

## Motorcycling New Zealand - Officials Newsletter October 2015

### What do you do when the protested rider packs up and leaves?

Scenario: Protester pays his \$50 and fills out the protest form. You form the protest committee. Together the committee appoint a technical advisor who agrees to, at the end of racing, inspect and measure the protested machine. The Steward goes to the rider and explains what has happened and that he is to race as normal for the day and after the last race the machine would be inspected.

At this point the rider has a wobbly and packs up and goes home.

What do you do?

Check over all the paperwork and make sure all the details and times are recorded and that everything is correctly filled in. Note that the protest committee *must* have been announced at riders briefing. Check the box to refer it to the Board/Judiciary and get it into the office quick.

### Rule 6.11/6.15:

There is an issue with the wording of Rule 6.11 Off Road/6.15 Road. It is badly worded as it is:

"Any competitor guilty of

- a) careless riding,
- b) remaining on the track after being ordered off by the Stewards,
- c) racing in the interests of another competitor,
- d) refusing to start in a final heat when ordered to do so,
- e) or of any other conduct which the *officials* consider to be dishonest or illegal, may be punished by fine, exclusion, suspension or disqualification."

Be very careful using this. It may not stand up at an Appeal.

Two reasons; only a Steward can give a penalty, not an "Official", and "suspension" is not one of the penalties a Steward can do. Added to that d) is at odds with the Duty of Care Statement. If you are faced with this it would be best to find another rule to use. In some cases the Code of Conduct may work as a last resort.

Keep an eye out for an update to this rule.

### **Rule Changes:**

While we're on the subject; have you seen the new rules? They have been on the MNZ website since August. If you see something that needs attention (not rule changes - just ambiguous or poorly written rules) get in touch with me. Email is best. I can ring you back if you provide a number.

If you do have a Rule change you don't have to wait until next year to get it in.

The form is on the MNZ website

(<http://www.mnz.co.nz/regulations/MoMS/submit-a-rule-change>). Follow the process detailed there. Submissions are accepted all year.

### **Training:**

The training system is in its final stages. Two more areas are test sites: Nelson on 3 Oct and Gore on 17 Oct. After that I will be training the trainers and we'll set a calendar of venues. My original goal was far too ambitious, which goes to show how little I knew of what I was getting into!

### **Officials Reports:**

I got a really good Moto Trials reports last week. It told me in five lines in the comments section more about the day than most reports that have all the boxes ticked and numbered.

It was a simple summary of the day: "Eight sections, set in fringes of trees and a creek bed and banks. Good turn out of Riders and the setup of the sections and terrain made for good competition and excellent viewing. Rain forecast but stayed away."

That's exactly what's needed in the comments section if a feel of the day isn't given elsewhere in the report.

### **0800 MNZBIKE**

Remember this number. It's your second opinion and advice if you're unsure about anything.

You *must* use it in the case of a serious incident. It sets in motion the media handling, what to do next, and any other help you need.

Remember that the media will find out very quickly if something has gone wrong at your event. Your comment to them must be 'No comment' or 'The MNZ office will release a statement'. Absolutely anything else you say will be used as they see fit - including taking it out of context.

Until next time...

Cheers

Andrew Presant

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Officials Commissioner

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