all times

It is recommended crews bring shade, chairs, food, water, and ice (if hot weather is forecast).

Aid Station

- Although it is not mandatory to carry water, it is highly recommended. There will be no aid stations on the course, only the aid station at the event staging area.
- No single use cups will be provided during this event. Runners can utilise hydration vests / belts, soft flasks and water bottles
- Water and limited food (fruit, chips, lollies) provided
- Runners are responsible for their own specific nutrition needs
- Littering on course or at the start/finish area is strictly prohibited

Schedule of Events

Friday 26 June 2026

- 3:30–6:30pm: Runner Check-In and bib collection (course staging area)
- Runners can set up their own areas at their own risk from 3.30pm (no organised security overnight)
- No participants are to set up before this time, to allow time for the complete event staging area to be completed first

Saturday 27 June 2026

- 6:00–6:30am: Final Check-In. Bib collection by prior arrangement only
- 6:40am: Pre-Race Briefing
- 7:00am: Race Start
- After event: Presentations, Pack Down

Awards & Results

- **Last One Standing** recognised at the finish line ceremony
- **DNF awards** to all official finishers during the event
- Results will be published in a timely matter on Pilbara Trailblazers Facebook page and on backyardultra.com.au

Contacts

Event Director: 0427 312 428

Email: pilbaratrailblazers@gmail.com | info@pilbaratrailblazers.au