



Races:

Races are categorized as competitive events with participants racing against peers of like ability, age and gender. Emphasis is on the rider placing, with cash awards available for the top finishers. Races are more highly regulated, with rules covering the sporting aspects to ensure a level playing field among participants within a particular category or class.

Characteristics:

- Rider are grouped by class or category and are only allowed to compete and ride on the road against those they start with.
- Categories and classes are size limited and race independently of others.
- Prizes, places, points and standings are a major component of the event and are how the participants are judged, even if some are only racing for the experience.
- Tighter regulations on equipment, feeding and support to ensure a more neutral backdrop for the competition.
- Distances/race times are set by category and class.

Gran Fondos:

Gran Fondos are participation based **road** events with a competitive element. Generally, all riders start together or in close proximity and are timed over the entire course or specific portions. Riders of all ability levels ride together with minimal regulation on feeding, mechanical support and distance chosen.

Characteristics:

- Participants are allowed to ride together and work together on the road, no matter category or ability.
- Regulations generally emphasize safety. The emphasis on feeding and support is to enable the rider to finish the event.
- Although prizes may be given, the emphasis is on participation and the fulfillment of personal goals.
- Distance ridden is self selected by the participant based on personal ability.

Participation Events:

Participation events are rides with no formal timing procedures, results or prizes. The emphasis is on completing a distance or other personal goal. The emphasis for any regulations is on the safety of participants.

Characteristics:

- No formal timing or results.
- No prizes awarded
- All participants are free to ride together.
- Riders may start at finish at any time, inside the limits set by the organizer.