



The Official Word

Newsletter for MNZ Stewards and Clerks of Course

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Welcome to the second addition of The Official Word. I hope Christmas and the New Year went well for you all and although we are all back to work by now, long may the sun continue to shine on us and our events.

Remember that I need your feedback and anecdotes. This newsletter is just like MNZ it is totally dependant on its members if it is to be a success.

Stewards Seminars

The first Level 3 & 4 Stewards Seminar was held in Taupo on the 22nd of November 2008. There will be three Seminars in the South Island and a further two in the North Island.

On 28th March 2009 the Grade 3 & 4 Seminar will held in Christchurch at the Copthorne Hotel Commodore. This is free of charge and will also be available for grade 2 Stewards to attend if they are wishing to move up through the grades of stewarding. Food and refreshments provided.

Please contact Bonnie at the MNZ Office to register your name by 23rd March 2008.

Email: bonnie@mnz.co.nz

Phone: 07 828 7852 ext 1

Matters Arising Events

The Stewards role at events is as MNZ's representative and as such, the role is to make the event Safe, Fun and Fair. Your job is to ensure everyone plays by the rules and that the event is as safe as possible. The person who runs the event is the 'Clerk of the Course'. He is in charge of scheduling who is on track and when. Refer all queries of this nature to the Clerk of the Course. If you can see a problem developing, bring it to the attention of the Clerk of Course, as he will have the man power to resolve it and be able to ensure that it can be included in planning for the next event.

Noise Testing

Every club in the country has been provided with Noise Testing equipment. Please contact clubs prior to the event and ensure that the Noise Meters will be available and used at events you are Stewarding. It is to the Stewards discretion to randomly select any noticeably noisy bike at a race meeting. Noise is a major problem facing us at the moment, especially in the Off Road area.

Helmet Checks

Every competitor is supposed to have his/her helmet checked prior to racing. I am aware that this can be a near impossible task, but as general competition rules state that helmets will be checked, we must do it.

Penalties a Steward can impose

Stewards can impose many different penalties on competitors. Depending on the gravity of the misdemeanour, a Steward can exclude, relegate, disqualify or fine a competitor up to \$500.00.

All warnings and penalties must be recorded in writing attached to the Stewards Report and filled out on an Infringement Notice. Most disciplinary matters can be dealt with on the day of the event and matters should only be referred to the Board of Motorcycling New Zealand when it is a very serious infringement and the Steward feels that the competitors actions may require Licence or MNZ membership suspension/exclusion. The rule of thumb should be dealt with matters on the day.

Dispensations to General Competition Rules

No one, not even the MNZ Board can give a competitor a dispensation to break an MNZ General Competition Rule. If there is a rule in the book, then that rule covers the situation and cannot be changed on the day, no matter what the circumstances may be. The only method of changing a rule is via the MNZ Office and following the rule change process.

Vacancies

We currently have several positions open for our 'Senior Stewards'. In the first newsletter, I outlined my desire to have 'in the field assessments' done on Stewards. This involves assessing knowledge of how to find rules in the rule book, Man Management and People Skills. This concept is an attempt to help our Stewards to give the best service possible to clubs and competitors by looking at how we do our job and seeing if we can be better. If any of you are interested in getting involved in this area, please contact me.

Featured Rule # 3-2-1

' The Steward of the meeting shall have no responsibility for organising of the meeting nor have any executive duty in connection therewith but shall be in supreme supervisory control over the meeting in accordance with the regulations, and exercise all powers set out in the MNZ Constitution '.

Contact Details

Is your current address and contact details up to date???

If not, or if in doubt, contact the MNZ Office to confirm your details.

Tip from the Official Word Issue #2

If you suspect that a rider has been knocked out, ask your St Johns Officer to check them out.

If they suspect a concussion, send the riders licence to the MNZ Office with the Stewards Report and provide the rider with a clearance form.



Caption: Action from Round One of the Supercross Championship held in Nelson.

Remember the Stewards Hotline
It is there for you
0800 MNZ BIKE (0800 669 245)

Steward information can also be found on the MNZ Website
www.mnz.co.nz

We want to help you get the best performance out of yourself and to provide competitors and organizers the best Stewards possible.