



*“Fresh activity is the only means of overcoming adversity”* - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Hello OMRRA!

It has been uniquely quiet over the last several weeks, as far as NW road racing goes, since PIR closed through 6/6/20 and WMRRA was forced to reschedule their first round. Recent attempts at status updates for both clubs have been outdated by the time we are ready to deploy. With the frequency of state press releases and updates, it has been tough to get an up-to-date message out to everyone. Thank you for your patience.

It may seem to many of you that running even a single race round in 2020 is only an extremely distant possibility. While you may not be wrong to feel that way, with the recent talk of other track days and race venues opening up on the west coast, some of us got excited at the possibility of running OMRRA’s eventual first race weekend, possibly in July.

When PIR does open for events, there is currently no way to know what restrictions may be in place, in terms of the number of people that are able to “gather”. We do know that the look and feel of the paddock will be drastically different than we have ever known. Safety and Social Distancing will be absolute priorities, with a zero-tolerance policy on the rules that are put in place (from PIR and OMRRA). Picture all of us being required to wear face masks at all times. We will not be able to mix our groups (the group we are there with is the group we stay with), no outside friends, no guests, no spectators, no kids, etc. We will be allowed to have racers and legitimate racer support/pit personnel, OMRRA volunteers, and OMRRA staff---only the people there that are required to hold an event. It may sound ridiculous to some of you but that is our temporary new reality at PIR if we want to do this.

We also have very little insight as to when and if our ambulance services will be available for our race events. With the phased re-opening of both Oregon and Washington, we just don’t know when or if Portland is going to allow PIR to re-open for an event like ours, nor do we completely know what it will look and feel like when it does. Because of these things, combined with the recent history of Portland extending its closure of PIR, we cannot plan a June round at PIR. Ok, so what are we currently left with for the 2020 season?

OMRRA:

- July 17/18 – PIR
- August 15/16 - Ridge
- September 26/27 – PIR
- October 17/18 - Ridge (WMRRA’s May round is currently scheduled for the 10/17 – 10/18 weekend at The Ridge, in case you didn’t know, and that round WILL BE considered a part of the OMRRA 2020 Championship)

## WMRRA:

- July 11/12 – Pacific
- August 15/16 – Ridge
- September 5/6/7 – Pacific
- September 26/27 – PIR
- October 17/18 – Ridge

Beyond the track and services availabilities, there is much more to consider. First, we will have to learn and understand the new policies at PIR (and all tracks) concerning social distancing, disinfectant and sanitation, protection from COVID-19 (as in face masks, no group mixing, crash response and ambulance protocol, food services, bathroom services, etc.). Then, the club will be working to institute our own policies, and SOP's in order to mitigate our collective risks and liabilities (even the perception of liability for member and volunteer protection is enough to force our hands here). Unfortunately, it won't be long before lawsuits arise in society alleging irresponsible protection practices. We cannot afford to have that target on our backs, especially amidst the legal scrutiny our sport already receives. That means that the Board of Directors have a LOT of work ahead, whether we end up racing in 2020 or not. You can bet that whenever we do get to go back to racing, the general practices, and the behavioral policies and expectations will be much different than how we have always known them, at least for the foreseeable future, so we need to start putting those into place now to ensure readiness for that opening round.

### **WE WANT TO RACE!**

It is safe to say that we all want to race. Unfortunately, though, many of us may not have the financial means to do so right now. Due to the far-reaching, negative economic impact that the COVID-19 ordeal has presented, OMRRA is unable to assume financial success of at least this first round because we cannot assume that everyone that wants to race will be willing and able to register. Many of us are currently either unemployed, working fewer hours and/or have supporting significant others that are in a similar financial situation. For those of us that are self-employed, many of our incomes have been hit with varying degrees of impact. This uncertainty does not allow OMRRA to approach our opening round the way we have approached race registration in the past. In the past, we have opened registration, let people register up to almost the last minute, and then we have simply dealt with whatever number of racers and entries that happen. In this circumstance, OMRRA has to take a more protective approach to our finances to ensure that we don't lose money. With our collective opportunities for revenue already down for 2020, OMRRA simply cannot afford to risk holding an unsuccessful event.

We want to thank you all for your continued understanding of our precarious position and your willingness to be flexible with the necessary changes. Our club is doing our best to navigate this ever-changing situation, and we know change can be frustrating, especially with our pent-up energy right now. So...THANK YOU. Your patience and understanding help us operate more efficiently and with less anxiety.

## PROTECTING OUR FINANCES

With that said, in order for us to even consider running our scheduled July round, OMRRA will need to pre-determine our financial ability to run the event. That simply means we need to know how many of you are truly financially committed to racing. To make this assessment, we are going to open registration very soon for our prospective July round. Here's how it will work:

1. You will log into Track Intel and ensure that your user profile is completely up to date
2. You will register for the July round in the same fashion that you have always registered
3. You will receive a confirmation of your registration
4. Once our required number of entries is achieved (that number is TBD pending several unknowns that we will uncover in the coming weeks), we will commit to PIR to run the race round
5. If that required number of entries is not achieved by **midnight on 6/28/20**, we will cancel our July round and transfer your race entry to the September round at PIR

Here is what will be different:

- Your credit/debit card will be charged immediately upon receipt of your registration by the OMRRA office (previously, we have waited to charge cards until the week of the event)
- Your complete registration entry cost will remain fully transferrable to the September PIR round should the July round not be run at PIR for any reason
- Your registration entry cost will not be refundable, in any portion, once a race event is held. Even OMRRA's new \$20 retainer fee for not turning a wheel in a race will not apply for at least this first round. Once you pay for your entry, and once OMRRA runs a race round in 2020 at PIR, every dollar of your entry money is completely committed.
- In the case that OMRRA does not run a single PIR race round during the 2020 season, your complete entry cost will be completely refundable upon request after 10/18/20, and refunds will be issued no later than 10/31/20
- A similar "reserve requirement" will apply to the September PIR round to ensure financial success

We assure you that we will move away from this practice as soon as we can do so without significant financial risk!

There has been a lot of talk about how much many of us want to race. If you want to race at PIR in 2020, now is the time to show your commitment. If we all wait for everyone else to register before we do, we will not reach our required entry levels to commit to our July race round. As soon as registration is open, PLEASE register as quickly or as soon as you can afford to. Your fellow racers are counting on each of you, so poke, prod and bother your racing friends until they register!

Now, there are many other factors to iron out prior to running our first round, and OMRRA is working on those things to maximize the opportunity that the NW will make a safe and successful return to racing

as soon as we can. Please see the attached FAQ's to help fill in some of the blanks that still exist, and if you have questions, please send them directly to Mark Wilson at [president@omrra.com](mailto:president@omrra.com).

P.S. This is our third version of this communication, and it has changed quite a bit over the last two weeks. Reading it back, it feels very pessimistic. That tone is not the intention. The intention is to be realistic and to bring as much relevance and insight to everyone as possible so that we can all prepare ourselves for the reality of our situation and the effects it will have on us once we are back to the track. Stay safe, keep your bikes ready, and stay positive!

### **FAQ's for PIR Opening Round 2020**

Q: When will we know if PIR will be open for the July 17-18 round?

A: PIR will confirm its opening date at its earliest opportunity. They are very eager to fill their calendar with events! We will communicate that date to everyone as soon as it is officially announced

Q: If OMRRA cannot run its July round, what is the next PIR round that may happen?

A: Sept 26/27

Q: If I register for July, OMRRA runs the round, but I do not attend, can I apply those registration fees to September?

A: No. Due to OMRRA's current sensitive budget, we must ensure that our finances are completely protected, and we will only move forward with a race event if we have enough registration entry money to cover the cost. Once your entry is received, your money is committed to the July round if it is run.

Q: When will the first OMRRA Novice Racing School take place at PIR?

A: If the July 17-18 round can be held, the OMRRA NRS will be held on 7/15/20 (classroom session) and 7/16/20 (on-track session)

Q: How will social distancing and protection from COVID-19 be practiced at PIR?

A: There is a comprehensive list of requirements and practices that PIR is currently working on in order to comply with the City of Portland's requirements. Let's just say that things will indeed look and feel different at PIR, at least in the foreseeable future.

Q: How many racers or race entries will we need to have before we are able to commit to PIR for our opening round?

A: 110 to 125 racers and 380 to 400 entries, depending upon how many entries each racer pays for.

Q: If the July round does not take place, we only have August (Ridge), September and October (Ridge). Does 3 rounds really constitute a championship?

A: That is to be determined. Let's be patient and understand our actual situation before we begin to speculate. As this circumstance progresses, our options and choices become clearer (even if simply through the decisions of the states and tracks). Once we have a clear view of the PIR availability and the allowances for gatherings, we can determine what our 2020 season looks like and make our determination about our championship from there (see next FAQ)

Q: Since the WMRRRA May round was meant to be OMRRA Round 2, and since that round has been rescheduled, will that round still part of the OMRRA Championship?

A: Yes, it will/would be. That round is currently scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at The Ridge

Q: As a new novice, if I don't pass NRS what will happen to my race registration fees?

A: New novices will pay the membership and NRS fee, but will not register for races until after passing NRS. The late registration fee will not apply to novices graduating from NRS