

Observers Guide for Trials

This guide is based on **ACU TSR 22A (Stop allowed)** which are the rules used in the Eastern Centre for all solo trials except Pre 70 events

It is important to mark fairly and consistently using the rules, if you “bend the rules” and do not penalise a rider simply because they had a good attempt you are really penalising the other riders who did more than a good attempt

Scoring

Clean – (Score 0) If the rider travels through the whole section without Footing or Failure he is given a Clean

Footing (Score 1, 2 OR 3) – If a rider travels through the whole section but foots (touches the ground or leans on an obstacle such as a tree with any part of his/her body to maintain balance) once he is given a score of 1; footing twice is a score of 2 and footing 3 or more times is a score of 3 points

Failure (score 5) – A rider will score 5 if any of these events occur

- **The machine moves backwards** – Rocking /Rolling Backwards on roots or slippery climb etc.
- The rider does not have both hands on the handlebars when he foots whilst stationary
- The engine stops whilst any part of the machine except the tyres is touching the ground or when the rider is footing
- The rider dismounts and has both feet on the ground on one side or behind the machine
- Any part of the machine goes outside the limits of the section
- The rider displaces any section marker including markers for routes that he is not riding
- Travelling in a forward direction against the direction of the section
- The machine crosses its own path for example by looping around
- The machine or rider receives outside assistance
- The rider or one of his helpers alters the severity of the section
- When requested by a rider instead of riding the section
- Entering a section before being called in by the observer

Section Marking

Each section will have a “Section Begins” and a “Section Ends” card – A rider is in the section when his front wheel spindle passes the Begins card and out of the section when his front wheel spindle passes the Ends card

Routes

All Riders will follow the main Red and Blue markers except where Yellow, White or Green markers deviate away from the main route depending on the Number on the front of their machine

50/50 routes are shown at the “Section Begins” cards the route will then be Red/Blue for these riders

Baulk

A baulk is where a rider in a section is prevented from making a proper attempt often another rider/person walking the section. If a rider claims a baulk, the observer may, at their discretion, allow the rider to rerun of the section and the observer’s decision either way is final. If a rerun is granted, any marks lost prior to the point of the baulk on the original attempt will stand, and the section is only observed from the point of the baulk to the end of the section.

Observing Tips

- Make sure that you signed on and gave emergency contact details just in case of an accident
- Choose your observing position carefully. Avoid having to move around whilst observing but if you do have to move about remember to take special note of uneven ground or obstacles which may cause you to fall as you may be walking whilst you are watching the rider.
- Be prepared to define the section route(s) and its limitations to riders that ask.
- If on arrival at your Section the route(s) is unclear to you please bring this to the attention of the clerk of the course who should check the section prior to the first competitor arriving.
- The observer is responsible for checking any dislodged markers have been replaced in the correct position, so walk the section carefully so as to be familiar with the route and all the markers.
- Make rider's aware that you are the observer.
- Give a clear signal to the waiting rider that you are ready and that they can begin the observed section.
- Don't allow yourself to be distracted whilst observing.
- Make sure that the section is clear and that any moved markers are replaced before permitting the next rider into the section.
- It is always the responsibility of the rider to inspect a section before riding it. The Observer is not responsible for pointing out any changes that may occur in the section to following riders. The only exception to this being a Clerk of the Course authorised change, in which case the observer need only advise all subsequent riders that there has been a change.
- In case of uncertainty, give the rider the benefit of the doubt and never be swayed by other competitors or spectator's comments or advice, it is **your** decision that counts, not theirs!
- **The Observer's decision is final.** If a dispute arises mark the card as observed and take a note of the rider's name or number and report it to the Clerk of the Course at the end of the event or beforehand if the Clerk of the Course visits to your section.
- Report any abusive behaviour and the perpetrator to the Clerk of the Course.

Remember it's fun!

The object of the trial is for everyone, not just the riders, to enjoy themselves! Almost all the riders will have observed a trial in the past and understand how important your duty is. They should treat you with respect and appreciate the time you are giving up for them to ride. Don't take your job too seriously. Disputes are extremely rare and should be left for a club official to sort out at the end of the event. Inform the rider that you are going to leave any difficult decision to the club officials and send them on their way. Good humour will usually win out.

Ask Questions

If you are unclear about anything ask the Clerk of the Course or one of the club officials and remember that there is no such thing as a silly question.

Thank You for your help today – without your assistance the event could not be run