COVID-19 statement 03 Public Statement

It is with a heavy heart we've come to the conclusion that we must postpone TCRNo8 & TPRNo2 until 2021.

Unlike any global health crisis in our lifetime the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is causing fear, confusion and suffering, affecting everyone from all walks of life, across borders, it is affecting the global economy and our everyday lives in a way we've not experienced for decades.

Sporting events of all kinds are making the difficult decision to postpone and at Lost Dot we accept this cause of action is necessary for Transcontinental Race and Trans Pyrenees Race 2020. The decision has not been an easy one however, at Lost Dot, we feel that our events should be part of a solution and never part of a problem. We were hopeful that the race could play an active part in a recovery come the summer and a coming together of our community after a fearful period of isolation would be something positive to work towards. However, we are now convinced the isolation measures in place may continue for a considerable period of time, that our riders and volunteers would appreciate some clarity in these difficult times and that the pressure to train and maintain fitness under difficult circumstances is not beneficial right now.

We feel the right thing to do is to postpone both events and allow time and space for our riders, volunteers, members of Lost Dot and our race partners to focus energy on any assistance we can provide within our local communities. Our duty is to look beyond ourselves and our immediate community to the wider society and community that we are a part of. We must take responsibility and our share of the burden in reducing the spread of the virus to reduce the impact on our stressed public institutions such as health services. Our friends and peers within the community of nurses and doctors on the front line need our solidarity and support, we must all play our role in reducing the spread of the virus to protect the most vulnerable in society - our friends, family and neighbours.

TCRNo8 is now provisionally planned for July / August 2021 and TPRNo2 is planned for October 2021. We hope that the routes can remain the same and that the races can be part of a recovery process that will support individuals and businesses across Europe and the Pyrenees to find their feet again. We plan to provide any potential updates to the date and route of each race at the start of 2021 giving our riders the usual time to plan and train for the races. All riders who paid the first deposit for each race are invited to keep their place on TCRNo8 in 2021. We should know by April 2021 if there are any likely to be further places available for new applicants or not*. All volunteers who accepted their place on TCRNo8 will be asked once more in early 2021 if they are able to support the race and where possible any further opportunities to volunteer will be made available in April 2021.

We ask our community to remain optimistic, keep fit however possible, share positivity on the <u>facebook group</u>, keep in touch, remember we are a community, reach out if you feel down or need help or support. Stay strong and healthy and do what you can to support your neighbours and of course follow all <u>WHO</u> and local authority advice.

Our thoughts are with you all.

Anna

How to keep in touch

Our facebook groups are for everyone who loves ultra distance cycling and the Transcontinental Race and Trans pyrenees Race. In order to encourage more international participation and following we have several

'Official' TCR Facebook groups set up for riders to discuss all aspects of the race, planning and training in their chosen language. The English group is the most populated, but at present we also have...

<u>Italian</u>

<u>French</u>

German

Greek

Dutch

Finnish

Spanish

Please click on the links above and you should be able to access the links to join. We also have a <u>women's group</u> which is dedicated to women and those that identify as women in our community. This is a space for the women and womxn of the Transcontinental Race and Trans Pyrenees Race to share information, advice and support to encourage participation in ultra distance cycling and racing. This is a closed group.

If you have any questions that are not answered on our FAQ here or on our <u>FAO page</u> please email race@transcontinental.cc.

FAQ

How do I find out more about the race and how to apply?

You can find the answer to most of your questions on our FAQ page on our website: TRANSCONTINENTAL RACE-FAQ
TRANS PYRENEES RACE-FAQ

*I was hoping to apply to race / volunteer in 2021, can I still apply?

While we recognise some people were hoping to apply for TCRNo9 / TPRNo3 in 2021 the postponement of TCRNo8 / TPRNo2 has also postponed the following years' races to 2022. While we may be able to make some more places available if riders or volunteers are forced to withdraw due to health or financial issues at the moment Lost Dot hope that ALL TCRNo8 / TPRNo2 riders and volunteers will be able to take up their places on the race in 2021. Lost Dot will be in a better position to publicise if more places will be available for both TCRNo8 and TPRNo2 in April 2021.

Why are numbers capped for the race?

Lost Dot have capped numbers for each race because any increase in numbers will naturally affect the experience of cycling across Europe unsupported. An increase in numbers also would also affect the organising team's capacity to effectively manage, stage and track the race.