



BRIEFING
AL ULA - REFUGE MARATHON
07/01/2026



DREAM.
DARE.
LIVE IT.



/// AL ULA → REFUGE MARATHON



ROAD SECTION A 64

SELECTIVE SECTION 417

ROAD SECTION B 14

BIVOUAC 1ST DEPARTURE

FIM 06:00

FIA 06:30

DSS 1ST DEPARTURE

FIM 07:30

FIA 08:00



ROAD SECTION A 64

SELECTIVE SECTION 452

ROAD SECTION B 14

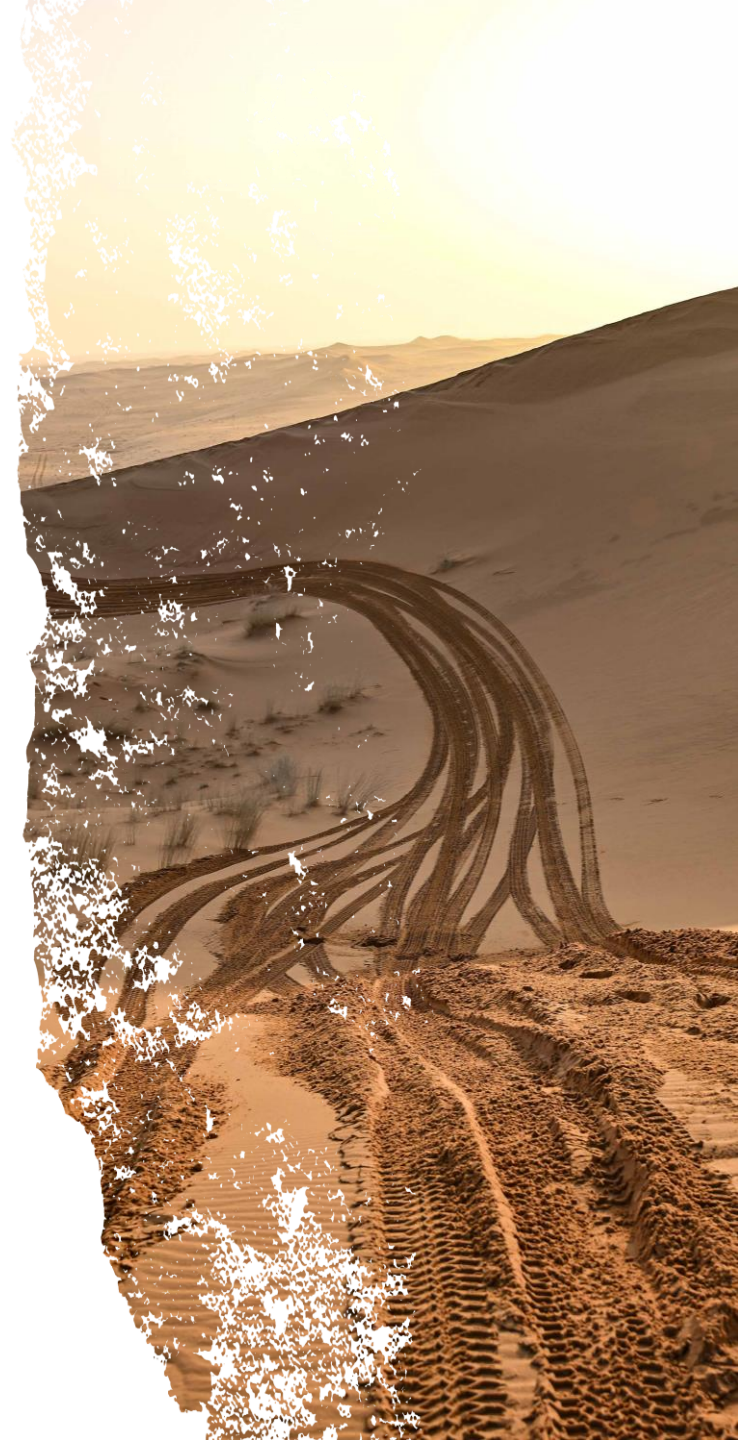


GENERAL INFORMATION



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The start will be given close to today's location, where the tracks will lead you from one sandy canyon to another, often off-piste. After about a hundred kilometers, the terrain becomes flatter, but navigation intensifies: CAP are crucial to find your way among the many tracks on these sometimes rocky and rough plateaus. The track improves as the Neutralization approaches and offers a bit of respite across very fast plateaus up to CP2. The rally will then head north, first across plateaus with difficult navigation over rocky slabs where the track disappears, then into magnificent sandy plateaus where the pace will regularly alternate. Winding tracks up to the ASS, which will then lead you to the Refuge Bivouacs that live up perfectly to their name. The balance of difficulties has been distributed between the FIM and the FIA: the car Road Book will tend to be more complex in the first part of the stage, while the end of the stage will not be easy for motorcyclists before reaching the ASS. Caution with the Stage 3 tracks.



GENERAL INFORMATION



- **KM 0–125:** Numerous fast sandy tracks through canyons, with difficult off-piste navigation. Then an alternation of paces after the canyons, still with delicate navigation. Cautions with yesterday's tracks.
- **KM 125–130:** Very soft wadi.
- **KM 130–213:** Alternation of fast valley tracks and slower rocky tracks up to the Neutralization, then a common section in a sandy riverbed up to CP1.
- **KM 213–239:** Fast and very fast plateau tracks up to CP2.





GENERAL INFORMATION

- KM 239–286: Difficult navigation on tracks and off-piste over rocky slabs.
- KM 286–340: Pleasant winding sandy tracks to ride on, then arrival on rocky plateau rock, sometimes involving rocky trial-type sections that are not always clearly visible.
- KM 340–370: The track becomes more visible and faster, but watch out for undulations.
- KM 370–ASS: Very difficult navigation between tracks and off-piste. Presence of rocky sections and winding sandy tracks, overall rather slow. The last 15 kilometers will be flat out all the way to the ASS.

Caution: Watch out for crossings with tracks from Stage 03 and the Dakar Classic; they are marked in the road book.



GENERAL INFORMATION



- **KM 320.67:** Uphill trial section over 200 m off-piste.
- **KM 389.75:** Rocky pass and difficult trial section on the descent.





GENERAL INFORMATION

- **KM 0–95:** Numerous fast sandy tracks through canyons, with difficult off-piste navigation. Then an alternation of paces after the canyons, still with delicate navigation, with many tracks and numerous CAP.
- **KM 95–130:** Slower tracks alternating between sand and rocks; tracks are numerous and not always clearly visible.
- **KM 130–137:** Very soft wadi with a trial section (T5.2!).
- **KM 137–235:** Resumption of tracks at a high pace; navigation will not always be easy while heading back toward the Neutralization.





GENERAL INFORMATION

- **KM 235–262:** Common section in a wadi, then after CP1 the track becomes more technical than for the FIM, sometimes rocky.
- **KM 262–ASS:** Difficult navigation between tracks and off-piste. Presence of rocky sections and winding sandy tracks, overall rather slow. The track will pass through a few narrow gaps between the rocks. The end of the stage speeds up, with some more technical sections creating changes of pace.

Caution: the last 5 kilometers are very fast, with a junction with the FIM before the ASS.





GENERAL INFORMATION



- **KM 44: Sandy climb.**
- **KM 133.5: Trial section between rocks.**
- **KM 136.57: Exit from wadi between two cairns.**
- **KM 303.02: Passage over an undulating rocky slab.**
- **KM 322.46: Long sandy descent.**
- **KM 324.98: Trial section over 300 m; the track is in poor condition. T5.2 detours to the left.**
- **KM 333.71: Narrow trial climb between rocks followed by a long descent.**



MARATHON REFUGE – PROCESS



Equipment collection:

- Luggage tag to be collected at the start of the line and attached to the tent, sleeping bag, and mattress.
- The same equipment will be redistributed during Week 2; it is your responsibility to fold and pack it properly.

Military ration collection, consisting of:

- 2 main meals + 2 heaters1 × soup
- 1 × hot drinks and condiments kit
- 1 × muesli
- 1 × dessert
- 1 × energy bar
- 1 × fruit paste
- 1 × energy compote
- 1 × titanium spoon
- Collection of long titanium spoons, to be returned to logistics when handing in your equipment; they will be redistributed at the second marathon stage.

Field kitchen with continuous hot water for soup and hot drinks. Arrivals before 5:00 pm
1 additional meal + heater. Medical tent set up at each refuge bivouac with a doctor on site.



/// VARIOUS INFORMATIONS

FIM + FIA

- Switch off the ERTF
- Keep the IRITRACK switched on

FIM only:

- Fully charge the airbags and switch them off at night before the start in order to last for both stages

STARTING LIST:

- Displayed on the ORGA vehicle
- Bivouac Start Holding Area (CH): No large clock; follow ORGA instructions and check your ERTF start time
- 10 minutes to reach the DSS (warm-up must be done at the bivouac!)



/// VIGILANCE POINTS

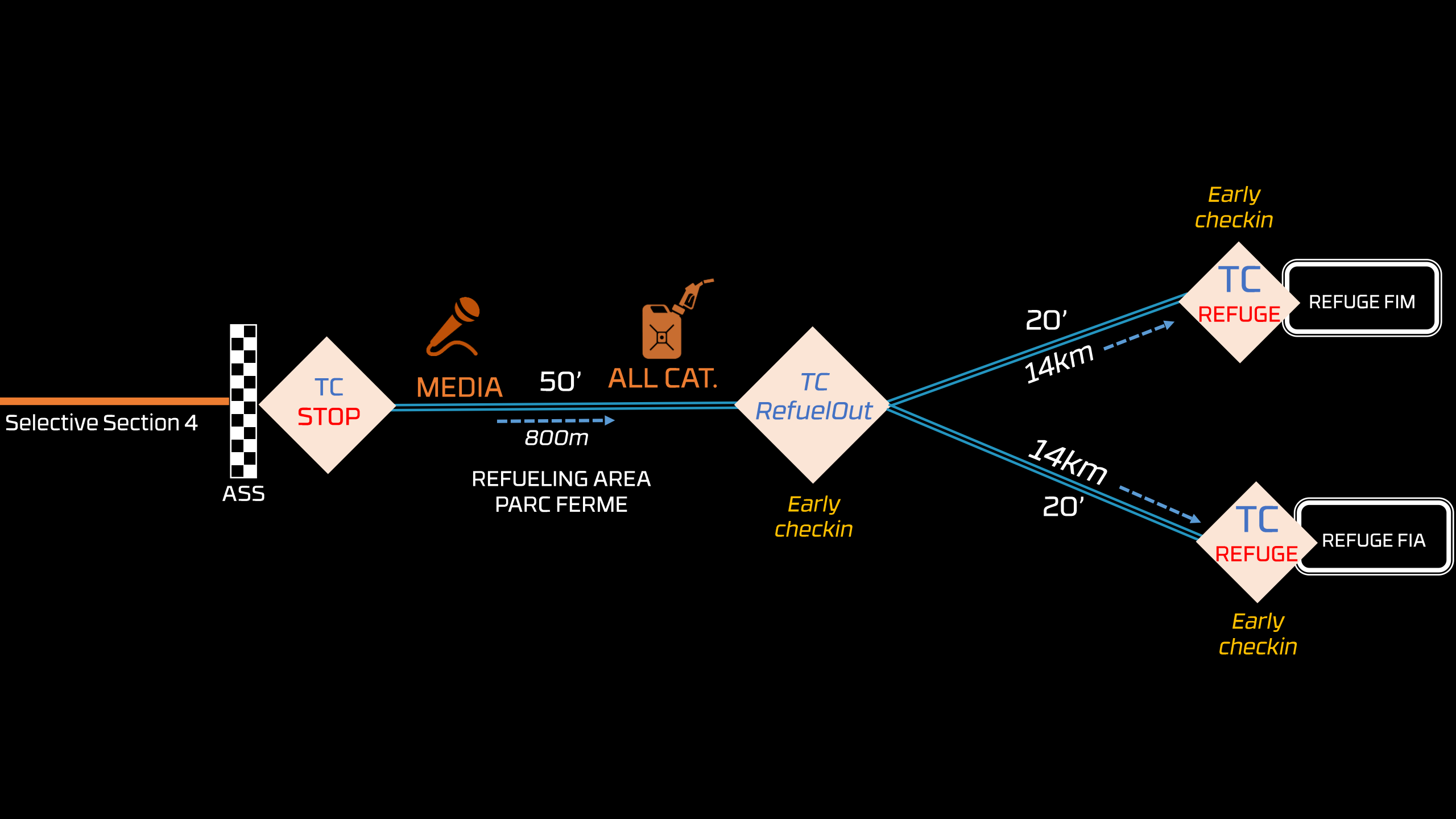
Warm clothing:

- They will not be available on the morning of Stage 5; you will retrieve them in Hail.

Competitors Outside Time or with a Stage Penalty:

- You must spend the night at CH ASS 4. You will be authorized to leave CH ASS 4 the following day 20 minutes before your departure time from the Bivouac CH.
- You must hand in your Stage 04 time card and collect your Stage 05 time card
- Assistance : Please fill your water tank !







THANKS !



DEFENDER

