

RULES

What is a Flèche Vélocio?

A Flèche Vélocio is a team event organized, verified and validated by Audax Club Parisien. The ride heads to the traditional Easter Cycling Rally in Provence (France).

The ride must meet the following requirements :

- Each team is limited to a maximum of five members and a minimum of three members (multi-rider vehicles count as a single member).
- Teams ride continuously during 24 hours (no rest stop may exceed two hours). All team members ride the whole distance.
- Each team designs their own route, with the requirement to cover at least 360 km during the 24 hours.

The Flèche Vélocio has three main features :

- Building a strong **team spirit** by training and riding together.
- Riding the **longest possible distance in 24 hours**, despite limited preparation and difficult climatic conditions.
- **Getting all together** in a symbolic place to share a nice time of conviviality.

About the Riders

The Flèche Vélocio is open to any French or International cyclist regardless of cycling affiliations.

No individual entries are allowed. The Flèche Vélocio must be ridden in a team.

One team member will be designated the team captain and will be the sole contact with the ride organizer. The captain must make sure that the rules are respected. However, he does not have any authority over the other team members during the ride.

Any form of human-powered vehicle is acceptable. The only stipulation is that the vehicle must be powered solely by the rider, and that it complies with the French traffic laws.

Each rider must be covered by liability insurance, according to local law. Concerning France, please refer to articles L.321-1 and L.331-9 of the Code du Sport (French Sport Law).

Any rider under the age of 18 must have the consent of a parent or legal guardian, relieving the ACP of any responsibility.

After registration, riders will receive a personal brevet card and a frame badge. The brevet card will be used for verification at each controls. Each team member must keep the brevet card throughout the ride.

Rider's Duties

The Flèche Vélocio is not a race. Each rider is considered to be on a personal ride and must ride in accordance with all applicable traffic regulations and obey all traffic signals. The ACP cannot and does not accept responsibility for any accident that may occur during a Flèche Vélocio.

Teams choose the route that will lead them to the meeting. The team captain must send a proposal with detailed route and time schedule to the ACP organizer. The distance traveled is calculated on the basis of the shortest route between checkpoints that can be determined with Michelin maps. No shortcuts or detours from the route are allowed.

Before the start, each rider must note on his or her brevet card last name, first name, full address and club affiliation. During the Flèche, riders need to keep the cards with them and note the start and finish time as well as the time of passage at all designated controls. Time includes date, hour and minutes.

Missing brevet card validations, missing checkpoint times, or loss of a brevet card will result in disqualification of the team. Teams must start from the point declared in the ride schedule. Teams choose their starting date and time between Friday 06:00 a.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. It is mandatory that they start at the declared date and time.

In their ride schedule, each team must indicate an intended finish point, but this point is not binding. The aim of the Flèche Vélocio is not to reach a particular spot, but to ride during 24 hours towards the meeting place. The actual finish point will be the nearest town or village where the team members can get their card verified at the end of their 24 hours. The team will be homologated if they have achieved a distance within plus or minus 20% of what they declared at registration (with an absolute minimum of 360 km), regardless of their actual arriving location.

Different teams cannot ride together. If several teams use the same starting point and the same route, the starting times for individual teams shall be spaced at least one hour apart.

Teams must have their location and time verified at the starting point and at each designated control, by getting a stamp on their brevet card at a local establishment (such as a grocery store or gas station). In the case of a postcard verification (between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.), location and time must be noted on the postcard, and all members still riding must sign the postcard.

During the 22nd hour and at the end of the 24th hour, the exact time and the location of the team must be noted on each route card and verified in any encountered town or village. A minimum of 25 kilometers must be ridden between both verifications. It is not necessary that teams reach their announced finish point or that they stop there. The recorded location at the end of the 24th hour will be recognized for their homologation (so long as 25 km have been covered since the 22nd hour control).

The goal of the Flèche Vélocio being to ride the longest distance possible in 24 hours, the team must ride until the end of the 24th hour. If they cannot find a way to get verification at that point, they must ride further to the next town or village, get their card stamped and note on it the mileage covered at the end of the 24th hour.

Example : You start Saturday at 9h a.m. You must get your card stamped Sunday at 7h (22th hour) and then, at least 25 km further, at 9h (24th hour). You can get verification in any encountered town or village, even if they are different from those planned on your ride schedule. It is 9h a.m., you have ridden 420 km but you are in the countryside, 10 km from the next town. You must ride to this town, get your card stamped and note on it '420 km' at the 24th hour.

The team will be homologated if the distance covered is within plus or minus 20% of their announced mileage (with an absolute minimum of 360 km). For example, if you design a 450 km route, you must ride between 360 and 540 km.

No following cars are allowed. Teams can meet a support car only at the rest stops. No rest stop may exceed two hours.

For night riding, bikes must be equipped with front and rear lights attached firmly to the bike. Lights must be turned on at all times during hours of darkness or other low-light conditions (rain, fog, etc.). During hours of darkness or other low-light conditions, all riders must wear a reflective vest (this is mandatory according to French traffic law). Any violation of these night riding rules will result in the immediate disqualification of the team. Backup lighting systems are strongly recommended in case the primary system fails and cannot be repaired on the roadside. It is strongly recommended to wear an approved helmet, light-colored clothes, and to carry a survival blanket and a cell phone.

Event officials may be on the road, acting as secret controllers. Each irregularity will be pointed out and result in the immediate disqualification of the team.

If a change occurs in the composition of the team, the organizer must be notified before the start.

Registration

From the beginning of January and no later than six weeks before Easter, the team captains must send a detailed route and time schedule to the event organizer, by letter or e-mail. If by letter, two copies of the schedule should be sent. To make the organizer's work easier, team captains should provide full details on the proposed route, i.e. town names, total distance, as well as both partial and cumulative mileages. Suggested checkpoints (controls) should be shown too, with the intended time of arrival at each. The captains must declare an exact starting point and an exact starting time (time includes date, hour and minutes).

The organizer verifies the schedule and determines the intermediary controls.

Upon approval of their proposed route, the team captains will be sent the final registration documentation to complete for their team.

Two copies of the final registration form are to be sent back to the organizer by the team captains. The final registration should include :

- the registration fee : **54 euros per team** (52 euros per FFCT team)
- the copy of each rider's club affiliation
- a self-addressed stamped envelope (250 gr). This will be used by the organizer to send brevet cards, frame badges and postcards to be used at night time controls.

Validation and Awards

For a Flèche Vélocio to be certified by the ACP, and any awards to be earned, it is required that:

- At least three team members have ridden the same distance and arrive at the finish together.
- At least 25 km have been ridden between the 22nd hour and the 24th hour of the ride.
- The team captain or a delegate be present at the Easter meeting, on Sunday between 08:00 and 10:00 a.m., and submit the completed brevet cards to the ACP delegates.

In case the entire team does not arrive at the finish, only the team members present at the arrival will be homologated, and in no case their teammates who did not finish or who finished separately of the team.

The homologated mileage will be the distance covered in 24 hours, provided it is within 80 and 120% of the announced mileage.

Individual awards

Each homologated rider will receive a certificate and a medal.

Team awards

For any team awards to be earned, the team must include at least three homologated members of a same club.

CHALLENGE A.C.P. Awarded to the team that rode the longest distance. The team holds the award for one year. It is acquired definitely after three years, consecutive or not.

COUPE Pierre MOLINIER (creator of the Flèche Vélocio)

Awarded to the team that rode the second longest distance.

If several teams rode the same distance, the coupe is awarded to the team having the most homologated members.

CHALLENGE DE L'AMITIÉ Offered by Marie-Thérèse and Roger Martin

Awarded to the team having ridden the longest distance with five homologated members. All riders must belong to the same club. The team holds the award for one year.

If several teams rode the same distance, the coupe is awarded to the team with the most women.

It is never acquired definitely.

COUPE de L'EQUIPE LA PLUS JEUNE

Awarded to the youngest team. All riders must belong to the same club.

It cannot be combined with another award.

CHALLENGE FÉMININ Created by Jacques Dorléans and offered by Michèle et Rémy Hugon

Awarded for one year to the 100% female team that rode the longest distance.

If several teams rode the same distance, the coupe is awarded to the team having the most homologated members.

It is never acquired definitely.

COUPE Madeleine et Claude AUBAGUE

Awarded to the club having the most homologated members.

It is acquired definitely each year.

If several clubs are tied, the coupe is awarded to the club with the most women.

It cannot be combined with the Coupe Raymond Cateloin.

COUPE Raymond Cateloin

Awarded to the club that has the most homologated women.

It is awarded definitely each year.

If several clubs are tied, the coupe is awarded to the club with the highest mileage total achieved by women.

It cannot be combined with the Coupe Madeleine et Claude Aubague.

The A.C.P. award ceremony takes place in January.

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The Audax Club Parisien reserves the right to modify these rules at any time.