

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN – Cross Country (Off Road)

- 13.1 **Definitions:**  
Hare and Hounds are events where riders start in separate groups at timed intervals with the time difference taken into account at the finish of the event.
- 13.1a Cross Country are events where the riders start together.
- 13.1b The result will be determined on the number of laps ridden in the prescribed time allotted or the first rider to cross the finish line if more than one rider completes the same number of laps. The time handicap will be taken into account in the case of Hare and Hounds.
- 13.1c **Duration:**  
Club Events – Minimum 1 hour. It is suggested Clubs have an easy option for beginners.  
New Zealand or Island Championship events – 3 hours.
- 13.2 **The Course:**  
Cross Country tracks must be fast and flowing and held on natural terrain i.e. Similar to a long distance “Natural Terrain Motocross”. There should be no bottlenecks and riders should not have to dismount.
- 13.2a The minimum distance per lap should be 10km. (The longer the lap, the less laps per race, the less damage done to the track). The minimum lap distance for an Island or New Zealand Championship race shall be 10km.
- 13.2b In the case of long circuits there shall be no more than 50km between designated fuel points. These shall be clear and unmistakable to a fast moving rider.
- 13.3 **Track Marking:**  
Arrows must be day-glo and must contrast with the surrounding environment. They must be triangular and at least 240mm long by 100mm wide. Danger points must be clearly marked with two arrows pointing straight down. Wrong way must be marked by two crossed arrows. Riders must pass within 10 meters of an arrow. All arrows are to be clear and unmistakable to fast moving riders. Where pegs with arrows are used riders must stay between the pegs.
- 13.3a Failure to follow track marking arrows may result in a Stop/Go penalty being imposed by a meeting official; such penalty shall not exceed 5 minutes.
- 13.4 No point to point timing or any other method of scoring is to be used.
- 13.5 **Pre Riding of the Course:**  
In a National Cross Country Championship event, no National title contender shall ride on the marked course prior to the start of the event. A marked course is defined as a commencement of arrowing. Penalty to be at the Stewards discretion.

- 13.6 **The Start:**  
A Cross Country start shall be a Le Mans start with riders running a minimum of 5 metres to their machines.
- 13.7 **Classes:**  
The classes shall be as determined by the Cross Country Commissioner. Numbers 11-69 have been reserved to be allocated to the riders as they finished in previous New Zealand Championship. E.g. first in class 1 would receive plate number 11, first in class 2 would receive plate number 21.  
Class 1: Numbers 11-19  
Class 2: Numbers 21-29  
Class 3: Numbers 31-39  
Class 4: Numbers 41-49  
Class 5: Numbers 51-59  
Class 6: Numbers 61-69
- 13.8 **Teams:**  
There will be a teams Championship. Each team will consist of three Championship riders.
- 13.8a The three team members of each team entered must be submitted to organising clubs prior to the start of the practice lap, i.e. No change after practice lap.
- 13.8b The team must have the same three team members for all rounds in which they wish to accumulate points for the Championships. (Class changing of team riders is permitted within the team).
- 13.8c Teams must have all three members finish the event to be eligible for a placing in that event and to gain championship points.
- 13.8d **Teams Points Juniors & Seniors:**  
Team member's class points will be added together.  
  
The top team scores 25pts for that round, second team scores 22pts, then 20,18, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.
- 13.9 **New Zealand Championships:**  
The Championship will be held over four National Championship rounds; with one round dropped.  
Points awarded using rule 13.8d total maximum points will be 75.
- 13.9a Series riders gain series points. No reallocation.
- 13.9b Riders may only enter one class.
- 13.10 No refuelling or transferring of fuel from one vehicle to another is permitted on the circuit except in an area designated by the organising Club.

- 13.11 All riders must leave the course immediately after the chequered flag or “finish sign” is displayed. To be classified as a finisher, a competitor must complete at least one full lap.
- 13.12 A practice lap is to be offered to competitors at the discretion of the Club Officials regardless of the length of the track.  
However, Junior competitors will have a practice lap.
- 13.13 The MNZ Cross Country Championship, format, classes and grading each year, shall be organised by the Cross Country Commissioner.

A pre-requisite to acceptance into a New Zealand or Island Senior Cross Country event is that the rider must have ridden in a minimum of 3 permitted Senior Club Cross Country events. This shall be evidenced by entries in the rider logbook.

**Junior Cross Country; to be read in conjunction with the above rules:**

- 13.14 Riders have three options for licences when they turn 15;  
Option 1 – Remain on their junior licence until their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday.  
Option 2 – Return their junior licence for a senior licence.  
Option 3 – When a junior licence holder reaches 15 years, they may choose to ride as a Senior in Cross Country whilst keeping their junior licence for Motocross.  
Once you have ridden Senior Cross Country you cannot return to Junior Cross Country.
- 13.15 Junior maximum capacity is 200cc 2 Stroke and 300cc 4 Stroke.
- 13.16 The course shall be as close as practicable to 10kms and the duration shall not exceed one and a half hours.  
Cross Country tracks must be fast and flowing, held on natural terrain. There should be no bottlenecks and riders should not have to dismount.
- 13.17 The minimum age for New Zealand & Island Championship events is 12 years and maximum age is 16 years.
- 13.17a The minimum age for Club events is 10 years and maximum age 16 years. 10-12 year olds may only ride 65cc-85cc 2 Stroke and up to 150cc 4 Stroke only. These competitors ride at the Stewards discretion as per rule 13.22 in a class restricted to this age group only.

Riders must be able to pick up their own machine unaided as per rule 13.22. The Club will provide a minimum of one MNZ Licenced riding marshal per 6 riders to circulate during the event. At all points on the track where it is possible for a rider to fall into water a Safety Marshal must be present at all times. The course shall not exceed 5kms and the duration shall not exceed 1 hours.

Events where shadow riders are used are not Cross Country.

**Note:** Clubs are encouraged to hold “Trail Ride” type non competitive events for under 12 year olds. At these events the competitor shall be accompanied by a parent or guardian who shall shadow rider them throughout the entire course. Riders must be able to pick up their own bike.

- 13.18 The organising club will provide at least three competent and responsible senior riders, preferably not related to a competitor in the Championship, who will circulate during the Junior race and will be on hand to assist any Junior competitor in difficulties. Their details will be advised to the Steward prior to the commencement of riders briefing.

The Steward is to be advised of any assistance given.

The Rider Representative shall be a competent rider who may also circulate on the track. All safety equipment shall be worn if riding. A non-riding Rider Representative may also be appointed as per rule 6.4.

**Notes:** These rules are designed to foster and promote junior distance racing. Organisers are requested to bear in mind the size and ability of the competitors when laying the course out. Attention is drawn to rule 13.16.

- 13.19 All Junior championships shall comply with rule 13.9. MNZ will allocate the Championship rounds.
- 13.20 Trophies in this championship shall only be awarded to first, second and third place. If clubs wish to acknowledge other riders in their events this shall only be done with a standard acknowledgment of entry certificate stating the finishing position.
- 13.21 Juniors shall not under any circumstances ride with seniors, with the exception of Senior Ladies who may ride with 12-16 year old Juniors at Club level only.
- 13.22 Prior to starting in an event, a Junior competitor must demonstrate their ability to lift their motorcycle, engine NOT running, from horizontal position without any outside assistance; the competitor must then restart their machine without assistance. Failure to complete either or both of these tasks will result in exclusion at the discretion of the Steward.
- 13.23 MNZ will appoint a component officials to inspect the track before the event commences. At all points on the circuit where it is possible for a rider to fall into water a safety marshal must be present at all times during the event to assist riders as required.
- 13.24 A pre-requisite to acceptance into a New Zealand or Island Junior Cross Country event is that the rider must have ridden in a minimum of 3 MNZ permitted Club Cross Country events. This shall be evidenced by entries in the rider logbook.
- 13.25 No Junior who has competed in a Senior Cross Country event shall be eligible for the Junior Cross Country Championship.