



Motorcycling New Zealand - Officials Newsletter

Here we go with another instalment of 'Life and Times of an MNZ Official'. This time we are focusing on Protests.

As an official you are MNZ at any event. You are the representative for the organisation. What you do creates the image of every official for the riders. Don't be lax and don't be mean. Approachable, firm and fair is what is needed. And sticking to the MoMS.

Something that has come up and is causing a huge amount of problems is Stewards not taking a protest. All I can say is never, ever refuse a protest. If someone comes to you with a complaint you should offer it as an option if appropriate.

There are several reasons not to refuse it:

It's creates bad feeling when a request is refused.

The rider has a right to be heard.

It saves on issues later.

It creates an atmosphere of cooperation rather than conflict.

You should listen to the complaint.

Advise them of the likely success if you wish and ask if they still want to protest.

If they do then take their money, give them a receipt and give them the form to fill in.

Don't fill it in for them but be sure to tell them to fill in everything. You do not need to tell them the rule number or anything else. It's up to them to complete the form correctly.

Once they have filled it in check everything is in order and assemble the protest committee (even if the form is not correct).

If you have a personal conflict with the protest you can (and should) excuse yourself and appoint another person/official.

Read through the protest. If anything is missing (permit number, rule number, etc) you can, and should, then declare it invalid. Be sure to explain why it is invalid. Case closed.

Otherwise proceed as normal with the hearing. Be fair and read the rules AS WRITTEN, not as you think they should be. (If the rule needs amending that is a different matter.)

In any case, display a willingness to 'do the right thing'. That doesn't mean interpret the rule to suit. It means to look at the possibilities and explain the rule and the process of reaching your conclusion. Answer their questions. Be prepared to change your mind. Upsetting people or dismissing them does nothing to keep good relations with the riders and clubs.

Always write up the result and make sure the copies go to the right places.

On another subject:

I've been reading the Stewards and CoC reports. Don't be afraid to add notes to your reports. We get a better feel for the event if you do. Some of the notes that have been written tell more about the day and give a different perspective.

The longest 'note' to date was a four page typed story of the event. More of a magazine article really. No facts and figures etc but a great read that really told the story. Don't you all do that or I'll never get anything else done.

If you have suggestions for changes to the forms please let me know: I'm reviewing the format and information required. Email me at officials@mnz.co.nz

Many are asking about training and warrants. Warrants are being extended until there is training in your area. I plan to cover every area... We'll see how that goes. District Stewards (or in areas without District Stewards - Grade 4 Stewards) and Grade 4 CoCs should be doing assessments on Grade 2s and training whenever possible. If your club has members wanting to see what it's about, or be trained, please help them learn. The new system will focus more on practical experience so get some in now. Assessments should be done on the trainee while they are the 'principal official' in effect. (Remember to mention this on your Permit application). Don't assess someone who is just following you around. Get them trained up then watch them do.

Cheers
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