Policy 2: Route Planning & Terrain Safety

1. Purpose

To ensure routes are suitable, lawful and appropriate for mixed-ability participation, with controls for terrain, remoteness and access to assistance.

2. Scope

- Applies to the selection, approval and management of routes for all event legs.
- Covers footpaths, trails, public spaces, private land (with permission), and any road interface points

Objectives:

- To ensure the health and safety of participants, volunteers, staff, and the public during the LTC JOGLE Pub Run.
- To establish clear guidelines for route planning.
- To comply with applicable UK laws and regulations, including the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and UK GDPR.
- To collaborate effectively with local authorities, emergency services, and community stakeholders.
- To minimise any disruption to the local community and to reduce the environmental impacts associated with the Pub Run.

3. Policy Statement

Routes will be designed (using the Strava software) to minimise avoidable hazards while maintaining accessibility and participant experience. Where hazards cannot be eliminated, controls will be implemented and communicated.

4. Route Design Principles

Designed routes should optimise safety, accessibility, and logistics for participants and spectators. The following factors should be considered:

- Prefer footpaths, trails, and segregated routes over carriageways.
- Avoid high-speed roads, complex junctions and narrow bridges where reasonably practicable.
- Provide options or mitigations for mixed pace groups (walkers/joggers/runners).
- Plan for safe start/finish areas (space, visibility, access, toilets where feasible).

- Safety measures such as safe crossings, pedestrian zones, and barriers where routes interact with vehicular traffic.
- Plans for route visibility [signs and/or marking paths]
- Local residents/businesses
- Environmental impact

5. Route Assessment Requirements

- Pre-event route check (desktop + on-the-ground where practicable).
- Identify: surface condition, gradients, pinch points, low visibility, livestock, water hazards, construction works.
- Assess remoteness: mobile signal coverage, access for vehicles, nearest defibrillator/medical facility.
- Confirm access rights: public right of way status, landowner permissions, any restrictions. And obtain the relevant permits and approvals
- Define mitigation: marshal points, signage, participant briefings, alternative routes.

6. Permissions & Community Impacts

- Obtain landowner permission where routes use private land or controlled sites.
- Notify or seek approvals from local authorities where required by local event processes.
- Consider resident/business impacts (parking, noise, congestion) and communication plans.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

- Event Director: Overall accountability; final decision-maker for suspend/modify/cancel decisions.

8. Controls for Mixed-Ability Participation

- Clear route marking and written directions.
- Staggered starts or wave management where crowding is likely.
- Cut-off times or sweep support where appropriate for longer legs.
- Clear re-join points if short/long options operate in parallel.

9. Change Management

- A documented process will exist for route changes caused by weather, works, or safety concerns.
- Material route changes must be approved by the Safety Lead/Event Director and communicated to participants and key partners.

10. Records

- Route maps (master and leg-level), GPX files where used, and version history.
- Route risk notes and mitigations.
- Permissions/consents and correspondence.
- Signage plan and marshal point plan.

11. Review

Routes will be reviewed after each leg using incident reports and feedback to improve subsequent legs.