

TGOC24 – Terms and Conditions



About the TGO Challenge

- The TGO Challenge is a self-supported backpacking walk across Scotland, from one of 14 west coast starting points to the east coast between Fraserburgh and Arbroath.
- The 44th TGO Challenge will be held between Thursday 9th May and Friday 24th May 2024.
- The start will be staggered over two days (Thursday 9th and Friday 10th) for a 15 day crossing.
- It is also possible to start from Saturday 11th until Thursday 16th May with a shorter period to cross as TGOC24 will finish promptly at 5pm, Friday 24th May.
- Challengers must sign out from their chosen start point either by signing the Start Register or by text message or WhatsApp if they are unable to gain entry to the start point.
- Challengers are responsible for planning their own routes, which are checked by vetters who may suggest or require revisions. Full details about the Challenge, along with advice on route planning, are made available to all successful applicants.
- The Challenge is a non-competitive walking event. Routes involving running or those the Coordinators feel take undue risks will be rejected.
- The minimum age for entering is 18. There is no maximum age though older Challengers are strongly recommended to seek medical advice before entering, ensuring that their medical professional is aware of the nature of the Challenge. You should also obtain specific medical advice if you suffer from any long-term condition(s) or are unsure about your physical ability to take part.
- Challengers can participate solo or in groups of up to four people. Only one route is required for each group, however, each group member must complete their own entry form and all team members (as well as group leaders and solo participants) must have the required skills stated in the “About” section at www.tgochallenge.com.
- Dogs are not allowed on the Challenge.

Application Process

- TGOC24 will open for general applications at 8am BST on Sunday 1st October 2023. Places will be available on a first come, first served basis, will be subject to experience requirements being met, and will not be allocated until both a complete entry form and payment have been received.
- The first entry form received in respect of a group will reserve places for the named members of the group for a period of 48 hours. If you are a member of a group and have not submitted your entry form and made payment within 48 hours of submission of the group’s first entry form, then your place is not guaranteed and will be subject to availability.
- We may ask for more information in respect of an application; this will usually be related to skills and experience. If we reject your application, you will be notified by email, with reasons given, and your entry fee will be refunded.
- If you have a deferred place from the Covid years (2020-2022), you are guaranteed a place in TGOC24, provided that you complete an entry form and pay (if applicable) for your place during the period 20th-30th September, using the link emailed to you. If you enter after 30 September, your place is not guaranteed, and will be subject to availability.
- Certain Challenge volunteers and sponsors’ representatives are guaranteed places in TGOC24. These places are supernumerary and do not affect the general application process.
- If you state a preferred start day on your entry form, and if that day is oversubscribed, we will contact you to give you the option of choosing a different day, or cancelling your application with a full refund.
- To maintain the usual mix of first-time and returning Challengers, we may occasionally introduce a hold on applications from one of these groups; if this happens, it will be made clear on the application website.
- The entry fee for 2024 will be:
 - £105 for general entries (i.e. not falling into one of the categories set out in the following two bullet points);
 - £52.50 for those who deferred their 2021 place after 31st December 2020 and did not accept a place in 2022 or 2023;
 - Free of charge for: those who deferred their 2021 place on or before 31st December 2020 and did not accept a place in 2022 or 2023; those who deferred their 2022 place on or before 31 December 2021 and did not accept a place in 2023; certain volunteers including all vetters; and sponsors representatives.

Your responsibilities and commitments

- By completing the application form you agree: to abide by the rules, conditions and spirit of the Challenge, as summarised in this document; to read the Event Details and Final Details, when published; and that you accept the inherent risk of mountain walking.

- Your participation in the Challenge is at your own risk. We might offer you advice on your route, but you should rely solely on your own wits, your own judgement of the terrain and carry out your own evaluation and mitigation of risks encountered during the Event. Neither we nor the Event's sponsors accept any liability for any damage, loss or injury, illness, mishap or death which might arise from your participation in the Challenge, however caused, other than to the extent caused as a result of our negligence.
- You will at all times during the TGO Challenge abide by all aspects of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and you acknowledge, as stated in the code, that: "There is a longstanding legal principle called 'volenti non fit injuria' which means that a person taking access will generally be held to have accepted any obvious risks or risks which are inherent in the activities they are undertaking."
- You are entirely responsible for ensuring you have a suitable level of health and fitness to take part in the Challenge. In both submitting your entry form and in starting the Challenge, you are confirming this. The submission of your Medical Statement, in Spring 2024, is for use in potential emergency situations only and does not imply any responsibility on us in ascertaining your fitness to take part.
- You must ensure that you have the relevant skills and experience (detailed on the TGO Challenge website/Event Details) to complete an arduous 2-week backpack involving challenging and often pathless terrain. Further, you commit to carrying, and having the relevant skills to use, equipment appropriate for potentially cold, wet, windy and on occasions hot and sunny or snowy conditions. All members of a group must be competent backpackers capable of continuing independently if other team members suffer an injury or have to retire.
- If you are a first-time participant, you confirm that you have completed the Experience Form truthfully and without exaggeration. Former participants who have not completed a crossing for 3 or more years may be asked to provide details of their intervening experience.
- We recommend that all Challengers obtain travel, personal accident and health insurance appropriate to their circumstances to cover any costs incurred due to any illness or injury before or during the Challenge that may affect participation. International participants – please note you may incur charges if you require treatment by the UK NHS health services.
- You commit to being self-sufficient as you walk across Scotland. You may use paid accommodation when it is available and/or buy supplies en route or post supplies to accommodation providers. Family and friends may visit and/or join you for a few days but they must not act as a back-up crew and must not accompany you for your entire crossing unless they also have a TGOC24 place.
- You cannot participate in the Challenge without an approved Route Sheet. You commit to preparing your own route and presenting it on the Route Sheet document provided by the Coordinators. Your route must be designed by yourself (or a member of your group). Inspiration can be taken from previous Challengers' written or video accounts, but it must not be, largely or wholly, a copy of a route written/walked by another Challenger or previously successfully completed by yourself. If you have failed to complete a crossing on a previous occasion this route can be resubmitted.
- You commit to the time scales for route submission as stated in the Event Details. If you fail to submit your route or make required revisions, on the required form, by the relevant deadline you (and all members of your group) will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Challenge. First time participants should be aware it may take many weeks/months to prepare a route.
- You may be asked to revise parts (or occasionally all) of your route in which case you will need to resubmit an adjusted route sheet. We will always enter into correspondence with you if your route is not initially acceptable and will provide guidance as to the nature of changes required to make it acceptable.
- Successful completion of the Challenge requires you to walk every step from the west to east coast, with the exception of permitted ferry journeys. Travel away from your route is permitted, but not encouraged, if essential to access supplies or accommodation. Should you leave your route by any form of transport you must return to where you left it for your crossing to be valid.
- In Spring 2024 you will be asked to complete a medical statement. You commit to providing details of all significant or long-term medical condition(s), illness(es) and/or injury(ies) (if any) and to provide a further update to the Coordinators if there is any relevant change to your health in between submission of your initial medical statement and the start of the Challenge. If you fail to complete this statement, you (but not other members of your group) will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Challenge.
- In Spring 2024 you will also be asked to provide the number of the mobile phone you will carry on the Event and the contact details of at least one emergency contact. You must ensure that the emergency contact: a) consents to be your emergency contact; b) knows that you are participating in the TGO Challenge and are not themselves a participant; c) will be available by telephone during the Event and is comfortable conversing in English; d) has details of your outer clothing colour, tent make/colour etc.; e) has a photo of you that can be passed to the emergency services; f) holds contact details for anyone else who should know if there are concerns about you. If you fail to provide this information, you (but not other members of your group) will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Challenge.

- You commit to contacting Challenge Control via phone, text message or WhatsApp on each of your pre-arranged phone in days. If due to lack of access to communication methods you are prevented from phoning on the pre-arranged day, you must make contact at the earliest possible opportunity. Note that it is the date, not the location that is important for checking in with Challenge Control. Failure to comply with your obligations as stated in this paragraph may result in an unnecessary call to your Emergency Contact(s) and to the emergency services.
- Groups must designate a group leader who will be responsible for submitting their route and disseminating information to their group members.
- Following TGOC24 you may be requested to complete a Health and Safety feedback form. Information gained will be fed into our regular risk assessments and is important to ensure the continuation of the Challenge in future years.
- You agree to Scotia Challenge Ltd and the Coordinators holding the data you provide to them, including on the entry form, route sheet, medical form and any other administrative form.
- Participants' names, ages and hometown will be published in a list that will be sent to all Challengers by email. These lists will not appear on the website. If you do not want your name published, you must inform us when you submit your entry form.

Our responsibilities and commitments

- We reserve the right to decline an application at our discretion. This will usually be on the grounds of insufficient experience or previous unacceptable behaviour.
- We will send all correspondence by email. Anyone not able to receive emails should contact us and we will arrange for all correspondence to be posted.
- We will acknowledge your entry, route submission and any other correspondence, usually within 72 hours. If you have not heard from us within 4 days you should check your spam folder and then contact us by email or phone.
- We commit to keeping your data securely and to abide by GDPR regulations. Medical/emergency contact data will be deleted as soon as reasonably practical after the Challenge. Contact details may be intermittently be used to inform you of Challenge news. At your request, we will delete your data. If this is done before you complete TGOC24 you will be deemed to have withdrawn.
- We will provide comprehensive details of the Challenge, guidance on preparing a route, and further details prior to the Challenge. We will also be available by email/phone if additional advice is needed.
- We will arrange for a route vetter to review your proposed route and assess its feasibility/suitability for your experience levels, and we will check their notes before sending them to you. Vettors will make relevant comments to the best of their knowledge, but it must be noted changes may have occurred of which they and we may not be aware (e.g. bridges lost, new deer fences) and in remote unfrequented areas current knowledge may be several years old. Vetting notes only provide guidance on the apparent suitability of your route; they do not imply any responsibility on us as to your safe execution of the route.
- We will perform regular risk assessments and inform Challengers of any specific actions needed.
- During the Challenge we will ensure Challenge Control is staffed by suitably experienced volunteers in order to monitor your progress and offer support when needed. They will work to agreed procedures/protocols as per the Challenge's Safety Management Plan.

Cancellation, withdrawals, and retirements

- There will be a cooling off period of 14 days after payment during which you can cancel your entry by emailing us. If you cancel your entry, we will refund any entry fee paid within 10 working days.
- If you withdraw after the cooling off period for any reason (whether actively or by default in accordance with these terms), whether you receive any refund will depend on the date on which you withdraw, as follows:

Date of withdrawal	Refund Due?
On or before 14 December 2023	90%
After 14 December 2023	No refund

- No deferrals or substitutions/transfers are allowed.
- If you wish to withdraw from the Event at any time prior to your start date, you must inform us.
- You must inform Challenge Control by telephone as soon as possible if you retire from the Challenge during the Event.
- We will make reasonable efforts to ensure TGOC24 has the best chance of going ahead but all involved must accept there is a small risk of cancellation or postponement which cannot be insured against. In the event of cancellation all entrants with TGOC24 places will be offered a place on TGOC25 at a discount of 50%. This is to ensure the continuation of the Challenge as significant costs, which cannot be recouped, will have been incurred.

- We reserve the right to remove or disqualify you from the TGO Challenge if, in our reasonable opinion, you:
 - behave in a way which risks or causes offence, illness or injury to yourself, others or the environment including the use of illicit drugs or drunken behaviour;
 - fail to start on your designated day or are unable to make sufficient progress in order to finish within your allotted time;
 - fail to make suitable efforts to report to Challenge Control by phone, text or WhatsApp on pre-arranged dates;
 - are accompanied by someone who is not a Challenge participant for the majority of your crossing or a dog; or
 - commit any other breach of the spirit or rules of the Event as outlined in this document, the Event Details and/or the Final Details.
- We strongly advise you take out travel/cancellation insurance as Scotia Challenge Ltd will not be liable for any costs incurred, whether direct (e.g. the entry fee) or indirect (e.g. travel/accommodation) in the event of any cancellation, withdrawal or retirement.

General

- If there is any inconsistency between this document and the Event Details or Final Details, this document shall take precedence to the extent of that inconsistency.
- The contract between us shall be governed by Scottish law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts. If any provision of this document is invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, the validity of the remainder shall not be affected.
- The contract created by this document is not intended to be enforceable by any person who is not party to it.
- If you are found to be in breach of any term of this document, we reserve the right to exclude you from participation in this and future Challenges.

Definitions

- "Challenge Control" - the control centre that acts as a focal communications point for Challengers during the Challenge for safety, advice and coordination
- "Challenge Control Staff" – those volunteers working at Challenge Control during the Challenge
- "Challengers" - those taking part in the Challenge
- "Challenge", "TGO Challenge" and "TGOC24" - the TGO Challenge event of backpacking across Scotland and references to "TGOC24" refer to the Challenge of a specific year (i.e. TGOC24 = the 2024 edition of the Challenge)
- "Coordinators" – those personnel appointed by Scotia Challenge Ltd to organise, manage and deliver the Challenge
- "Event Details" and "Final Details" – the documents we make available to all Challengers that provide information and advice on, amongst other items, the planning and execution of the Challenge
- "we", "us" and "our" – refers to Scotia Challenge Ltd and the Coordinators and depending on the context may include its representatives and volunteers (such as route vetters and Challenge Control Staff)
- "you" "your" - the Challenger.