

[March 2015](#)

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ADVANCING THE SPORT OF MOTORCYCLING

Motorcycling New Zealand - Officials Newsletter March 2015

Welcome to the first issue of my ramblings. I'm the new Officials Commissioner for MNZ and have only been in the role for a matter of weeks. It's been a busy period with getting to grips with what I've taken on.

First item of note is a reminder that at every event the clubs must do a machine check. This is Rule 6.19 and it gives a list of what must be checked. It has been noted by several Officials this is not happening. Please make sure this is done at the events you Officiate at.

My aim when I applied for this role was to improve the training scheme that was already underway and provide good communication and support to the Officials we have. So far I've realised that this is not going to be an easy task. Firstly, I was disappointed that none of the existing information was available to me. This means I don't have any information on what was underway. If it seems your enquiry has stalled please get in touch. To those of you affected I can only apologise - there is nothing I can do at this stage. Those of you working through your Gradings or who were waiting on answers to enquiries; please bear with me.

I have drafted new Grading requirements and Training Structure - this will be discussed at the Officials Workshop at AGM. Included in all this is a type of "review" to make sure all Officials remain up to scratch. This is aimed to address mistakes or errors of judgement. It will provide a path so that when the actions/inactions of the Official becomes untenable we can act to fix the issue. To date there has been no written system in place and it has only been addressed through the Appeal process. The idea is that an earlier intervention will result in better, more competent, Officials.

Also in this is a system to ensure that Officials stay practiced. Going to the training sessions is one thing; being practiced in using those skills is another. A system is needed to cover this and a draft is provided for discussion at the AGM.

Drafting in a new Training Committee has started and, when complete, their first item is to train the 'Trainers' and to get something moving to get more Grade 3 Officials.

I am also looking at re-introducing a Grade 1 to the Officials Grades - it's planned to be a base level that will be open to all MNZ members. The purpose of it is to show everyone (riders, flaggies, volunteers, club organisers) how MNZ works and the roles of the various positions in the structure - from Rider to President. It will serve to show those interested in officiating in the sport the path to the role they wish to do. This training is aimed to take place at Club meetings by local officials from a pack supplied. It's very informal, short and basic. As such there will be no test or 'ticket' but attendance will be recorded.

Hopefully from this interaction a better understanding will evolve, along with better communication.

A review of the Stewards and CoC Report forms is planned and when the form is satisfactory an online version can be created.

Any ideas you have to improve the system or the culture of Officiating I would be pleased to hear them.

Cheers
Andrew Presant
MNZ Officials Commissioner