



OBSERVERS GUIDE

- The job of the section observer or “checker” must be considered the most important element in the sport of Observed Trials. Without observers you cannot have an “observed” Trial, hence the name Observed Trials. As an observer the outcome of the competition rests in your hands.
- Section observing should not be attempted half heartedly. The fact that you are reading this guide indicates that you wish to strive beyond mediocrity as an observer. Hopefully you will use this guide to broaden your scoring knowledge and become a more effective section observer.
- Never hesitate to ask a trials marshal any questions you may have!

The Observers Equipment

In addition to the scoring equipment provided to you by the marshal make sure you are prepared with adequate food and water, as well as suitable clothing and protection (insect repellent, sunscreen etc.) for any likely conditions.

The Observers Mind-set

From the moment you arrive at your section you must acquire the mind-set that this is your turf. This means that you are in control and responsible not only to know all aspects of your section, but to assume the duties of crowd control as well.

Helpful tips

- Walk the section just as the competitor will, becoming familiar with the lines for each class and insuring all markers are in place and secure.
- It is not an acceptable practice to alter the section as laid out, however if rider safety is a concern it is advisable to consult the course marshal.
- Carefully select the best vantage point to observe the section. Observe all riders from the same vantage point. If the section is well laid out you should have good visibility of the entire section. If you do not, score only the parts of the section you can see.
- Make sure the section is clear for the on-coming rider. Direct other riders as necessary who may be blocking the riders line or your clear view of the section.
- Try to make eye contact with the riders as you call them in to the section. Typically you will hold your fist over your head and yell “rider” both to start the ride as well as alert spectators and other riders of the on-coming rider.
- Stay focused on the rider you are scoring. Do not become distracted.
- Be decisive and consistent with your scoring. Do not ask a rider what his score was in your section. That’s your job, not his.
- Indicate the riders score as he rides by displaying the appropriate number of fingers on your raised hand.
- When scoring give the rider the benefit of the doubt. Allow him to question your call, but do not let him badger you into changing his score. You are in charge, it is your decision. A rider may not unduly detain you from your scoring duties by protesting your decision. Riders may protest an observers scoring to the Trials Marshal only.

Scoring

Scoring begins when the rider's front axle crosses the start gate and ends when front axle crosses the end gate. Penalty points are charged for dabs whether made by the riders foot, arm, knee or any other body part as well as any part of the machine other than the tires, foot pegs, skid plate or engine cases. If a rider brushes against a tree or rock with his arm or handlebar etc. but does not gain support from the contact, there is no penalty.

Failures

- A maximum penalty of five points is assessed for the following failures.
- Dismounting, both feet on the ground on the same side of or behind the machine.
- The handlebar touches the ground while riders foot is down or bike is supported by anything other than it's tires.
- Engine stalls while riders foot is down or bike is supported by anything other than tires.
- Backing up in a section to gain an advantage.
- Riding outside the ribbon (riding on the ribbon or markers is permitted as long as they are not damaged or dislodged).
- Receiving outside assistance in the section.
- The rider circling, or crossing his own tracks with both wheels.
- Failing to travel through all appropriate splits in the section.
- The rider alters a section or someone alters it for him whether instructed by the rider or not.
- Jumping both wheels over a section boundary.
- Dislodging any marker in the section so that it needs to be reset.
- A rider may choose not to ride a section by asking the observer for a five point penalty.

Re-rides

Occasionally a rider's path may be obstructed by a spectator, another rider or someone's dog etc. In such a case the rider should be offered a chance to re-ride of the section. However the rider must accept the score of the re-ride even if it is higher than that of his original ride.

Have fun both observing and riding and never hesitate to ask questions.