Dis-Chem Ride for Sight 2027

Frequently Asked Questions

Sunday 21 February 2027 | Carnival City Casino

Hosted by Retina South Africa, registered NPO 003-184. Find answers about entries, event logistics and para participation, and how your ride supports people affected by retinal degenerative conditions.

For help, email info@rideforsight.org.za or visit retinasa.org.za. Read these FAQs together with the full 2027 event rules and final race instructions.

General Event Information

Q: When and where does the event take place?

A: Sunday, 21 February 2027, at Carnival City Casino.

Q: What are the race distances?

A: The 121 km Super Classic, 50 km ride and 12 km Fun Ride. The 12 km has prizes but is not timed and is not a seeding event.

Q: What are the entry fees?

A: Please check the 2027 entry information for the fees for each distance, FinishTime Timing Boards and CSA day licences. Students and children receive a 50% entry discount. Persons with disabilities entering para categories and their guides receive a 50% entry discount. Pensioners aged 60 or older on race day receive a 15% entry discount. Confirm the applicable charges before paying.

Q: Are there discounted entries for students and children?

A: Yes. Students and children are entitled to a 50% entry discount. For the student discount, students must be enrolled at a registered secondary or tertiary institution and be no older than 25. Students over 18 must produce a valid student card. Age is calculated on race day, and proof of age may be requested. The minimum age and adult-accompaniment requirements for each distance still apply.

Q: Will the race still go ahead in bad weather?

A: Yes. The ride takes place in poor weather and will only be cancelled if Cycling South Africa (CSA) authorities or municipal authorities declare it unsafe to continue. Entry fees are not refundable, including if the event is cancelled for reasons beyond the organisers' control.

Q: Will there be medical and support vehicles?

A: Yes. Sweep vehicles and emergency medical assistance will be on the route. Only authorised support vehicles and official neutral mechanical support may operate on the route.

Q: What should I do if I am unable to register or pay online?

A: Email info@rideforsight.org.za for assistance with entry or payment problems and the appropriate registration support contact.

Timing Boards and Licensing

Q: Is a Timing Board required to enter the event?

A: A FinishTime Timing Board is compulsory for the 121 km and 50 km for rider safety and accountability. Without one, you will not receive an official time or seeding and will not be eligible for prize money. The 12 km does not require a timing board and has no official time.

Q: What if I do not own a FinishTime Timing Board?

A: For 121 km and 50 km entries, the entry system detects whether you already have a registered board. If you do not, a board is automatically charged with your entry and must be collected. Check the current board price in the 2027 entry information. No board is required for the 12 km.

Q: Why is a Timing Board compulsory?

A: On the 121 km and 50 km, it enables organisers to account for riders on the route and provides official timing. Fit the board so that the timing system can read it, and do not cover it. The board belongs to you and can be reused at events where FinishTime is the official timekeeper.

Q: Is the Ride for Sight Timing Board the same as the Ride Joburg board?

A: No. Ride for Sight requires a FinishTime Timing Board for the 121 km and 50 km. A Ride Joburg board is not a substitute.

Q: Is the Ride for Sight Timing Board the same as the Cape Town Cycle Tour board?

A: An existing FinishTime Timing Board, including one used for the Cape Town Cycle Tour, can be reused. The entry system should detect your registered FinishTime board and avoid charging you again.

Q: Will Timing Boards be available on race day?

A: Riders on the 121 km and 50 km who do not already have a board must collect one. Confirm race-day collection or purchase arrangements with info@rideforsight.org.za before travelling; do not arrive without a plan to obtain your compulsory board.

Q: Do I need a cycling licence?

A: A CSA racing licence, membership licence or day licence is required for the 121 km and 50 km. Buy a day licence if you do not hold an annual licence; check the 2027 price. Medical cover for these distances is provided through the CSA licence. No CSA licence is required for the 12 km. Participants on the 12 km, and parents or guardians of minors, are responsible for their own medical and personal cover.

Registration and Race Packs

Q: When and where can I collect my race pack?

A: Check the Ride for Sight event page at retinasa.org.za or contact info@rideforsight.org.za for the 2027 registration dates, times and collection venues.

Q: I missed registration - can I collect on race day?

A: Confirm race-day collection with the organisers in advance. Open-category riders should check the collection arrangements, and CSA category riders should confirm their accreditation and any special permission required through CSA.

Q: When will I receive my start time?

A: Start times are issued after seeding. Check your entry communications and the 2027 race information for the notification method and timing. Start in your allocated batch or group; starting in an earlier batch may lead to disqualification or loss of seeding eligibility.

Q: How can I get a better seeding?

A: Ask about reseeding at an official registration venue. Confirm the 2027 process and fee before requesting a change, and ride in the batch allocated after any approved change.

Q: Can I enter at registration?

A: The 121 km Super Classic is pre-entry only. The rules allow that late entries at registration may be possible, but seeding is not guaranteed and surcharges and late-entry penalty fees apply. Confirm availability and charges with the organisers, including arrangements for the 50 km and 12 km.

Q: Who receives goodie bags?

A: Goodie bags are reserved for pre-entries, with collection on registration days only. Confirm the 2027 availability and collection arrangements before attending registration.

Entry Changes and Cancellations

Q: Can I downgrade from the 121 km to the 50 km event?

A: Yes. Arrange a distance change at registration and pay the applicable administration fee. Entry fees are not refundable, so the difference in entry fee is not refunded. Confirm the administration charge for 2027.

Q: Can I upgrade from the 50 km to the 121 km event?

A: Yes. Arrange the change at registration, pay the administration fee and the difference in entry fee, and meet the age and participation requirements for the 121 km. Confirm the 2027 charges.

Q: Can I transfer or substitute my entry to another rider?

A: Yes. Arrange the transfer at registration and pay the applicable transfer fee. Confirm the 2027 amount with the organisers.

Q: Can I register on the day of the race?

A: Do not rely on race-day registration. The 121 km is pre-entry only, with possible late entries at registration subject to availability, fees and no guaranteed seeding. Contact the organisers about race-day entry arrangements for the 50 km and 12 km. A CSA licence is compulsory for the 121 km and 50 km, but not for the 12 km.

Q: What if I cannot ride on the day?

A: Entry fees are not refundable. You may transfer your entry to another person at registration for the applicable fee. If you are eligible for a goodie bag, confirm collection during registration; you are still welcome to enquire about joining the event as a supporter.

Seeding and Recognition

Q: Is this event a seeding event?

A: The 121 km Super Classic is a seeding event for Ride Joburg 2027 and the Cape Town Cycle Tour 2028. The 12 km is not a timed or seeding event. A FinishTime board is required for an official time on the 121 km and 50 km, but the rules identify only the 121 km as the seeding event. No official times are recorded for e-bikes.

Q: How can I get a better seeding?

A: Ask about reseeding at an official registration venue and confirm the 2027 fee. Follow your allocated start group after any approved change. Starting in an earlier batch may lead to disqualification or your result not counting for seeding.

Q: Will there be a prize-giving ceremony?

A: Yes. Prize-giving starts from 10:30. Approximately R120,000 in cash prizes will be awarded according to CSA categories. All category prize winners must be present. The organiser may reduce the number of prize winners according to participation in each category and overall.

Event Logistics

Q: Where can I find the GPX files and elevation profiles?

A: Check the Ride for Sight event page on retinasa.org.za for the 2027 routes and profiles for the 121 km, 50 km and 12 km. It is your responsibility to know your route. Organisers may shorten, divert or change it on the day for safety; results on a declared official course may still count for seeding.

Q: What is the emergency contact number?

A: Confirm the 2027 event emergency number in your race information or at registration and save it before starting. For help during the event, alert the nearest marshal or medical officer.

Q: Why should I download the MySOS app?

A: MySOS helps you request emergency assistance and share your location with responders and emergency contacts. Confirm its use for the 2027 event in the race information, and save the confirmed event emergency number as well.

Q: What time should I arrive?

A: Plan to arrive at least 60 minutes before your allocated start time for parking, check-in and warm-up. Allow extra time if you need to collect anything, and follow any earlier reporting time in your 2027 race instructions.

Q: What safety measures are in place?

A: Hard-shell helmets are compulsory. Sweep vehicles and emergency medical assistance will be on route. Riders must obey traffic rules, officials, marshals and cut-offs; stay left; and keep race numbers visible. Complete the details at the bottom of your race number, including your medical aid name and number. Save the confirmed event emergency contact before starting.

Q: Are water and refreshment points provided?

A: Yes. Confirm the positions and supplies for the new 2027 routes in the race information. Pull off the road to receive refreshments; do not expect volunteers to hand them to you while cycling. Discard wrappers and bottles only at official refreshment stations.

Q: Are tandems and e-bikes allowed?

A: Yes. Both tandem riders must enter their details and use their correct A- or B-suffix bib. Only pedal-assist e-bikes are allowed, on all three distances, and they must ride in the designated group. No official e-bike times are recorded. E-bikes may not complete the 121 km in less than 3 hours 50 minutes; a faster recorded time results in disqualification. The timing-board requirement still applies on the 121 km and 50 km.

Q: Where can I find the start lists?

A: Check the Ride for Sight event page on retinasa.org.za after entries close and seeding has taken place. Also check your entry communications for your allocated start group.

Q: Are open fires or braais allowed in the parking or event area?

A: No. Open fires and braais are prohibited in the event and parking areas. Follow the organisers' and Carnival City Casino's fire-safety instructions.

Parking

Q: Is parking available?

A: Check the 2027 race information for parking entrances, arrangements, any charges and designated para cyclist parking at Carnival City Casino. Follow marshals' directions.

Race Village

Q: What can I expect at the Race Village?

A: The Race Village is the event gathering area for riders and supporters, with prize-giving and lucky draws. Check the 2027 event programme for music, food stalls, sponsor activities, VIP areas and beverage offerings at Carnival City Casino.

Q: Will there be a prize-giving ceremony?

A: Yes. Prize-giving starts from 10:30, and all category prize winners must attend. Approximately R120,000 in cash prizes will be awarded according to CSA categories, with the number of prize winners subject to the organiser's discretion based on participation.

Q: Can family and friends join at the Race Village?

A: Family and friends are welcome to support riders. Confirm spectator access, any admission conditions, shaded seating and entertainment in the 2027 venue information.

Q: Will there be food and drinks available?

A: Check the 2027 event programme for food vendors and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage options at Carnival City Casino.

Q: Will there be first aid or emergency services at the Race Village?

A: Emergency medical assistance forms part of the event support. Check the 2027 site map or ask an official for the location of the medical point and emergency vehicle at the venue.

Q: Are there restrooms and accessible facilities?

A: Check the 2027 venue information for toilets and accessible facilities, including provisions for para riders. Contact info@rideforsight.org.za in advance about specific access needs at Carnival City Casino.

Q: Can I bring my dog or pet?

A: Guide dogs are allowed in the Race Village. Other pets are not permitted in the Race Village, and pets are not permitted on the cycling routes. Follow the event and venue access instructions.

Q: I would like to be a food vendor - how do I apply?

A: Email Retina South Africa at hospitality@rideforsight.org.za for the current vendor registration form and the 2027 application requirements.

After the Race

Q: Where can I find the results?

A: FinishTime is the official timekeeper. Look for results at www.finishtime.co.za. Official times require a FinishTime board on the 121 km and 50 km; no official times are recorded for the 12 km or e-bikes.

Q: Will I receive a medal?

A: All registered participants, including riders with complimentary entries, who cross the finish line before their distance's cut-off receive a finisher medal and are eligible for lucky-draw prizes.

Q: Where can I see event photos?

A: Check the Ride for Sight event page on retinasa.org.za and Action Photo SA at www.actionphotosa.com for event photos and 2027 photographer information. Participation includes consent to official event photography and video; see the media-consent question below.

Para Cyclist Participation and Inclusion

Q: How are visually impaired riders supported?

A: Visually impaired cyclists can ride tandems with sighted pilots. Contact Deon Engelbrecht at sport@rideforsight.org.za for pairing guidance. Select the appropriate para category when entering. Both para tandem riders must provide their details, state classification in the medical-details section for prize-giving alignment, and wear their correct A- or B-suffix bib.

Q: How can I volunteer to be a tandem pilot and give someone with vision loss the chance to ride?

A: Contact Deon Engelbrecht at sport@rideforsight.org.za for the current Tandem Pilot Registration Form and pairing arrangements. Follow the entry instructions for the appropriate para category.

Merchandise and Competitions

Q: What official merchandise is available?

A: Ask the organisers about the 2027 range and availability of cycling jerseys, socks, reflective backpacks, supporter shirts and caps, Cycling to Restore Sight wristbands and limited-edition metal lapel pin badges.

Q: Are there any competitions or raffles?

A: Registered riders who finish before their cut-off, including complimentary entrants, are eligible for lucky-draw prizes. For any 2027 fundraising raffles, confirm the prizes, ticket prices, draw dates and donation-matching arrangements with the organisers before buying.

Get Involved Beyond the Ride

Q: How does Ride for Sight support Retina South Africa?

A: All proceeds support Retina South Africa's research, genetic testing, counselling, advocacy and para sport development for South Africans affected by retinal degenerative conditions.

Q: How can I stay connected after the event?

A: Follow Retina South Africa and Ride for Sight on Facebook, Instagram and X, or sign up for the Retina South Africa newsletter for future events, para sport development and fundraising updates. Visit retinasa.org.za.

More About the 2027 Rules

Q: What are the age limits and adult-accompaniment requirements?

A: Age is calculated on race day. No child under 5 may enter any distance. For the 12 km, children under 11 must be accompanied by an adult, and parents or guardians remain responsible for children. For the 50 km, the minimum age is 10 and children under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. For the 121 km, the minimum age is 12 and cyclists aged 12 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Proof of age may be requested.

Q: Which distances apply to CSA racing categories?

A: U/13 and U/15 categories must ride the 50 km. Elite, U/23, Juniors, U/17 and Vets may participate in the 121 km. The rules specifically place Junior Ladies and U/17 Boys in the 121 km. Age and accompaniment requirements also apply.

Q: Is there a pensioner discount?

A: Yes. Riders who are 60 or older on race day, 21 February 2027, are entitled to a 15% entry discount. Proof of age may be requested.

Q: What are the cut-off times?

A: The 121 km cut-off is six hours after the last 121 km group starts. Traffic officers and marshals withdraw from the route at that point. Shorter cut-offs apply to the 50 km and 12 km and will be confirmed at registration and in the race information. Anyone who misses a cut-off or is collected by the sweep must leave the route and may not continue as if still racing.

Q: What bicycle, equipment and race-number rules apply?

A: Individual riders must use a traditional upright bicycle, except for para cyclists. Your bicycle must be roadworthy and you must carry necessary spares. Hard-shell helmets are compulsory, and tri-bars are prohibited in any form. Lights are recommended in low light or late in the day and remain your responsibility if conditions change. Wear your race number facing forward and visible at all times; do not fold it, cover it with a bag or hide it under a jersey.

Q: What road and rider-conduct rules must I follow?

A: Obey traffic rules, officials and marshals. Stay on the left and do not cross the centre line; crossing it results in disqualification. Ride no more than two abreast except when overtaking, then return to the left. On the 121 km and 50 km, earphones or headphones that prevent you hearing traffic, officials or other riders are prohibited. Do not litter. CSA anti-doping rules apply, and officials may withdraw riders whose conduct or equipment is unsafe.

Q: Can friends or family support me from a private vehicle?

A: No private-vehicle seconding is allowed. Only authorised support vehicles and official neutral mechanical support may be on the route. Do not slipstream behind private vehicles, or accept a lift from a private vehicle and then continue in the race.

Q: What must I do if I withdraw or do not finish?

A: Notify the nearest marshal, medical officer or the finish so that you can be accounted for. This applies to all withdrawals, including medical withdrawals. If you miss a cut-off or are collected by the sweep, leave the route.

Q: Which para entry categories are available?

A: Para categories are available across all distances: Para Cyclist - hand or recumbent, Para Guide, and Para Tandem. Persons with disabilities entering para categories and their guides are entitled to a 50% entry discount. Select the category that applies to you. Para cyclists, handcyclists and para tandems should state their classification in the medical-details section to align with prize-giving. Both para tandem riders must enter their information and use the correct A- or B-suffix bib.

Q: How do I lodge a results protest?

A: Lodge your protest at the results and objections table next to the podium within 30 minutes after preliminary results are posted. After that window, the judges' decision is final.

Q: What does entry mean for risk and responsibility?

A: By entering, you confirm that you are medically fit to complete the course and that your bicycle is roadworthy. You participate at your own risk, including the risk of serious injury, illness, death and property damage. The rules contain a liability waiver for ordinary negligence, with exceptions for gross negligence and wilful default. Read the full acceptance-of-risk and liability provisions before entering.

Q: How are event photos, videos and timing data used?

A: Participation includes consent to official photos and videos for promotional, marketing and archival uses, such as websites, social media and newsletters. Timing and results data may be shared with Ride Joburg and the Cape Town Cycle Tour for seeding. The rules state that media is used only for the stated purposes and is not shared or sold to third parties. You may withdraw media consent or request photo removal by contacting info@rideforsight.org.za, the address specified in the 2027 rules.

Q: Which rules take precedence, and can the rules change?

A: The event follows CSA rules. CSA and UCI rules take precedence over the event rules in a dispute. Organisers may amend the event rules for safety, fairness and CSA compliance. Failure to follow the rules results in disqualification, so check the final race instructions before participating.