

15.1 MINI MOTOCROSS

Introduction:

Mini riding is intended to be an introduction to off road motorcycling sport, providing an outlet for youthful energies under controlled conditions.

Mini Motocross has age appropriate bikes, along with bikes having to be homologated. The age appropriate bikes along with the homologated bikes can be found on the MNZ Website.

For more information about Homologation refer to Appendix C

Entering the sport of Motocross may be new to many, it is important that you read this Chapter and also make reference to Chapter 8 which advises of all Safety Gear that is required.

The Intro classes are specifically designed to cater for riders new to the sport and will be run as an introductory class separate from other classes. Once riders are confident and capable of competing in other classes, they may move into another age and machine appropriate class.

Motorcycle Clubs are expected to take full responsibility for the training of prospective Mini riders and for the adequate control of races. In larger clubs it would probably be desirable to appoint a Mini Competition Committee. Parents are also expected to guide and assist their children to participate safely in and enjoy the sport. Clubs are expected to operate training sessions covering all aspects of riding and regulations pertaining to Mini competition.

15.2 Licencing:

To encourage new riders into the sport, a new rider from the age of 4 years old can compete at two events at Club level only, using a free one event licence supplied by the Club. These licences can be filled out & signed by the legal guardian of the child. Competitors will still be required to pay the appropriate entry fee and club membership fee.

For more information regarding Licencing, refer to Chapter 5.

- 15.3 After the two free rides mini competitors are required to have an MNZ Mini licence or purchase a One Event Licence if being offered for purchase by the host club & eligible for the event being run. Applications for an annual competition licence are made via the office of MNZ, or by way of online application. A birth certificate or passport is required with a first time application.

The application form must be endorsed by a parent or legal guardian. Note that parents or legal guardians can restrict licences simply by drawing lines through the classes they do not approve of on the application form.

Mini Competition Licences can be only issued for the following types of competition: Motocross, Motocross TT, ATV, Gymkhana, Flat Track, Grass Track and Trial.

Before competing in a New Zealand National event, a rider must have competed in at least SIX MNZ permitted club events (three for ATV, Intro Motocross and Intro Trail). Proof of this shall be from entries in the riders log book or APP and can include six one event licences (one for ATV) or proof from results of Electronic Lap scored Events. The original copies of the licences must be supplied – no reproduction copies.

- 15.4 The goals are to:

- a. Encourage and support our young riders
- b. Give an introduction to motorcycle riding in the disciplines
- c. Undertake training, coaching and fun day's events
- d. Give an introduction to the spirit of racing.

It is an ideal stage for Clubs to introduce and educate young riders and their parents into the sport thus encouraging club participation and ensuring that our new mini riders are at least conditioned and have some understanding of the sport.

- 15.5 The Manual of Motorcycle Sport of MNZ apply. Rules not covered in this chapter may be found elsewhere in the 'Manual' (e.g., Conduct of Competition Chapter 6 and Safety Gear Chapter 8, Look at the Chapter Index for others).

- 15.6 Overseas/visiting riders aged 8 years old and above (at the date of the event) cannot compete in Mini Competition. These riders can compete, with the correct licence/starting permission in Junior Competition in the correct age and capacity class.

- 15.7 When a mini licence holder reaches 8 years they may remain as a mini until their 12th birthday, or they may upgrade their mini licence for a junior licence. For more information regarding Junior Motocross please refer to rule 15.18.

- 15.8 **Mini Riding Classes:** These are as outlined in Appendix A. All motorbikes taking part in Mini Motocross must be Homologated, for more information about Homologation refer to Appendix C. Homologated bikes can be found on the MNZ website.

Motorcycle Capacity Restrictions:

Riders must practice and race only in their age groups.

Minimum age requirements.

- 50cc 2 & 4 Stroke machine minimum 4 years old (4-7 year Intro MX & Intro Trail) Intro classes may not intermix with other classes.
- 50cc 2 Stroke MX machine minimum 6 years old (6-8 year MX 50)
- 65cc 2 Stroke & 53cc-110cc 4 Stroke minimum 7 years old (7-8 year, 9-11 year 65cc & 7-9 year Trail class)
- 112cc 4 Stroke up to 149cc air cooled 4 Stroke & 85cc air cooled 2 Stroke minimum 8 years old (8-11 year Trail class and any 85cc class)

- 15.9 a. Mini competitors shall compete in age groups. Subject to rule 15.9.(b), except for those turning 12, the age of a mini competitor on the first day of an event or series shall determine their age group for that event or series.
- b. If a mini competitor's birthday falls during an event or series, (s)he may commence and complete that event or series in the new age group. However, nothing in this rule shall allow a mini competitor to ride a capacity or type of mini machine under age or compete at a mini event once the rider has turned 12.

15.10 Maximum number of starters:

The number of starters in any one race can be up to 20. However, if the circuit meets the following criteria a maximum of 30 is permitted.

All start lines must provide for a single row start, with a minimum of 1 metre between each bike. Measured from wheel to wheel. (500mm for ATV's).

The start straight must maintain a minimum width of 50% of the full start gate for 50% of its length.

The first corner must be a minimum of 6 metres wide, with no start straight to exceed a maximum of 70 metres, and the rest of the track to be a minimum of four meters, except in a chicane for lap scoring purposes.

- 15.10a **Starting:** Stationary with motor running behind either, backward falling independent start gate or elastic barrier cord or flag. ***The use of any enhancement to the start gate mechanism or starting pads/area not supplied by the club or specifically noted in the supplementary regulations is prohibited.***

- 15.11 **Track Specifications:** Before any mini track is used for mini competition the Steward in conjunction with the Clerk of the Course shall inspect the track to ensure that it is safe and complies with the following requirements.

- Tracks may be laid out over natural or man improved terrain.
- The track must be rideable for all competitors and classes. Note: Mini competition is primarily about encouraging participation and tracks should not be overly technical or difficult so as to discourage participation. The track may however have separate sections/extensions that are more challenging for older age groups/classes.
- Where practicable, the edge of the track must be at least 3 meters away from any fence, post, tree, vehicle, or ditch, or any other object, structure or feature ("a hazard") that is likely to cause injury if ridden into. The edge of the track may be within 3 meters of a hazard if the hazard is able to be safely eliminated by using a safety barricade (eg: a wool bale filled with plastic milk bottles).
- All potential problem areas must be identified and designated as a yellow flag station and must be manned at all times during practice and racing.
- The start line shall be sufficiently wide to accommodate the number of starters as per rule 15.10
- The lead up to any jump of more than 1 meter, man made or natural terrain must not exceed 20 meters unless a chicane is included in a straight that is longer than 20 meters leading up to the jump.
- If backward falling independent start gates are being used, the height shall be checked to ensure they are safe if a rider starts prematurely (Note: this is particularly important if senior start gates are being used with Mini Motorcycles).

Note: Where practicable, the first corner after the start should be a left hand corner to enable use of the foot brake.

- 15.11a A mini track may include the following, jumps, whoops, berm'd turn's (up hills & down hills if natural terrain) provided that a Clerk of the Course & Steward are satisfied & deem these obstacles not to be dangerous.

- 15.11b 65cc class machines may race on a senior track provided that, in the opinion of the Steward in conjunction with the Clerk of the Course it is safe to do so and the track is rideable for all competitors in the class.

15.12 Race Specifications:

- a. Race duration will be maximum 9 minutes plus one lap for the race winner. The start of the race will be deemed to be the fall of the gates.
- b. A mini licenced competitor is limited to a maximum of 6 races per day, for avoidance of doubt, practice does not constitute a race.
- c. If the Steward considers that a mini rider is not competent enough to ride in junior competition they may be directed to return to mini competition.

15.13 No prize money for racing.

15.13a *Strictly NO pit boards for mini competition.*

15.14 Rider Assistance:

This is limited to lifting a fallen rider's machine only and pointing it in right direction and restarting the motor. No outside pushing is permitted to assist the rider.

15.15 Side-stands must be removed from all motorcycles in mini riding events.

15.16 Tether kill switches on ATV's to be fitted in accordance with rule 11.2e.

15.17 National Events:

New Zealand Nationals. Classes see Appendix A.

15.17a At a National where riders exceed the 30 gate start, qualifying will take place to determine the top 30 competitors. The remaining will then ride in a support class.

15.17b At a New Zealand National event, riders must compete on a MNZ Mini Licence.

15.17c The New Zealand Nationals & New Zealand Grand Prix events shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five races (plus qualifying if necessary) held over either one or two days. However, no mini competitor shall race more than six races (plus qualifying, if necessary) in a single day.
For avoidance of doubt, practice does not constitute a race.

15.17d The New Zealand Nationals or GP Motocross track must not be used for riding at least ten days prior to the event, unless the event or track has been approved and permitted by MNZ to be used. Any competitor who breaches this rule shall be disqualified from taking part in the event.

15.18 JUNIOR MOTOCROSS:

Introduction: Junior Motocross is intended to be an introduction to motorcycle sport, providing an outlet for youthful energies under controlled conditions. Motorcycle clubs are expected to take full responsibility for the training of prospective junior competitors and for the adequate control of races. In larger clubs, it would probably be desirable to appoint a Junior Motocross Committee. Parents are also expected to guide and assist their children to participate safely in and enjoy the sport. Clubs are expected to operate training sessions covering all aspects of riding and regulations pertaining to junior competition.

Entering the sport of Motocross may be new to many, it is important that you read this Chapter and also make reference to Chapter 8 which advises of all Safety Gear that is required.

15.19 Licencing:

All junior competitors are required to have a MNZ Club or Championship licence or purchase a One Event Licence (if being offered for purchase by host club & eligible for event being run). Applications for an annual competition licence are made via the office of MNZ, or by way of 'online application'. A birth certificate or passport is required with a first time application.

Before competing in a New Zealand Championship event or NZGP (Championship classes only) a rider must have competed in at least SIX MNZ permitted club events (three for ATV). Proof of this shall be from entries in the riders log book or APP and can include one event licences (one for ATV) or proof from results of Electronic Lap scored Events. The original copies of the licences must be supplied – no reproduction copies.

15.19a Junior competitor's age shall be from and including the eighth birthday until the seventeenth birthday.

15.19b When a junior licence holder reaches 15 years they may remain as a junior until their 17th birthday, or they may upgrade their junior licence for a senior licence.

- 15.19c
- Subject to rule 15.19c(b), except for those turning 17, in age based competition, the age of a junior competitor on the first day of an event or series shall determine his/her age group for that event or series.
 - If a junior competitor's birthday falls during an event or series (s)he may commence and complete that event or series in the next age group. However, nothing in this rule shall entitle a junior competitor to ride in the 125 classes under age 12 or compete at a junior event once the rider has turned 17.
 - Juniors and seniors shall not compete or practice together for Motocross, Supercross or Motocross TT.

The circumstances when juniors and seniors may compete or practice together are as follows:

- From aged 15, provided they are riding a 90cc 2 stroke up to 150cc 2 stroke bike or 150cc 4 stroke up to 250cc 4 stroke maximum capacity.
- From aged 12, women in any all women class providing they are on an 85cc up to a 125cc 2 stroke or a 150cc 4 stroke capacity machine and from aged 14 provided they are riding a bike 85cc 2 stroke up to 150cc 2 stroke or 150cc 4 stroke up to 250cc 4 stroke maximum capacity.

However, women may not ride a capacity bike that they are not entitled to ride in junior competition (refer Appendix A)

However, if any competitors bike exceeds 150cc 2 stroke or 250cc 4 stroke (in the combined all women class), no competitors under 15 can compete or practice together.

Competing or practicing with seniors in such circumstances shall not affect the riders junior status.

If a Steward considers that a junior rider is not competent enough to ride in senior competition, (s)he may direct that rider to return to junior competition.

15.19d Where a Juniors birthday falls during a consecutive multi day event the competitor may complete that event, in that class except when the rider turns 17.

15.20 **Motorcycle Capacity Restrictions:**

The maximum machine capacity is 150cc 2 stroke & 250cc 4 stroke.

To ride a 126cc – 150cc 2 stroke or 250cc 4 stroke machine the rider must be a minimum age of 14 years.

15.21 **Number of Starters:** The number of starters in any one race can be up to 30.

However upon application to MNZ any request to a maximum number of 40 riders can be lodged. This application will only be granted with full agreement of MNZ, the club, and the Steward of the meeting.

15.21a *The maximum number of starters for any race will be 40 (if applied for with a permit and including split starts). Applications to increase the number of starters to 50 but only with a split start (no more than 40 starting at any one time) is to be applied for with the permit application, and approved by the Motocross Commissioner and the Steward of the meeting. This may only be applied for if the track is licenced for Championship Competition.*

15.21b *A junior 65cc class may only be combined or split started with an 85cc class (60cc to 85cc 2 stroke and 100cc to 150cc 4 stroke)*

15.22 **Rider Assistance:**

This is limited to lifting a fallen rider's machine only and pointing it in right direction and restarting the motor. No outside pushing is permitted to assist the rider.

15.22a Prior to starting an event, a junior competitor may be required to demonstrate their ability to lift their motorcycle, engine not running, from the horizontal position without any outside assistance. The competitor must then mount their machine without assistance. Failure to complete either of both of these tasks may result in exclusion at the discretion of the Steward.

NZ JUNIOR MOTOCROSS CHAMPIONSHIPS and NZ MOTOCROSS GRAND PRIX

15.23 **New Zealand Junior Motocross Championships and New Zealand Motocross Grand Prix:**

Classes see Appendix A.

15.23a The New Zealand Junior Motocross Championship shall be run over a minimum of two days.

15.23b The New Zealand, North or South Island or New Zealand Grand Prix Championship track must not be used for riding at least ten (10) days prior to the event, unless the event or track has been approved and permitted by MNZ to be used prior to the event. Any competitor who breaches this rule shall be disqualified from taking part in the Championship event.

15.24 **Track Safety:**

Where course indicators are used they must be of sufficient height and design to be clearly visible to competitors at speed.

15.24a A Motocross track must be constructed or laid out with the safety of the riders foremost in mind. Hay bales or other shock absorbent material to protect the riders from dangerous obstacles must be used.

Special consideration must be given to the angle of jump faces and landing zones.

The race course shall have a minimum of 3 meters distance between racing sections of the track. If this cannot be adhered to due to track confinements, hay bales or other absorbent material must be used to separate the course. Where pegs are used to mark out tracks, the pegs are to be placed with a slight lean outwards and away from approaching riders (no wooden pegs or waratahs to be used on inside corners).

15.24b **Watering of the Track:** Where possible the track must be properly watered if necessary in ample time before and between races to ensure proper racing condition, complete safety and to protect the public and riders from dust.

15.24c The track width for New Zealand Junior Motocross Championship and New Zealand Grand Prix events shall be a minimum of five (5) meters, except in a chicane for lap scoring purposes.

- 15.24d
- a. Altering of track in front of the gates by a rider or ***their*** entourage will be deemed altering the track in terms of these rules and is not permitted.
 - b. Where ruts are in front of the start gate it is the responsibility of the starter of the meeting to have these corrected if they are deemed dangerous.
 - c. Behind the center pole of the start gates is also under the control of the starter and may not be altered without the express permission of the starter. Alterations made without the approval of the starter will be deemed altering the track under the rules.
 - d. A line and/or bunting is to be placed 4-metres behind the rear of the start gates and all persons other than the riders must retreat behind this line prior to the 10-second board. The Starter shall not start the race until such time as all riders' entourage and assistants are behind the 4-metre line.
 - e. No person other than the starter and/or their assistants shall re-enter the 4-metre area after the 10-second board until all riders have left the start gate. This area is deemed to be under the starter's control and only the starter and/or their assistants can enter it to relieve a rider for any reason i.e. engine failure, stuck under the gate etc. Failure to comply is already covered by the rules as outside assistance.
 - f. The use of any enhancement to the start gate mechanism or starting pads/area not supplied by the club or specifically noted in the supplementary regulations is prohibited.***

15.25 **School Events:** These shall be run under MNZ MoM'S regulations and in accordance with section 15.18 Junior Motocross.

For National and Island Events, classes will be as the MNZ School Guidelines, see Appendix A.