





MOUNTAIN BIKE COURSE GRADINGS


Durty Event’s mountain bike courses are often described in terms of the standard trail-gradings developed and used by IMBA and Forestry Commission Scotland. These are shown below.

However, there are some key notes that also need to be considered by participants in our events;

- The IMBA/FCS grade descriptions generally refer to man-made trails at trail centres etc. The natural trails that Durty Events use are significantly more varied and dynamic, and can change markedly from moment to moment. A course that is described as largely ‘Blue’ can have occasional ‘Black’ or other grade sections.
- Natural trails can change dramatically according to weather and other conditions. Mud, for example, can develop quickly, and will have significant impact on technical difficulty and ‘rideability’.
- These gradings, and the course descriptions, should therefore be treated with a certain amount of caution – they are guidelines and approximations only.
- Riding any given section of trail is always the responsibility of the participant. You are the only one capable of making the decision to ride or walk. We will do our best to describe a course and specific hazards, but ultimately..... it’s your choice!.

Is This For You?
Find the right cross-country singletrack trail grade for your abilities

Singletrack trails		
Grade	Suitable for:	Trail
 Green: Easy	Beginners in good health with basic bike skills. Most types of bike.	Relatively flat & wide.
 Blue: Moderate	Riders in good health with basic off-road riding skills. Basic mountain bikes.	Some "single-track" sections & small obstacles of root & rock.
 Red: Difficult	Proficient mountain bikers with good off-road riding skills & fitness. Good mountain bikes.	Challenging climbs, tricky descents & technical features such as drop-offs and large rocks.
 Black: Severe	Expert mountain bikers with high level of fitness. Quality off-road mountain bikes.	Greater challenge & difficulty. Expect large & unavoidable features.

 Mountain biking is a potentially hazardous activity carrying a significant risk.