

May 2016

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ADVANCING THE SPORT OF MOTORCYCLING

## Motorcycling New Zealand - Officials Newsletter May 2016

Stewards: who are they representing?

The Steward of a meeting is not working for the club. They may belong to the club running the event but they are not there for the club.

They are not working for the officials running the meeting either. And they do not work for the riders.

So who is the steward there for? Simply put - MNZ.

Stewards represent MNZ at the events.

They are there to make sure all the requirements laid out for getting a permit are followed by the club and the riders.

They are there to make sure the riders and the officials are treated 'right' by the rules and supplementary regulations. That does not mean they can change rules or supplementary regulations.

They are there to make sure riders and officials are disciplined if required.

They are there to make sure the club is following a 'duty of care' to the riders, pit crews, officials, volunteers and spectators/members of the public in attendance.

It can be tough informing a fellow club member they can't ride, or tell an official or club member that they need to change what they are doing.

When I say 'informing' I mean write an infringement notice in some cases...

If you are a steward and you don't think you are able to do this, maybe you should reconsider what role is for you.

You can't always do what is 'fair', only what is 'right'. What is right is in the MoMS. Anything else is open to Appeal, Protest, and worse, Social Media dissection..

Once this happens there is nothing that can be done by MNZ or the organisers to fix, or help, the situation.

You must follow the MoMS. If you make a decision and find it wasn't right you can (and should) change it before the end of the meeting. Don't wait to see if someone protests. Take your time and check the rules around your decision.

There is no rush. Take as long as you need.. You may also seek advice from the Officials Commissioner and/or a more experienced Steward. If still in doubt, gather the protest committee together and go over the issue. Ultimately it is your decision, but sometimes discussing it with appropriate other people can and will clarify your thinking.

The only things with time limits are getting a protest in to you, and getting an Appeal into the office. Neither apply to your decision times.

Stewards are the face of MNZ at events. The way you treat riders and officials reflects the perception everyone has of MNZ. Be firm but be right and, most importantly, fix any mistakes you may have made, before the meeting is over.

Cheers  
Andrew Present

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