

CROATIA TROPHY

LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND

1. GENERAL

Croatia Trophy is an off-road amateur-driving event demanding top driving skills by every participant, and performance will therefore be assessed solely on time. There will be no score for manoeuvring skills, such as clocking up a clear round in a slalom track.

Participants will be divided in three classes: Trophy Class and Adventure Class for cars and ATV Class. Cars will not be divided into different subclasses: the various stage of the difficult terrain in this Trophy will favour different types of cars – from light agile models to heavy, powerful ones – at different times. The demands placed on participants during the Trophy overall will guarantee that all participants have absolutely identical chances of winning.

To achieve one of the top places in the overall score, the driver and co-driver, as well as ATV drivers, must be perfectly co-ordinated, master both, the winch and the vehicle to perfection, and be expert in assessing the terrain. In the end it will be the crew, or ATV driver, that consistently manages to drive among the fastest from A to B, to win the contest.

Every announcement or notification published on www.croatia-trophy.org or on facebook.com/croatiatrophy is considered as a part of The Rules.

[Facebook.com/croatiatrophy](https://facebook.com/croatiatrophy) is the only official Facebook page of Croatia Trophy. Any other information published on any other Facebook profile or group is NOT official Croatia Trophy information.

*Finally we would like to appeal to all participants to display a true spirit of fair play, however keen you are to win. Everybody who completes the Trophy will win a personal victory. The prizes for the first places should not and must not tempt participants into endangering themselves and others. The special fair play award named after **Carl Reuter** will be given to the crew or driver that is deemed to deserve it. Press, The Organizer and Fair Play Prize sponsor will make the decision. We encourage everybody to report fair behavior.*

Please make every effort to avoid damaging the unique Croatian countryside in any way. Remember that we are all guests in the Croatian forests and nature, and would like to have the opportunity to return.

2. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

2.1. Vehicles

2.1.1. Type and the equipment of the vehicle

The Croatia Trophy is an event for off-road vehicles (cars and ATV's). It is open to any all wheel drive vehicle. Every 4x4 vehicle that is road legal in its country of origin (has a registration plate and a valid international insurance certificate) is allowed to enter the race.

Prototypes are not eligible.

Each vehicle must be equipped with 2 safety belts, 2 helmets, 2 sets of protective gloves, spare wheel and appropriate car jack (optional but strongly recommendable), at least 2 linen stripes for pull-outs (short and long one), winches (rear winch is optional for "Adventure Class"), trip master, fire extinguisher, mud anchor (optional but recommendable) and a first aid box.

Roll bar (cage) is mandatory for all vehicles. ATV drivers will wear special protective clothing instead.

Maximum permissible weight for vehicles is 3.5 tones.

2.1.2. Classes

Participants are divided in classes. Cars are divided in "Trophy" and "Adventure" class. ATV's are separate class. They are also divided in "Trophy" and "Adventure" class. ATV's that drive by the "Trophy Class" Road Book must for a team of two. Single ATV driver can drive only "Adventure Class" Road Book.

The difference between "Trophy" and "Adventure" class is in the road book.

"Adventure Class" road book is not as demanding as "Trophy Class" road book.

The difference in equipment is in winches and axels.

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Vehicles in "Trophy Class" must have front and rear winch while vehicles in "Adventure Class" must have front winch only. Rear winch is optional.

Vehicles with portal axels are not allowed in "Adventure Class". They can participate in "Trophy Class" only. The vehicle with portal axels can however participate in "Adventure Class", but without ranking, starting every stage from last starting position.

"Adventure Class" is not a Rally. It uses tracks of "Croatia Trophy" but without most difficult parts and long winching areas.

It is not "light class" and definitely not a "tourist class". It is ultimate adventure and, first of all, genuine off road.

Change from "Trophy" to "Adventure" Class during the event is allowed. Participant keeps his time score and starts next stage in new class from last starting position. The change can be done after completing Stage Two. Change from "Adventure" to "Trophy" Class is not possible.

2.1.3. The Tyres

Tyres must be from serial production with off-road profile. They can be any type or size and must be road legal.

Tractor tyres and tyres with rubber spikes or studs are not permitted. It is, however, permitted to cut and alter the treads of existing tyres.

Unimog tyre profiles are allowed for Unimogs or for vehicles constructed on Unimog basis.

Snow chains are not allowed.

2.1.4. GPS

Possession and use of GPS is not allowed. Vehicle that has GPS will not be allowed to start. Controls will be taken during the stages.

2.1.5. Radio communicator

Possession and use of Radio communicator is not allowed. Vehicle that has Radio communicator will not be allowed to start. Controls will be taken during the stages.

Radio communication between driver and co-driver is allowed.

2.1.6. Mobile telephone-GSM

The use of mobile telephone (GSM) is not allowed, except for the emergency case.

2.2. Crew & Safety

The crew is consisted of two (2) members: driver and co driver. They can change their role without limitation. Both crew members must have valid driving licence.

ATV drivers must prove ATV driving experience to The Organizer.

When in stage, participants must wear the helmet all the time and fasten their seatbelts. Crossing deep water must make exception.

Participants must wear protective gloves when operating the cable.

ATV drivers must wear protective clothes, helmet with eye protection and gloves, when in stage.

2.3. The Track

The entire track **must** be driven as specified in the road book. The individual sections of the track and the special tracks must be accomplished in the fastest possible time. The distances (kilometres and meters) quoted in the road book shall apply. The distances shown on the dial can vary appreciably depending on the size of the tyre, the stile of driving, detours or uneven terrain. The Organizer will mark the distance of 1km according to the vehicle that the road book has been made with, in the base camp, so the participants can calibrate their trip masters.

The final route will be given in the road book and in particular at the drivers briefing.

Connecting runs are not timed but they might be time limited.

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2.4. Scoring

The scoring of the individual stages can be seen from the description of the stages given in the road book. Scoring is based on the time a crew takes to cover the prescribed route between start and a finish. Vehicles must cross starting line reach checkpoints and cross finishing line under their own steam. Each stage will feature one or more checkpoints and some of them might not be given in the road book. Participants must register their presence at the checkpoint, with electronic devices supplied by The Organizer.

The time will be measured in hours, minutes and seconds.

Every crew that made The Start of the stage must register in the Base Camp Check Point after finishing the stage by crossing The Finish line, or withdrawal from the stage for any reason.

In case of no registration in the Base Camp Check Point, penalty applies (chapter 2.7.4.).

2.5. Evaluation

Order of the stage will be based on time needed to finish the stage and penalty time given. The fastest is the best.

The overall ranking is based on the overall time from previous stages

The results will be published in INFO board in the Base Camp.

2.6. Starting order

The starting order for the first stage will be determined by the ranking achieved in the preliminary competition (prologue). The Organizer will inform participants in good time about the procedure for this preliminary competition. Preliminary competition is not evaluated for overall ranking.

On subsequent days vehicles will start in the order of the ranking they have achieved in the previous stage (except for the circuit race). The best from the previous stage starts first. ATV's shall start each stage first. Time difference between last started ATV and first started car is 30 min.

The vehicle that is late to The Start according to designated Start list will start as the last one that stage.

2.7. Penalties

2.7.1.

Outside help – disqualification from the stage

2.7.2.

Tampering with the Scorecard – disqualification from the stage

2.7.3.

Avoiding tasks and route given in the road book – disqualification from the stage

2.7.4.

Missing checkpoint or entering checkpoint from the wrong side – disqualification from the stage

2.7.5.

Withdrawal (giving up) from the stage

- Between Start and Middle Checkpoint – **last stage time of the day + 45 minutes penalty time**
- Between Middle Check Point and Last Checkpoint – **last stage time of the day + 30 minutes penalty time.**
- Between Last Checkpoint and Finish – **last stage time of the day + 15 minutes penalty time.**

The Organizer will investigate every start and withdrawal from the stage before first checkpoint of the day, in order to prevent unfair behavior.

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2.7.6.

Not starting the stage – last stage time of the day + **3 hours** penalty time

2.7.7.

Disqualification from the stage – last stage time of the day + **2 hours** penalty time

2.7.8.

Possessing GPS, radio communicator or usage of mobile telephone on prohibited way – **300 €** fine plus disqualification from the stage. In repeated case – disqualification from the Trophy.

2.7.9.

Not wearing helmet, protective gloves when operating the cable or not fastening the seat belt – **100 €** fine. In repeated case – **300 €** fine plus disqualification from the stage. Not paying any of those fines leads to the disqualification from the Trophy.

2.7.10.

Using winch cable around the tree without protective stripe, or using electric (telephone) poles or fences or any other inappropriate object for winching – **300 €** fine. In repeated case – **500 €** fine plus disqualification from the stage. Not paying any of those fines leads to the disqualification from the Trophy.

2.7.11.

Driving off the road book through the fields, causing damage to the fields, trees and plants- **300 €** fine plus disqualification from the stage. In repeated case – **500 €** fine plus disqualification from the stage. Not paying any of those fines leads to the disqualification from the Trophy.

Penalties for not obeying the specific regulations of the day will be announced on the driver's briefing.

2.7.12.

For loss or not returning electronic devices **100 €** fine.

2.7.13.

Unfair behavior - disqualification from the stage. In repeated case – disqualification from the Trophy.

The Organizer reserves right to define and determine improper behavior, which is not in a spirit of The Trophy, as an unfair.

2.8. Bonuses

In order to promote, support and reward excellence and true fair competition spirit, The Organizer will give bonus time to the three best competitors of the day. Bonus time will be deducted from their time of the day.

- First place (The Winner) bonus – **12 minutes**
- Second place – **6 minutes**
- Third place – **3 minutes**

Bonuses will not apply for the Night Stage, Trophy Day and Circuit Race.

2.9. Outside help

Outside help is not permitted, which means that neither the members of The Organizing Team, nor the marshals, nor the crew's own service/support team, nor spectators are allowed to render assistance. The only help that is permitted is that rendered by competitors inside their own class, still participating in the contest (except in the case of emergency). Help between classes will be considered as outside help. Exceptions can be made due to track condition and The Organizer will inform about it on time. The stage will be deemed not completed if a crew has been proven to receive outside help.

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2.10. Driving rules/Offences

Participants must obey the instructions issued by The Organizer and the marshals or section leaders throughout the duration of the event. Further regulations might be announced at the driver's briefing or in the road book.

Non-observance of these instructions can lead to the penalties being imposed in chapter 2.7.3. and 2.7.12. of The Rules, or even to participants being disqualified from the stage or from the event. If participant decides to withdraw from stage or from The Trophy, they must inform The Organiser as soon as possible. Registration in Base Camp Check point by return to the Base Camp is mandatory.

2.11. Complaints

Claims and complaints can only be lodged with the leaders of the Organizing Team. The Organizer will make every effort to post up score list daily on the scoring board before briefing takes place, showing the day's score, the overall score and any changes.

2.12. Protests/Appeals

Protests of any kind must be lodged with The Organizer/Trophy manager within maximum of one hour after the publication of the results.

Any protest must be lodged in written form and must be accompanied by the payment of the protest fee of **200 €**. This fee will be forfeited if the protest proves to be unfounded.

Three responsible leaders of the event organizing team will reach decision on protest, after listening to the accounts given by those involved. The decision will be announced at least before the start of the next stage or, in case of the protest on last stage results, before announcement of total results.

2.13. Advertising

When submitting their entry forms, participants undertake to affix the advertising material supplied by the sponsors of this event to the parts of the vehicles specified by The Organizer. Competitive advertising is not allowed. Vehicles will be checked at the start of the Trophy to ensure that they meet its requirement.

Participation without proper stickers or with competitive sticker will not be allowed. The Organizer reserves windscreen and both front doors for own advertising. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

2.14. Identification

The Organizer will provide two stickers for each vehicle showing the start number. The stickers must be affixed to each of the front doors and must be clean before the start of every stage. Where vehicles have soft doors these stickers must be affixed to some other firm surface. The stickers will be provided for the service vehicles as well as for the press vehicles. Without proper sticker the start of the stage or the entrance in the camp will not be allowed.

2.15. Help and Assistance

In view of the unusual nature of this event every participant must render aid, should an accident or other hazardous situation occur.

2.16. Disqualification

The Organizer reserves right to exclude vehicles and their crew from the event if this is justified by the circumstances.

2.17. Servicing

Participants are not allowed to service their own vehicles during the stages. Servicing is only allowed in The Camp. The members of service/support teams are not allowed to approach to the participants or their vehicles on the track or to communicate with the participants on the track. Such behaviour will be considered and penalized as an outside help.

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2.18. Medical service

Medical service will be provided in a camp and along the stages. Medical service will be charged. Medical insurance (travel insurance for foreign countries) is mandatory for everybody.

DEFINITIONS

3.1. The Start

The starting point might be at The Camp or a point further away from The Camp. This will be specified in the road book.

Marshals are always present at The Start controlling that scoring begins before front wheels of the vehicle cross the starting line on their own steam according to the Start list.

The start will close 30 minutes after last started vehicle.

3.2. Road book

Participants are provided with a Road book to assist them and help them find their way. The Road book shall also be deemed to be an extension of The Rules. The Road book for the next stage will be delivered to the participants before the Start, after they return Road book from previous stage. Loss or not returning the Road book to The Organizer will mean excluding from the stage.

3.3. Stage

A stage is the total distance driven from The Start to The Finish in one day. It can be consisted of more individual sections whose number can vary from stage to stage. If there will be time limit to complete the stage, it will be specified in a road book or given on the Driver's briefing.

3.4. Individual section

Individual section is the part of the stage between specified checkpoints where the time will be measured.

3.5. Circuit Race

Circuit Race will be a special stage included in the overall scoring. For safety reasons, participants will start in groups. Groups will be formed based on overall standing. Slowest group starts first. Fastest group starts as last group. ATV's make special group and they start before cars.

Exact rules of the Circuit Race will be given to the participants on the driver's briefing, as a special amendment of The Rules.

3.6. Trophy Day

The Trophy Day will be a special stage included in the overall scoring. The crews in this stage will have to work together in teams, for the benefit of every team member. Participants will also have an individual section. Ranking of the day will be determined by summing times achieved in the group plus individual time. Exact rules of the Trophy Day will be given to the participants on the driver's briefing, as a special amendment of The Rules. ATV drivers will also form their teams for Trophy Day.

3.7. Checkpoint

Place where participants register their presence, with electronic devices supplied by The Organizer. They will be visibly marked so they can be easily spotted on the track.

On some Checkpoints marshals shall be present and check the regularity of the participating crews along the stage.

Checkpoints will not be marked in the road book and their number will not be announced.

3.7.1. Base Camp Check Point

Check point in Base Camp where every crew that made The Start of the stage must register after finishing the stage by crossing The Finish line, or withdrawal from the stage for any reason.

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Every crew must register by departing Base Camp to The Start and returning to the Base Camp. After that time no further registration during that day is required. Vehicles that do not participate in the stage do not need to register

3.8. Marshals

The Marshals are only authorized to execute the tasks allotted to them by The Organizer. They are not allowed to give participants any information or tips. They are only permitted to give information about The Rules or the accessibility of the leaders of the Organizing Team. Not obeying information or orders given by Marshals or the leaders of the Organizing Team leads to the penalties described in the chapter 2.7. of The Rules.

3.9. Technical assistance

Technical assistance and repairs can only be preformed in the camp.
The Organizer undertakes no liability for any work preformed.

3.10. Fuel

There will be no fuel available in the camp. This means that participants or service/support teams can fuel up on petrol stations nearby the base camp. The Organizer will provide information about accessible petrol stations and their working hours.

3.11. Technical Support Team – TST

TST (roundup Team) will bring up the rear along the entire track right up to the finish in order to rescue any stranded vehicles or to render assistance.

Emergency telephone number will be set up in Base Camp with English speaking operator.

Assistance taken is treated as withdrawing from the Stage.

Only “general repairs” can be executed. Participants can take along their own special vehicle parts. The Organizer assumes no liability for repairs to vehicles executed by the TST.

Rescue of the vehicles without spare tyre will be the last on TST list.

3.12. Timing

Time will be measured by means of electronic devices. Exclusively the marshals appointed by The Organizer will clock times. No other timing can be recognized.

Explanation of time measurement system and equipment will be given on Driver’s Briefing.

Only the times shown by The Organizer will be valid and recognized.

Electronic devices supplied by The Organizer, must be returned to The Organizer after the last day’s registration in Base Camp Check point, or by withdrawing from The Trophy for any reason.

For loss or not returning electronic devices, penalty applies (chapter 2.7.12.).

3.13. Finish

The finish is the last Check point of the Stage at which a score is recorded on the Time keeping device.

Marshals are always present at The Finish controlling that time is taken only when rear wheels cross finish line on their own steam.