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 National or Island events – 3 hours ***Senior and 1.5 hours Junior.***

13.2 **The Course:**

Cross Country tracks ~~must~~ ***should*** be 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 ***or taped off with bunting and pegs***. 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 New Zealand~~ ***Any competitor intending to compete in a*** National Cross Country event ***is not permitted to*** ~~no National title contender shall~~ ride ***or*** ~~on the~~ mark~~ed~~ ***the*** course prior to the start of the event. A marked course is defined as a commencement of arrowing. Penalty to be at the Steward's discretion.

13.6 **The Start:**

A Cross Country start shall be either a Le Mans start with riders running a minimum of 5 metres to their machines or a dead engine start with riders sitting on their bikes.

13.7 ***Pit Lane & Scoring Chicane***

A yellow flag will be displayed at the start of the scoring zone or pit lane and indicates the beginning of the speed restricted zone. Within this zone, riders must remain in 1st (first) gear and travel at walking pace.

A flag placed at the end of the scoring zone or pit lane indicated the end of the speed restricted zone. Riders may then return to race pace.

Riders exiting the scoring zone or pit lane must give way to riders already on the race line.

13.8 **Teams:**

There will be a teams challenge. Each team will consist of three Nationals 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 Nationals. (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 Nationals points.

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13.8d **Teams Points Juniors & Seniors:**

Team member's class points will be added together. The top team scores 25 pts 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 Nationals:**

The New Zealand Nationals will be held over four National rounds; a drop of a round to be decided at the discretion of the Cross Country Commissioner prior to the series starting.

Points awarded as per rule 13.8d.

13.9a Series riders gain series points. No reallocation.

13.9b Riders may only enter one class.

13.10 Refuelling is to take place in the organising Club's designated area. In the event that a machine runs out of fuel on the course, only a Club's roaming marshal may fill enough fuel for the competitor to return to the designated pitting area to refuel. The roaming marshal must radio back to inform the Steward and let them know the machine number that is to stop and refuel. If the competitor does not pit there will be a ***one position*** penalty given.

13.10a Machine fuel cap must not be removed until machine is turned off and stationary to refuel. The fuel cap must be put back on before machine is started and moves off again.

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 New Zealand Nationals, format, classes and grading each year, shall be organised by the Cross Country Commissioner.

A pre-requisite to acceptance into a New Zealand Nationals 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 17th 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.

13.14a (a) Holders of a Mini MNZ licence aged 10 to 12 years may compete in Junior Cross Country events without affecting their Mini Motocross licence status or eligibility to compete in Mini Motocross Competition.

(b) Holders of a Junior MNZ licence aged 10 to 11 years may compete in Mini Cross Country events without affecting their Junior Motocross licence status or eligibility to compete in Junior Motocross Classes.

(c) Upon reaching 12 years of age, riders holding a Junior Motocross licence shall compete in Junior Cross Country classes, and shall no longer be eligible to compete in Mini Cross Country Championship.

13.15 Junior maximum capacity is 200cc 2 Stroke and 300cc 4 Stroke.

7 - 9 year olds may ride a 65cc-85cc 2 stroke and up to a 125cc 4 stroke.

10 - 11 year olds may ride a 65cc-85cc 2 stroke and up to 150cc 4 stroke.

Riders must be 12 years and over to ride a 125cc 2 stroke.

Riders must be 13 years and over to ride a 250cc 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 flowing, 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.

13.17 The minimum age for ~~a~~ New Zealand Nationals and Island events is 10 years ~~and maximum age is 16 years~~.

(a) The minimum age for Mini Cross Country Club competition is 7 years

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(b) Riders are eligible to compete in Mini Cross Country until the day before their 12th birthday. Upon reaching 12 years of age, riders must compete in Junior Cross Country classes

(c) The maximum age for Junior Cross Country competition at Club, Island and New Zealand Championship is 16 years

(d) Riders are eligible to compete in Junior Cross Country until the day before their 17th birthday. Riders who turn 17 years of age during a series shall cease competing in Junior classes and shall compete as a Senior.

(e) The minimum age for Senior Cross Country Competition is 15 years (refer rule 13.14)

13.17a The minimum age for Club events is 7 years and maximum age 16 years.

7 - 11 years (Minis) may ride a 65cc – 85cc 2 stroke and up to 125cc 4 stroke.

10 - 11 year olds on a Junior track may ride a 65cc – 85cc 2 stroke and up to 150cc 4 stroke only.

12 years and over can ride up to a 200cc 2 stroke.

13 years and over can ride up to a 300cc 4 stroke.

These competitors ride at the Stewards discretion as per rule 13.22 in a class restricted to their 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 two riding marshals per ten (10) riders for the minis race. And at least five (5) marshals for the Junior race. 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. For Juniors the course shall not exceed 5kms and the duration shall not exceed 1 hour. For mini's refer to rule 13.27.

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 Nationals shall comply with rule 13.9. The Cross Country Commissioner will allocate the New Zealand Nationals rounds.

13.20 Trophies in the New Zealand Nationals 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 ride at club or national level with seniors, with the exception of Senior Ladies who may ride with 12-16 year old Juniors at Club level only and 15 years plus in any special events as defined in rule 13.26.

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 competent official(s) 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 New Zealand Nationals.

13.26 Special Events – including 4 hour, 6 hour and 8 hour Cross Country.

These events are not defined as Senior or Junior specific events, unless stated by the organising Club.

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You must be 15 years and over to race such events on either a Senior or Junior licence.

13.27 **Mini Cross Country - *Club***

This is an introduction to Cross Country. Events must be no longer than one hour. The track must be no longer than 5km in distance, and must not have any road or water crossings.

Events must be held on a separate track to Junior or Senior Cross Country. Clubs must provide a minimum of two riding marshals per 10 (ten) riders for mini events.

Class: 7 – 11 years limited to 65cc – 85cc 2 stroke or 125cc 4 stroke.

13.28 **Schools sanctioned Cross Country events:**

17 to 19 years may compete on a 300cc 2 stroke and up to 450cc 4 stroke machine in the Open class. They must start on the front row, minimum 30 seconds ahead of the next row. They must only compete in the competitive race and not in the Novice race.

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