

Decision of Jury of Appeal Nov.13/07 for Haney to Harrison Road Race

There should be two sets of results published for this race:

The 6:30 wave should have results published for stages 2-8 only and for all other starting times a second set of results should be from 1-8.

Rationnale : An unidentified number of runners took a wrong turn at about 600 metres into the first leg of the race which started at 6:30 a.m. The problem is that we have no way of knowing how far they went in that wrong direction, but once it was noticed, how they came back onto course, with shortcuts, going different directions, perhaps requesting vehicle transport back to a correct route? – are causes for disqualification. It would not be fair to disqualify all the other teams for the problems which occurred at stage 1 (6:30 wave.) re. the directions that some athletes took.

The stage 1 leg was clearly explained in the package, web page and at the start of the race and should have been easily followed by the runners at that level of experience and caliber.

Since the total number of athletes/numbers who went off course cannot be properly identified or accurately given, or their actual distances covered, then all of the runners at that 6:30 start should have stage one nullified. Therefore two sets of awards should be given out : one for all 8 stages for teams other than the 6:30 wave, and another for the 6:30 wave for stages 2-8 only.

Recommendations :

We would like to recommend for the next H2 H competition that :

1. The starting area be better identified, and highly visible.
2. Better marking at each stage when it still may be dark. (Signage, barriers etc.) Water soluble paint will not be visible after heavy rain.
3. More informed/experienced personnel to guide the runners. Be certain that all volunteers including the professional traffic controllers are informed about the course and not allow runners to go the wrong way.
4. Ensure that the starter or assistant explain to the runners the approximate distance to the first turn. (ie. Go straight for 2.2 km, turn right for 1.5km etc.) Repeated instructions may be necessary to reiterate the correct route given the athletes' nervousness, early start or weather conditions.



