



MOTORCYCLING NEW ZEALAND INC.

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IMPORTANT – EFFECTIVE 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

The rule changes in this document have been approved but **do not take effect until 1 September 2026**. Until 31 August 2026, the current Manual of Motorcycle Sport (MoMS) remains in force and continues to apply.

This document is being published in advance so riders, parents, officials, clubs, promoters and volunteers have time to understand and prepare for the changes.

The updated MoMS incorporating these changes will be published on **1 September 2026**.

There are quite a few changes, so we have broken them down into sections to make it easier to find what applies to you. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE 1 SEPTEMBER?

Riders & Parents

- ✓ Check the changes for your discipline.
- ✓ Check age, licence and motorcycle requirements.
- ✓ Make sure helmets and protective equipment meet the rules and fit correctly.
- ✓ Ensure you understand the Safety Flags, and in particular note the changes for Motocross.

Officials & Volunteers

- ✓ Read the changes that affect your role.
- ✓ Make sure you understand the changes for All Events, Safety Flags, Equipment & Helmets

Clubs, Promoters & Event Organisers

- ✓ Check your event processes against the new requirements.
- ✓ Make sure permits are **approved before entries open**.
- ✓ Update event information, procedures and relevant equipment where required.

Need more detail?

These are summaries designed to help everyone understand the changes.

The MoMS contains the complete and official rule wording. If there is any difference between this summary and the MoMS, the MoMS takes precedence.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the rule change process, and thank you to our riders, parents, clubs, officials and volunteers for taking the time to understand the changes before they come into effect.

Effective date: 1 September 2026



Changes first 10 Chapters of the MoMS

Officials riding at Off-Road Trials

Rule 3.1.4 (Off Road)

At Off-Road Trials events, Stewards and Clerks of the Course may now compete. This only applies at events requiring a Grade 2 Official.

Important: Their official duties always come first. If an incident occurs that requires their attention, they must stop riding and deal with it before they can continue competing.

There are additional requirements for Clerks of the Course at National and Island Trials Championship events.

Hi-Vis colours for officials

Rules 3.2h (Off-Road) and 3.2k (Road)

The colours used to identify officials have been clarified:

- **Yellow** – Steward
- **Orange** – Clerk of the Course and other identified officials
- **Green** – may be used by MNZ Series Race Directors and Riders' Representatives
- **Black** – Machine Examiners/Technical Team
- **Pink** – Parent Helpers at Mini Track events
- **MNZ designated vest** – Accredited Media

What you need to know:

Do not wear a Hi-Vis vest that could cause you to be mistaken for an MNZ official. For Road Race the Clerk of Course must wear their official vest outside of the control tower.

Event permits

Rule 4 (Off-Road & Road)

All events must have an **approved MNZ permit**.

The approved permit number and MNZ logo must appear on event advertising, entry forms, posters, programmes and relevant club website material.

Most importantly: Entries must not open until the permit has been approved.

Having a permit number while an application is still in draft or review does not mean the permit has been approved.

One Event Licences

Rule 5.2g (Off-Road)

The minimum ages have been clarified:

- **Motocross and Trials:** from 4 years
- **Cross Country:** from 7 years
- **Enduro:** from 12 years
- **Other events:** from 16 years

For riders aged 4–18 years, a parent or guardian must sign the One Event Licence.

Changing the order of events

Rule 6.5 (Off-Road & Road)

The Clerk of the Course may change the order shown in the official programme, after consulting with the Steward and working with the Secretary of the Meeting.

Competitors must be told before the change happens.

This can include combining classes, with or without split starts.



Leaving the marked track

Rule 6.10a (Off-Road)

Riders must stay on the designated track.

If you miss a peg or leave the track:

1. Slow down.
2. Return to the track as soon as it is safe.
3. Do not gain an advantage.
4. Do not damage track markings.

Intentionally damaging markers or deliberately riding on the wrong side of them may result in a penalty.

Flag size

Rule 6.17b (Off-Road) Rule 6.27 (Road)

The minimum flag size has been amended to 'mm' rather than 'inches':

600 mm x 600 mm.

This is mainly a wording and consistency change.

Protests

Rule 7.2.2b Road and Off-Road

There must be **one protest per protest form**, and each protest form requires its own \$100 protest fee.

Technical protests:

If the protest is of a technical nature, a **\$1,000 bond is also required**, in addition to the \$100 protest fee.

So, for a technical protest:

- **\$100** – protest fee; plus
- **\$1,000** – technical protest bond.

The bond is separate from the protest fee and is dealt with in accordance with the rules applying to technical protests.

FLAGS & RIDER SAFETY

There are some important clarifications to the yellow flag rules (Off-Road)

Stationary Yellow Flag

Rules 6.17b and 6.17c (Off-Road)

A stationary yellow flag means:

SLOW DOWN – danger, ride cautiously.

Riders must reduce their speed and proceed with care.

Waved Yellow Flag

A waved yellow flag means:

SLOW DOWN NOW – immediate danger.

When a yellow flag is being waved, riders must:

- significantly reduce their speed;
- be prepared to stop;
- **not overtake**; and
- **not attempt jumps.**

The easy way to remember it:

Stationary yellow = Slow down and ride cautiously.

Waved yellow = Slow down now, no overtaking, no jumping and be prepared to stop.

First lap of practice

During the first lap of practice for each class, each flag marshal will display a **stationary yellow flag**.

Riders must not jump while this flag is displayed.

If an incident occurs during the first lap of practice, the yellow flag will be **waved**.



Light-based signalling systems

Rule 6.17b (Off-Road)

Light-based signalling systems may be used at designated flag points, subject to specific requirements.

Where lights are used:

- the system must be included in the **approved Track Safety Plan**;
- the flag point must remain under **continuous human supervision**;
- the light panel must be at least **450 mm x 300 mm**;
- a **solid yellow light** has the same meaning as a stationary yellow flag;
- a **flashing yellow light** has the same meaning as a waved yellow flag; and
- riders must be told how the system works at the **riders' briefing**.

Flags remain the primary signalling method unless otherwise approved within the Track Safety Plan.

Starting lights may replace the green start flag.

What this means:

Lights can support the flag system, but they do not automatically replace flag marshals or the people supervising flag points.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT & HELMETS

These changes are important for **all riders, parents and officials**.

Protective clothing

Rule 8.1 (Off-Road)

Protective clothing must be checked by a competent MNZ official before being used at an MNZ-permitted event.

The Steward or their deputy can stop equipment being used if it:

- does not meet the rules;
- is damaged or defective;
- has been modified; or
- is considered unsafe.

Long hair and facial hair

Rule 8.1b (Off-Road & Road)

Long hair and long facial hair must be secured so that it:

- does not block your vision;
- does not affect how your helmet fits; and
- cannot become caught in the motorcycle or equipment.

Where possible, long hair and facial hair should be kept inside the helmet, **but only if this does not affect the helmet's fit**.

Unsafe helmets

Rule 8.2 (Off-Road & Road)

A Steward or their deputy may hold an unsafe helmet for the duration of an event.

This may happen if the helmet is damaged, unsafe or does not meet the required standard.

Helmet fit

Rules 8.2g Off-Road and 8.2f Road

It is the rider's responsibility to make sure their helmet fits correctly.

Your helmet must:

- be the correct size;
- be properly fitted and adjusted; and
- be securely fastened.

An official may ask you to show that your helmet fits correctly.



A helmet that is incorrectly fitted, damaged, modified or unsafe may not be allowed to be used.

Our advice: If you are unsure about helmet fit, have your helmet professionally fitted by a reputable motorcycle helmet retailer.

MNZ is also adding a **Helmet Fitment Guide** to the MoMS to help riders, parents and officials understand correct helmet fit.

MOTOCROSS

Junior Motocross classes

Appendix A (Off-Road)

The Junior Women's/Motocross class structure has been updated to consolidate the Junior classes.

The revised classes include:

- **8–16 years, 85cc:** 60cc–85cc 2-stroke or 100cc–150cc 4-stroke
- **12–16 years, 125cc:** 90cc–125cc 2-stroke or 100cc–150cc 4-stroke
- **14–16 years, 250cc:** 90cc–125cc 2-stroke, 126cc–150cc 2-stroke or 151cc–250cc 4-stroke

The minimum age remains **14 years** to ride a 250cc 4-stroke or 126cc–150cc 2-stroke in the applicable class.

NZ Motocross Grand Prix

New Rule 4.7b (Off-Road)

The separate Mini Motocross event at the New Zealand Motocross Grand Prix may now operate under its own permit.

This applies only to the NZ Motocross Grand Prix.

CROSS COUNTRY

There are several changes for Cross Country, particularly for Mini and Junior riders.

Event duration

Rule 13.1c (Off-Road)

At New Zealand National and Island events:

- **Senior:** 3 hours
- **Junior:** 1.5 hours

Club events have a minimum duration of **one hour**.

Track requirements

Rule 13.2 (Off-Road)

Cross Country tracks **should** be flowing, use natural terrain and avoid unnecessary bottlenecks or areas that require riders to get off their motorcycles.

Course marking

Rule 13.3 (Off-Road)

Wrong-way areas may be marked by:

- two crossed arrows; or
- bunting and pegs.

Markings **must** be clearly marked.

Rule 13.5 (Off-Road)

Any competitor intending to compete in a National Cross Country is not able to ride or mark the course prior to the start of the event.



Running out of fuel

Rule 13.10 (Off-Road)

If you run out of fuel while on the course, only a club roaming marshal may give you enough fuel to get back to the designated refuelling area.

The marshal must report your machine number to the Steward.

You must then stop at the designated refuelling area.

If you do not pit, you will receive a one-position penalty.

Refuelling

Rules 13.10a and 6.12b (Off-Road)

Before opening the fuel cap:

1. The motorcycle must be stationary.
2. The engine must be stopped.

The fuel cap must be back on **before you restart the motorcycle and move away.**

Mini and Junior Cross Country crossover

Rule 13.14 (Off-Road)

There is now more flexibility for some 10–12-year-old riders.

Mini licence holders aged 10–12 may compete in Junior Cross Country without affecting their Mini Motocross licence status or Mini Motocross eligibility.

Junior licence holders aged 10–11 may compete in Mini Cross Country without affecting their Junior Motocross status.

Once a Junior Motocross licence holder turns **12**, they must compete in Junior Cross Country and can no longer compete in Mini Cross Country Championship competition.

Cross Country ages

Rule 13.17 (Off-Road)

The age requirements have been clarified:

- Mini Club competition starts at **7 years**
- Mini riders can compete until the day before their **12th birthday**
- At **12 years**, riders move to Junior Cross Country
- Junior riders can compete until the day before their **17th birthday**
- If you turn **17 during a series, you move to Senior**
- Senior Cross Country has a minimum age of **15 years**, subject to the applicable rules

For New Zealand National and Island events, the minimum age is **10 years**.

Parents and riders: Motorcycle capacity and age restrictions also apply, so please check Rule 13.17 before entering.

Mini Cross Country Club events

New Rule 13.27 (Off-Road)

Mini Cross Country is intended to provide a safe introduction to the discipline.

Mini Club events:

- can run for a maximum of **one hour**;
- can use a track up to **5 km long**;
- cannot include road or water crossings;
- must use a separate track from Junior and Senior Cross Country; and
- require at least **two riding marshals for every 10 riders**.

The class is for riders aged **7–11 years**, using 65cc–85cc 2-stroke or up to 125cc 4-stroke motorcycles.



MOTOCROSS

Moving from Mini to Junior

Rule 15 (Off-Road)

If you enter Junior competition, you must hold a Junior Licence.

Once you move into Junior competition under this rule, you cannot move back to Mini competition.

SUPERCROSS

Rider warning systems

Rule 22.10 (Off-Road)

Clubs and promoters may use traffic lights or similar warning systems to give riders extra warnings.

These do not replace flag marshals.

Flag marshals are still required.

Prize money

Rule 22.11 (Off-Road)

Promoters must deposit the advertised prize money into the MNZ Trust Account **seven days before the event.**

The funds will be returned to the Promoter on the first banking day after the event.

Starting gate area

Rule 22.21 (Off-Road)

Once the first rider is placed behind the starting gate, the area is restricted to:

- riders;
- **one mechanic/person per rider;** and
- organising officials.

Everyone must follow the Starter's instructions.

A rear barrier must remain in place to prevent motorcycles being moved backwards.

Championship points

Rule 22.23c (Off-Road)

Supercross Championship points will now use the same system as Motocross.

Points from 1st to 20th are:

25, 22, 20, 18, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Racing disc colours

Rule 22.24 (Off-Road)

The Supercross-specific racing disc colour rule has been removed.

Racing numbers

Rule 22.25 (Off-Road)

The requirement for the top 10 riders to use numbers based on the previous Stadium/Supercross Championship results has been removed.

Outside assistance

Rule 22.26 (Off-Road)

Outside assistance on the course is still not allowed, except where an appointed marshal is carrying out safety duties.

A rider's mechanic or team member **may now provide assistance when the rider is inside the designated Mechanics Area.**