



# FRA Race Registration and Licensing Policy

## A guide for Race Organisers



### Introduction

The FRA licenses fell races in England and the Isle of Man (and occasionally other home nations). Insurance for FRA-licensed races is provided via UK Athletics. The FRA also lists (in its Handbook and on its website) races outside England which align with the policy below and which may be of interest to FRA members.

### Licensing policy

The FRA only licenses fell races which are in keeping with the FRA's "Principles of Fell Running"<sup>1</sup>. In particular, core principles include the following:

1. **Unique character.** Key words are "fell", "runners" and "race"! The FRA does not license trail races, cross-country races, "challenge"-style events or walks.
2. **Non-commercialism.** Fell running is a non-commercial, low cost sport. Races should be run on a "break even" basis or to raise a modest amount for a stated good cause. Entry fees are expected to be priced at levels in line with what is "normal" for the sport, though the FRA recognises that all races are different and that some races have hidden costs. Guidance is available on request.
3. **Self-navigation.** The use of electronic aids (such as GPS devices) for navigation is strictly prohibited in all FRA races. Use of such devices both is contrary to the ethos of the sport and may bring seriously increased risk in cases of overreliance. ROs must make this principle clear to entrants and in particular should not provide electronic "GPX files" (or equivalent) of the route.
4. **Self-sufficiency.** Aid stations are not expected in fell races. Provision of fluids at road crossings on very dry courses may be acceptable.

Races should meet the criteria in the FRA Requirements for ROs and FRA Rules for Competition<sup>2</sup> and in particular must include **genuine fell terrain**; races entirely on trails will rarely be licensed. (It is accepted that some leeway may be afforded in certain geographical areas and for historical FRA races.)

Flagging should usually be minimised, and in particular the "open fell" parts of a fell race should be unflagged except where essential because of landowner demands or other access restrictions. (Short sections may occasionally be flagged, e.g. to guide runners into a checkpoint or to avoid a dangerous area.)

There is no charge for an FRA race licence. However, in return for a licence we ask the following of ROs:

1. Races should be organised, promoted and run in a manner commensurate with the FRA's "Principles of Fell Running"<sup>1</sup>.
2. ROs must read and carefully adhere to the FRA's Requirements for ROs<sup>2</sup> and other supporting documentation.
3. ROs must ensure that participants are made aware, especially at the point of entry, that the race is a fell race (not a trail race) run under FRA licence. The FRA logo should be displayed with a link to the FRA's website, and the FRA's key rules and "absolute no-nos" must be highlighted to entrants. In other words, **entrants must be absolutely clear what they are "letting themselves in for"**.

Further information and guidance are available from the FRA Fixtures Secretary or General Secretary.

*The Fell Runners Association  
19<sup>th</sup> July 2020*

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<sup>1</sup> available towards the front of the FRA Handbook and on the FRA website

<sup>2</sup> available on the FRA website