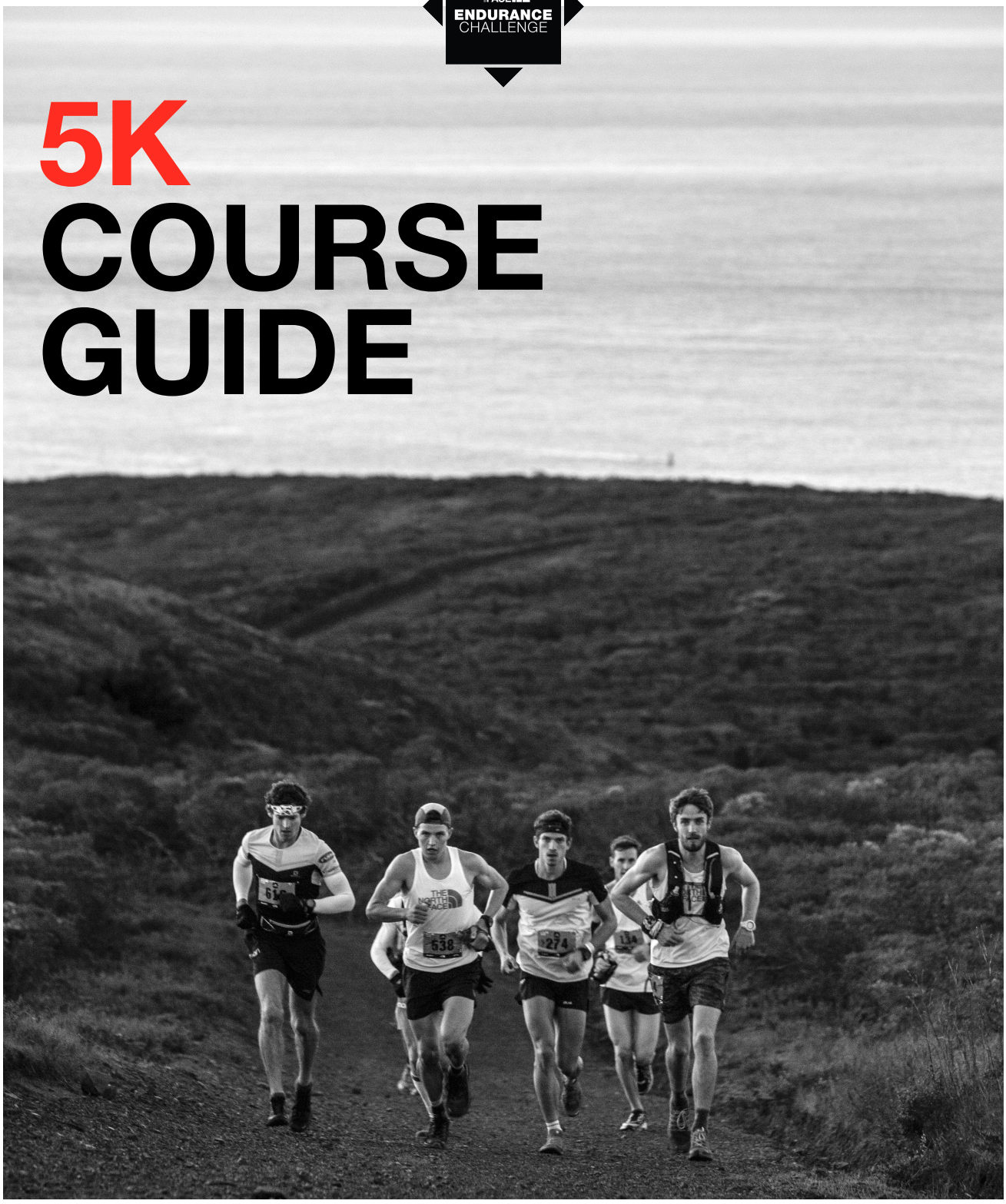
THE NORTH FACE ENDURANCE CHALLENGE

5K COURSE GUIDE



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RACE DAY CHECKLIST

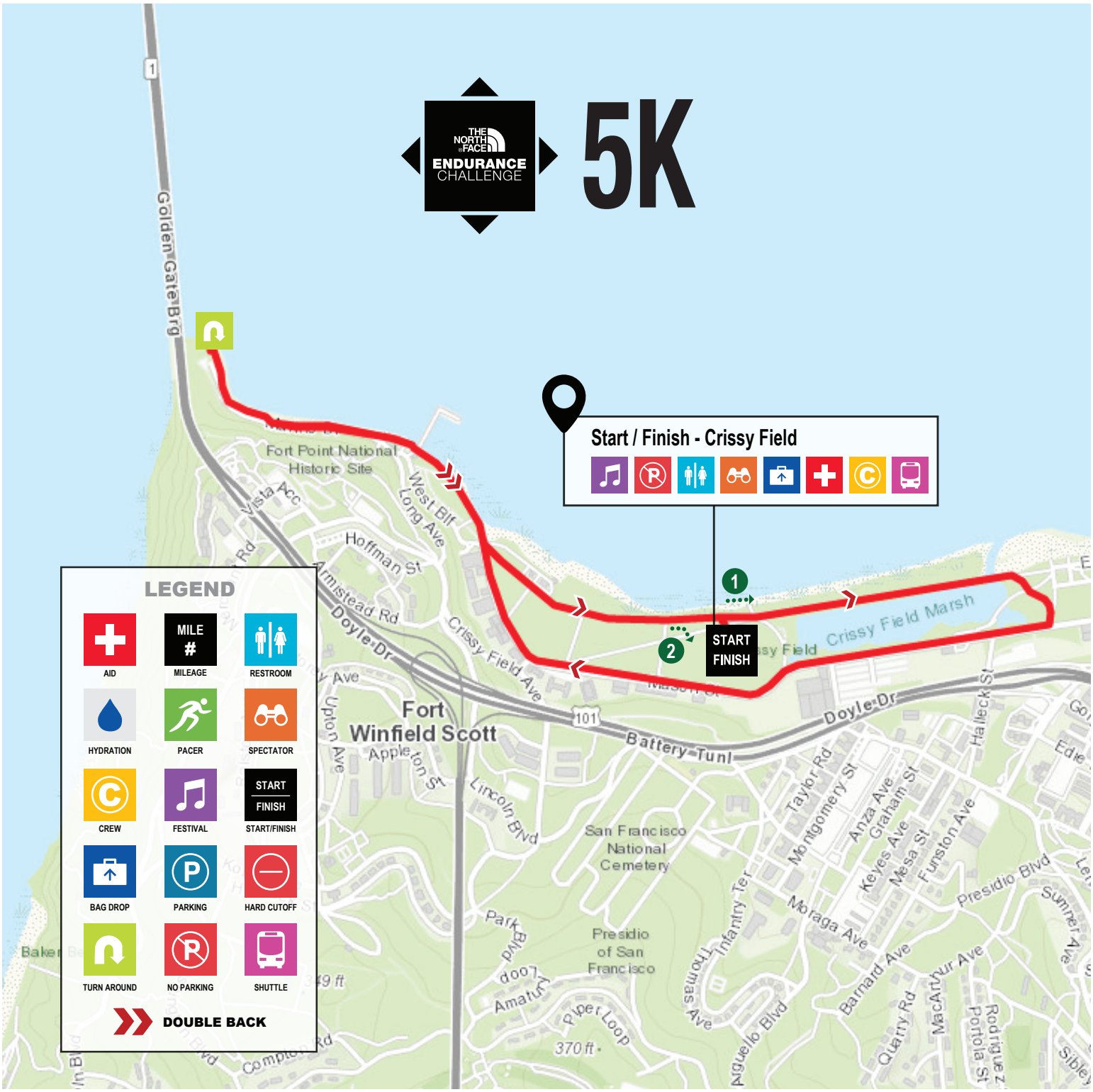
PRE-RACE PREPARATION

- Review the shuttle and parking information on the website and make a plan for your transportation to the start area. Allow extra time if you are required or planning to take a shuttle.
- If your distance allows, make a plan with your pacer to meet you at a designated pacer aid station. Review the pacer information section of this guide for pacer rules and transportation options.
- Locate the designated drop bag aid stations and prepare a gear bag for the specific drop bag location(s). Review the drop bag information section of this guide for more information regarding on-course drop bag processes and policies.
- Pick up your bib and timing device at a designated packet pickup location.
- Attend the Pre-Race Panel Discussion for last-minute questions and advice from TNF Athletes and the Race Director.
- Check the weather forecast and plan clothing and extra supplies accordingly for both you and your friends/family attending the race and Finish Festival. It is typically colder at the Start/Finish area than it is in the city.
- Make sure to have a hydration and fuel plan in place to ensure you are properly nourished throughout your race. See the Aid Station Menu for details on the hydration and fuel options available on-course.

WHAT TO BRING

- Directions and/or map to race start, parking location or shuttle pickup location
- Bib, timing device and safety pins
- Bibs should be worn on the front where they will be clearly visible to assist aid station volunteers tracking your progress on the course, and to ensure you will have some great photos of your achievement! Photos will be available a few days after the race, and can be found at www.ultraracephotos.com/tnfec
- Headlamp or flashlight (mandatory for all 50 Mile participants)
- Change of clothes and shoes for the Finish Festival
- Appropriate clothing based on the weather forecast (jacket, pants, gloves, head cover, rain jacket, etc.)
- Appropriate equipment based on the weather forecast (umbrella, poncho, blanket, etc.)
- Bag to store your belongings at the Finish Festival
- Water bottle or hydration pack
    - TNF Endurance Challenge is cupless at each course Aid Station and at the Start/Finish Line Festival
- Required medications, inhalers or EpiPens
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses or hat
- Anti-chafe gel
- Watch/GPS device (remember to charge the night before)
- Cell phone (limited cellular reception at Start/Finish area) or camera
- Cash for food and beer
- I.D. for beer garden
- Ibuprofen or pain reliever (this will not be distributed to any individual by event staff, volunteers or medical teams)
- Game face

COURSE MAP



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Located in the historic airfield of Crissy Field, The North Face Endurance Challenge Championship course first takes athletes breathe away with views of Alcatraz, San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate Bridge. The course makes a quick loop around Crissy Field Pond before heading out on Bay trail to making your way under the Golden Gate Bridge. Athletes then continue on Coastal trail where they literally pass history but running through the old historic battery locations of WWII before making their way to Baker Beach. Continuous views of the Pacific Ocean awaits the runners as they make their way back under the Golden Gate Bridge and the short but steep descent back down Battery East before returning to the new historic airfield finish of Crissy Field.

COURSE RATING, ELEVATION PROFILE & PACE CHART

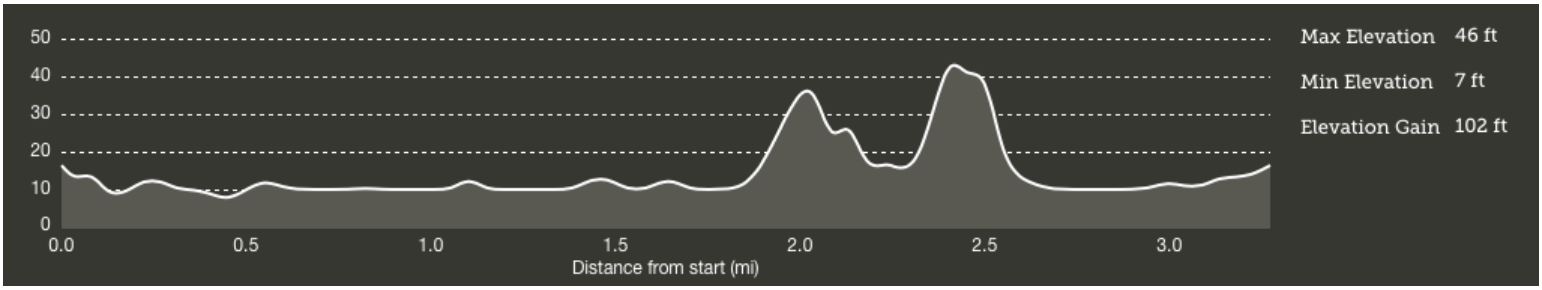
OVERALL DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

TECHNICAL TERRAIN: ★★★★★

ELEVATION CHANGE: ★★★★★

SCENERY: ★★★★★

				Pace	0:05:58		0:12:40		0:19:21	
Aid Station	Name	Mille	Next Aid	Lead Runner		Middle Runner		Last runner		Crew
Start	Crissy Field	0	3.1	0:00:00	9:15 AM	0:00:00	9:15 AM	0:00:00	9:15 AM	Yes
Finish	Crissy Field	3.1	-	0:18:30	9:33 AM	0:39:15	9:54 AM	1:00:00	10:15 AM	Yes
Hard Cut Off	**Crissy Field**	**All 5K racers need to be through the Finish Line by this time**							**10:15 AM**	



CUTOFF POLICY

In accordance with parameters agreed to by **ALL permitting properties** and for the safety of all runners, volunteers and race staff, any runner that is off pace to complete their distance by the designated course cutoff may be pulled at any time by the Race Director.

Please be aware that **1 Hour** is considered a hard cutoff time. All runners will be expected to carry the slowest official finishing pace for the entirety of the course.

If the runner fails to do so and is significantly behind pace, the race staff reserves the right to pull ANY runner from the race at ANY time and at ANY point on the course.

Wave start times are accommodated in the cutoff times.

TURN-BY-TURN DIRECTIONS

Start to finish (Next Aid 3.1 miles)

- Depart the main event site and head east on Bay Trail (Golden Gate Promenade)
- Runners will be doing a clockwise loop around the Crissy Field Marsh then making a right hand turn on trail that fronts Old Mason Street
- Athletes will continue on trail along Old Mason street to Marine Drive.
- Here athletes will continue west on Crissy Field Promenade towards the Warming Hut.
- Continue past Warming Hut on Bay Trail out to Fort Point (Turn around location).
- Reverse direction on Bay Trail and return on Crissy Field Promenade at Warming Hut.
- At Crissy Field stay LEFT to continue on Crissy Field Promenade, on north side of Crissy Field.
- And continue to the finish line with a hard right hand turn into the finish chute.

Enjoy a taste of what the 50 mile, 50K, marathon athletes did on Saturday with this beautiful section of running.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

- Your race bib must be worn on the front of your body outside of your clothing so that it is visible.
- If you are unable to finish the course, please notify event staff at the nearest aid station that you will not be continuing on the race course. The race staff will then notify the race director and arrange transportation if needed.
- If you see a potentially injured runner on course, please get the runner's bib number and report the situation to the aid station captain at the following aid station.
- Share the trail! Many of our course sections are run on single-track trails. If a faster runner is approaching you and would like to pass provide the opportunity for the runner to safely pass.
- The North Face Endurance Challenge is going cupless. Be sure to bring your HydraPak SpeedCup provided at packet pick up or your own bottle/hydration device. Water cups will not be provided.

GEAR CHECK

FINISH LINE GEAR BAGS

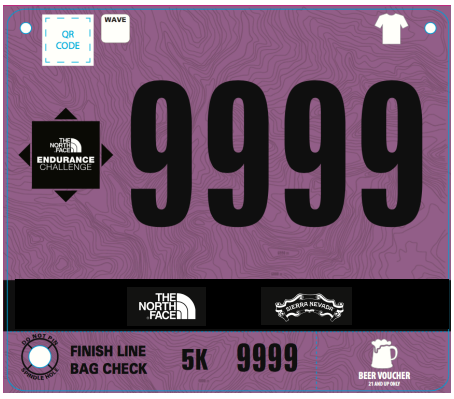
- Runners will be able to leave bags at the Finish in the Gear Check tent.
- Finish Line gear bags must be tagged with the perforated tag located at the bottom of your race bib.
- Race staff will assist with adhering the tag to your bag if needed.
- Gear bags cannot exceed 10 pounds.
- Overweight or bulky bags will not be accepted.
- Coolers will not be accepted.
- Runners may only drop one bag at the Finish.
- Gear bags will not be refrigerated.
- Unmarked bags will be available at the Gear Check Area and can be retrieved with description.
- The North Face and Endurance Challenge are not responsible for lost or stolen gear bags or property.
- Gear bags could be exposed to the elements. Contents should be weatherproofed.
- Gear bags are subject to search by race staff if necessary.
- **Gear bags will be available for pickup at the Finish Festival until Sunday at 12:30 p.m. and then at The North Face - San Francisco store for one-week following the race.**
- Gear bags WILL NOT be mailed.
- All unclaimed gear bags will be disposed of at the end of the week.

RECOMMENDED FINISH LINE GEAR BAG ITEMS

POST RACE CLOTHING
shirts
shorts
socks
sandals
rain gear
gloves
warm gear

RECOVERY FUEL
recovery bars
recovery powders
snacks
water bottle / hydration device

FIRST AID
antacids
ibuprofen/aspirin
lip balm
blister protection
analgesics
towels
eye drops
antibiotic ointment



Finish Line Gear Bag Tag

RACE REFUELING BY HAMMER NUTRITION

DO'S AND DON'TS

- **Don't try to "carbo load" the night before**
- **Don't try to load water or sodium in the days before**
- **Don't worry about not sleeping much on Friday night**
- **DO get a good night's sleep Thursday night**
- **DO maintain normal hydration and caloric intake in the days prior**
- **DO attend the panel discussion on Thursday night**

NIGHT BEFORE RACE:

- **Eat clean, eat until you're satisfied, and then call it a night.** For dinner, consume complex carbohydrates, some high-quality protein, and low-to-no saturated fat. Make sure your meal is low in sodium, and be sure to drink sufficient (but not too much) amounts of water. Skip the alcohol, fatty foods, and dessert… save those "rewards" for after the race.

RACE MORNING:

- **Finish all calorie consumption 3 hours prior to your race start.** This puts your body in the ideal physiological state to use its stores of on-board fuel efficiently, while also utilizing the vast amount of calories from body fat stores more effectively.
- If you don't plan on being up to eat 3 full hours before race start, sleep in and skip breakfast.

Breakfast should consist of 400-500 calories from low fiber carbohydrates, protein and fat.
Read all about pre exercise fueling here: https://www.hammernutrition.com/pre-exercise

DURING THE RACE: *REMEMBER: Less is Best!*

CALORIC INTAKE: A 5K race usually takes no more (and most likely less) than 30 minutes to accomplish. As such, minimal-to-no calories will be necessary. If you do choose to have calories, we suggest one of the two options:

- Consume one (1) Hammer Gel 5-10 minutes prior to the start

OR:

- Carry one (1) Hammer Gel and consume halfway through your leg

FLUID INTAKE: There will not be any aid stations on the 5K race course, but that's OK; you will not require any fluid intake during the race. Be sure that you're hydrated properly prior to the race. We suggest 10-12 ounces (approx. 295-355 milliliters) of water each hour up to 30 minutes prior to the start.
SOURCE: https://www.hammernutrition.com/hydration

ELECTROLYTE INTAKE: There will not be any aid stations on the 5K race course, but that's OK; you will not require any electrolytic mineral replenishment during the race.

AFTER THE RACE:

- **"Refill the tank" ASAP with Recoverite.** Consumed within the first 30 minutes after the race, Recoverite is the convenient and effective way to resupply your body with complex carbohydrates, whey protein isolate, and a full spectrum electrolyte profile.

SOURCE: https://www.hammernutrition.com/recovery

For complete articles on these five topics, be sure to download your FREE copy of ***5 Secrets of Success*** at https://www.hammernutrition.com/5sos

COURSE MARKING

RIBBON MARKINGS

- Each distance will follow a unique color of marking that corresponds to the participant's bib color.
- Any time runners do not see their race color among the ribbons hung on the trails, they should take it as an indication that they are no longer on their race course. They should return to the last place they saw ribbon matching their race.
- For portions of the course that will be impacted before sunrise or after sunset, reflective tape and/or glow sticks will be placed alongside course markings.

FLAG MARKINGS

- As needed, ribbon markings will be replaced by flag markings.

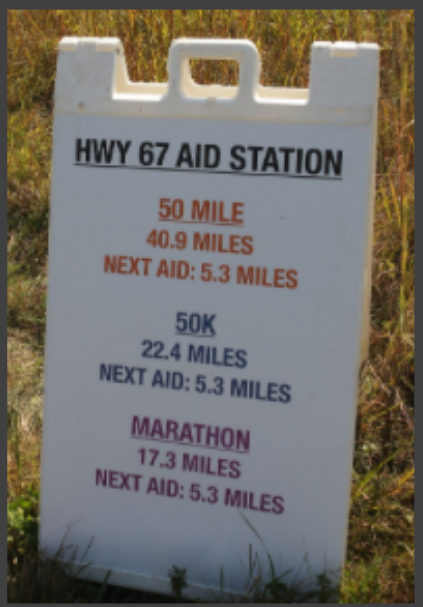
SIGN MARKINGS

- All Endurance Challenge racers will follow the white directional signage arrows on-course.
- In the event that the course is marked with a colored arrow instead of a white arrow, runners should follow the sign color that corresponds to the color of their race bib.
- Locations where this may occur include when the race distances split and at trail intersections.

AID STATION SIGNAGE

- At each aid station, runners will find a sign featuring the current mileage and the distance to the next aid station (see bottom image).

RUNNING WITH GPS WATCHES

We understand that runners will be equipped with a wide variety of GPS watches. These watches should only be used as a guide for measuring your distance throughout your respective trail race. Please be cautioned that satellite reception, tree coverage and other factors will impact the accuracy of the distance displayed on your watch and that the distance of your course will vary depending on the type/model you wear.

SAMPLE MARKINGS