



MOTORCYCLING NEW ZEALAND INC.

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ROAD RACE START PROCEDURE – PERMANENT CIRCUITS

1. Manning

Control Tower

- 1 × Starter
- Spotter (s)
- Clerk of the Course (CoC)
- Assistant CoC (where available)

Dummy Grid

- 1 × Dummy Grid Marshal

Start Equipment

- Starter:
 - White Flag
 - Chequered Flag
 - Red Flag
 - Yellow Flag
- Start Line Official:
 - 1 × Red Flag
- Spotter – Trackside if applicable:
 - 1 × Yellow Flag each

Where practical, all race starts should be recorded on video.

2. Dummy Grid Procedure

All machines must be on the dummy grid before completion of the previous race or when called by the Clerk of the Course or Dummy Grid Officials.

Prior to each race, competitors will receive:

- A five-minute call.
- A two-minute call.
- Notification that the track is open. (Note no more than 30 secs then closed)

This provides sufficient time for riders to remove tyre warmers and proceed to the circuit.



The Dummy Grid Marshal, assisted by a Steward where available, will check:

- Helmet and machine scrutineering stickers.
- Back and/or chest protectors.
- Fluid leaks.
- General machine safety and compliance.
- Any other items deemed necessary.

At a declared wet meeting, all rain lights must be operational and switched on. Any rider with a non-functioning rain light will not be permitted onto the circuit.

3. Track Release

Once track clearance has been obtained, the CoC will authorise the release of machines and announce:

“Bikes on Track”

over the public-address system.

The pit lane light will be turned green.

The Dummy Grid Marshal will open the pit lane barrier for 30 secs. At the completion of this period:

- The barrier will be closed.
- The pit lane light will be turned red.

The following announcement will be made:

“Pit Lane Closed”

Any rider arriving after pit lane closure may be required to start from pit lane at the discretion of the CoC.

4. Warm-Up Lap

Riders will receive one warm-up lap unless otherwise directed by the CoC.

Marshal points will not normally display flags during the warm-up lap. However, should a yellow flag be displayed, riders must comply in accordance with the current MNZ Manual of Motorcycle Sport (MoMS).

5. Grid Formation

Upon completion of the warm-up lap, riders will assemble on the starting grid in their allocated grid positions.

Correct grid positioning is the responsibility of each rider.

During grid formation:

- Overhead gantry lights will be off.
- The Start Line Official will stand on the Start/Finish line holding a red flag raised.



Riders must stop only in their allocated grid position. If a position ahead is vacant, riders must not move forward to occupy it.

Starting outside the allocated grid position or deliberately hanging back on the grid may result in a penalty equivalent to a jump start under the applicable rule provisions.

6. Spotters Duties – *Note this Rule is not applicable at all tracks and as such is not enforceable but a recommendation to clubs if safe to do so.*

Spotters

- will position themselves behind the pit wall with yellow flags raised while the grid is forming.

Or

- Be positioned in the Control Tower observing the grid

Each spotter will monitor the riders within their allocated section of the grid, typically three rows per marshal unless otherwise directed during the marshal briefing.

Once their section is correctly formed, spotters will lower their yellow flags.

The lowered flags indicate to the Start Line Official that the grid is complete and they may leave the track.

When the Start Line Official reaches a safe position clear of the racing surface, riders are deemed to be under Starter's Orders.

Spotter must remain vigilant for:

- Stalled motorcycles.
- Riders indicating a problem by raising one or both arms.
- Any unsafe condition on the grid.

7. Abort Start Procedure

If a marshal observes a rider with a raised arm or identifies another safety concern, they must immediately raise and wave their yellow flag.

All other Grid Marshals should then also raise and wave their yellow flags to attract the attention of the Starter and CoC.

Where possible, the Starter will abort the start procedure.

8. Race Start Procedure

Once the Start Line Official has reached a safe position clear of the circuit:

1. The start lights will illuminate red.
2. After a predetermined interval, the red lights will extinguish.
3. The race will start.



9. Jump Starts

If a rider creeps forward but remains within their grid position, a jump start penalty may be imposed by the Steward.

If a rider jump starts and continues moving:

- The rider must continue racing.
- The rider must not stop and attempt to restart.
- A 20-second time penalty will be imposed by the Steward.

10. Aborted Start Signal

If a start is aborted:

- The red lights will remain illuminated.
- Two flashing yellow lights above the red lights will flash.

The Start Line Official will re-enter the track when safe and display the red flag.

If the delay is less than 30 seconds, the start procedure may recommence immediately.

If the delay exceeds 30 seconds, riders will complete an additional warm-up lap before reforming on the grid for a new start.

If yellow flags have been displayed but the start cannot be aborted, all riders must exercise extreme caution as there may be a stationary rider or machine ahead.

11. Pit Lane Starts

It is the rider's responsibility to be aware of race schedules and start times.

Any timetable displayed is indicative only and may be altered.

With the permission of the CoC, a rider who misses the start or warm-up lap(s) may be permitted to start from pit lane.

A maximum of three riders may start from pit lane in any one race.

Pit lane starters will be released:

- After the last machine has passed pit exit, and
- Before the race leader completes their first lap.

If an aborted start occurs, pit lane starters may complete any additional warm-up lap but must return to pit lane for the race start.



If the race is stopped with fewer than three laps completed and declared null under Rule 6.21, pit lane starters may resume their original grid position for the full restart.

12. Riders Unable to Maintain Race Pace

Any rider considered unable to maintain a safe race pace may be shown the Black Flag and required to return to pit lane.

13. Circuit Variations

Pit lane exit configurations differ between circuits.

Procedures may vary accordingly.

Competitors must:

- Attend rider briefings.
- Follow organiser instructions.
- Seek clarification from officials if uncertain.

14. Alternative Starting Methods

The primary starting method will be start lights.

Should circumstances prevent the use of start lights, races may instead be started by the dropping of a green flag.

15. Red Flag During Championship Races

If a red flag is displayed during a championship race:

- Riders must return to their pits or paddock sites.
- Riders must not return to the dummy grid.
- Tyre warmers may be reapplied.
- Machines may be refuelled.

Further instructions will be communicated via the public-address system.

Where practical, the next scheduled race may be run before the stopped race is restarted.

16. Briefings

This procedure shall form part of:

- The Rider Briefing.
- The Start Marshal Briefing.
- The Grid Marshal Briefing.